- Charter Internet is now able to offer an 80 megabit per second Internet connection to our Bronson Branch, up from the 20 mb/s we had previously. The Bronson Branch has 21 computers (2nd highest in the district), plus averages 278 wireless uses per day (also the 2nd highest), so this increase in speed was welcome. This will cost us about $20 more a month, but is well worth it.

- Our speed has improved at the Algansee Branch as well. Due to tree growth between the library and the tower in Algansee Twp., speed had degraded to only slightly better than dial-up speeds. This was not fun split between 8 computers and an average of 99 daily wireless uses. We had to raise our antenna higher, and it is now pointed to a wireless mast on a silo at a farm, getting us 1.5 mb/s. This is currently the maximum that DMCI Broadband can offer, and they are the only option for non-dial-up Internet service in this area.

- All computers that were set to be upgraded to Windows 7 have been.

- New laptops have been deployed to the branches. These were purchased last year, but we held off deploying them until we had the Windows 7 upgrade complete, for consistency's sake.

- Chenoweth Roofing was at the Coldwater Branch on Tuesday, September 9 to complete the west side roofing repairs. They came back on the 10th while it was raining to see if one of the leaks was taken care of, but it was not. They said that the leak could be the result of the decaying gutters. They are planning on coming back Saturday afternoon, the 13th, after we close to plug the downspout and run water in the gutters to test. I have asked for pictures of the gutter area while they're up there. They say they are done with all the other spots, but the city has not been able to verify the repairs yet.

- On August 18, we upgraded our Evergreen installation to the latest stable version, v2.6. This was our first upgrade with ESI hosting us. We were offline for the day, as expected, and all went very smoothly. After 3 weeks of running well on 2.6, we moved our installation to a new service ESI provides, called "Sequoia". Sequoia is all about guaranteeing availability of the system and responding to usage spikes. You can read about it at http://esilibrary.com/what-we-do/sequoia/

- I'll be tweaking things as I can and enabling some new features in the catalog. One such feature is the ability to have automated email and text messages sent to patrons when holds are available. A tutorial on turning this on for patrons to read is at https://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/hold_notifications

- To support our budget planning for next year, we have put up a survey, both online and in paper at our libraries. We'll be accepting submissions and comments from Friday, September 5 until Friday, October 3. The online survey is at https://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/survey_2014. To publicize it we have contacted the newspaper, put it on social media, our digital sign displays, and on the first screen everyone sees when using a library computer.

Submitted By

John C. Rucker

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