

Weather

Due to icy road conditions, BDL had a delayed opening on February 6.

Personnel

We posted for openings for the Quincy Branch Clerk as well as for temporary positions to help cover parenting leave absences this summer. Between the two openings, we received 73 applications. We interviewed over 3 weeks and have successfully filled the Quincy position. We still have some more interviewing to do for the temporary positions.

One of our Coldwater Branch clerks has submitted her resignation to pursue an opportunity in her chosen career field. We were able to quickly fill this position from the pool of people we have just been interviewing.

Over the last month, there has been a lot of sickness over about 3 1/2 weeks that, along with being short a Quincy clerk, has made staffing tough at times, but we have managed to pull through.

Facilities

Our dog visits from Orkin found some trouble spots at 4 branches again, which we immediately treated. Our Orkin rep recommended increasing our dog inspections from 4 times a year to 6. This would require an additional \$7,000 for the Upkeep budget line. I will certainly consider that for next year if we can afford it. Please let me know if you would like the library to consider doing this sooner.

There have been several building issues at the Coldwater Branch in the last month:

- There was a leak in the ceiling above the 3rd floor from a leak in a sink drain on the 4th floor. This leak was repaired.
- One of the bottle fillers on a water fountain failed (out of warranty, unfortunately), and had to be replaced.
- The restroom project is finally under way, though a materials shortage has necessitated a slight change in chosen materials lest the project not get completed until June! Work has begun on the 4th floor.
- Baggage sizers and tables authorized last month have been ordered but not yet arrived.

IT Department

Most of the computers authorized last month have arrived, and Curtis and I have been working on getting them ready, as well as getting a few deployed already. We are waiting on the new servers ordered to arrive and that's about it.

We met with T-Mobile to discuss their hotspot offerings and possible grant opportunities. There will be further meetings on both of these subjects. We currently use Verizon for our hotspot program, but T-Mobile's increase in local service quality give us more options.

Meetings Attended

BDL Public Services Committee, Library of Michigan Directors, Woodlands Library Cooperative

Submitted by John Rucker

Marketing

Keep up with events happening at all library locations from March - May 2025. The newest edition of our Event Guide covers activities for children, teens, families, and adults. You can find your next book club, craft class, free weekend activity, or reading challenge in one convenient booklet.

Download a copy of the [Spring Event Guide](#) today, or pick up a copy at any branch location!

Celebrate Your Love of Libraries

February isn't just a month for chocolate hearts and valentines - it's National Library Lovers' Month! The library serves as more than a home for books, it's a place to develop professional skills, engage with the community in fun activities, and relax with a good story or movie.

This month is the perfect time to meet other library lovers through a variety of programs offered at each of our six libraries. Whether it is crafts, BINGO, armchair travel, movie nights, or Romance Book Club, each library offers programs for all ages and needs. To see what's happening this month, check out the [Events Calendar](#) on our website.

MeLCat: a Year in Review

MeLCat is an online catalog service that allows patrons of participating libraries to borrow materials - books, movies, music, and more - from all over Michigan and have them delivered to their home library. In 2024, more than 1 million items were requested by patrons throughout the state. January 2024 was the busiest month, with patrons placing 105,811 MeLCat requests! All together in 2024, more than 980,000 items were loaned out to patrons all over Michigan.

The top 5 most requested titles via MeLCat were:

- *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
- *Lessons In Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
- *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
- *The Women* by Kristin Hannah



- *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

Locally, BDL sent out 6,212 items to other libraries. This was a 10% increase from 2023. BDL patrons received a total of 8,120 items from MeLCat. A slight reduction of 3% from the previous year.

Meetings/Trainings/Webinars

- Kiwanians Club of Coldwater
- Victim Avoidance, Situational Awareness and Personal Protection for the Lone Worker with the Library of Michigan
- CSLP Summer Symposium

Submitted:

Kimberly Feltner

- Take Your Child to the Library day went off without a hitch on February 2, 2025! Every branch offered a craft and snacks, and some branches even offered a fun Scavenger hunt!
- I am over half way done with BDL's first annual Stay Interviews! I am so grateful to the staff for their honesty and candor and I'm excited to implement some changes in the near future.
- It's mind-boggling to think that the time for SRP planning has arrived, but it's here! I hosted BDL's first 2025 Summer Reading Program meeting on February 10 and along with the rest of the Admin team, the Branch Managers and Coordinators, we got some details hammered out!
- Our 2025 One Book One County discussion dates are available online or in our Event Guide! I am so looking forward to engaging with patrons and hosting this annual event with Jeanne Berg. The plot is fascinating! *My Murder* by Katie Williams is a Michigan Notable Reads Award winner and the book is about Lou, a happily married mother of an adorable toddler. She's also the victim of a local serial killer. Recently brought back to life and returned to her grieving family by a government project, she is grateful for this second chance. But as the new Lou re-adapts to her old routines, and as she bonds with other female victims, she realizes that disturbing questions remain about what exactly preceded her death and how much she can really trust those around her.

