

## **Bugs and Books**

Reading your books in bed can be a great way to kick back and relax. Unfortunately, also relaxing nearby, may be some unwanted pests...bed bugs.

Bed bugs were nearly eradicated in the developed world in the 1940's. After the government banned several very effective pesticides, bed bugs began to make a comeback. They have increased in prevalence since 1995 and today can be found in most public places. Examples of common areas where bed bugs can be found include: theaters, department stores, restaurants, Laundromats, dormitories, hotels, motels, buses, libraries and any other place where people can unwittingly transport bed bugs in their clothes, luggage, backpacks or books.

The William P. Faust Public Library wants to ensure a safe and clean environment for all patrons. So, in response to the growing national problem, the Library has developed a proactive bed bug prevention and treatment program. All books that enter the library are heat treated in special ovens that eliminate any and all pests prior to placing them in circulation. Existing furniture has been replaced with new furniture that is designed and constructed to dramatically reduce hiding places for pests. Bed bugs can also be detected by their characteristic smell of rotting raspberries. Therefore, the library has regularly scheduled visits by a bed bug detection dog used to locate and destroy any bed bugs that have been inadvertently carried in by patrons. These bed bug detection dogs are trained to pinpoint infestations, with an accuracy rate of 97.5%, based upon tests conducted under controlled conditions by researchers. The combination of these methods ensures that we offer no safe haven for bed bugs at the library.

The Westland Library's bug prevention system has become the model prevention and extermination plan for surrounding libraries. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your library staff.