

It's hard to believe that Summer Reading is nearly over! It's been a great summer, with so many wonderful faces seen as we offer great programs and a cool place to relax in the heat. Echoing Kimberly, I wish to extend my thanks to the excellent summer help from Amanda, Jessica, and Anissa!

In addition to my usual duties, I have worked shifts at the Quincy Branch and Coldwater Branch Help Desk. I have had some time off as well.

Sherwood Contract

The Village of Sherwood approved the updated contract at their July meeting, and the Village President Signed it. Since the BDL Board approved this in June, this contract negotiation is complete! Once Ben signs our copy, we will replace the old contract online.

MERS Transition

On July 16, we successfully entered our "blackout" phase with Nationwide Retirement Solutions. By this time next month, our transition to MERS should be completed.

Policy Updates

I have modified the [Request for Reconsideration paper and website](#) form to comport with the changes to the Materials Selection Policy last month.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests

This past month we had three FOIA requests, two from Florida-based data brokers we have dealt with many times now, and one from a Michigan organization we had not encountered before. All requests were for financial and personnel information that is not protected, so all requests were filled.

Facilities

The soffit repairs on the south side of the Coldwater Branch were conducted by STP Painting, and things look great!

At the Coldwater Branch, 5 fluorescent light fixtures have been replaced with LEDs. Plumbers were called about a leak on the new urinal in the men's room, and the contractor was contacted about this being a warranty repair. Our landscaping contractor pulled out the weeded-over section near the sidewalk that the Friends have been unable to maintain and replaced it with a rock garden for easier maintenance. We also ordered new "do not enter", "library parking only", and other street signs to replace ones in the parking lot that have been here at least 35 years and were badly faded.

On June 5, there was a theft of a computer from the lab at the Coldwater Branch. I am happy to report that the Coldwater Police department were able to recover the undamaged computer and return it to the library! Precautions have been increased for the computer in question to avoid this sort of incident again.

Our July sniffer dog visits with Orkin turned up much smaller areas of concern than in recent past visits. Happy!

IT Department

With Ludwick Electric having done their part to prepare for the fiber optic installation at the Sherwood Branch, Frontier was able to quickly do their part. After that, I did our part to attach all of our equipment to the new connection and remove the old satellite dish and wiring. Everything went smoothly, and we have speedy, reliable service now!

We have finally installed a permanent mount in the bookmobile for a desktop computer and monitor, so staff will not need to use the laptop for typical business. We have also spent a lot of time lately with Verizon tech support lately trying to narrow down a problem with the cellular network access to the vehicle. All things are pointing to equipment problems, so I ordered a replacement router for the vehicle and am hoping that does the trick. We will attempt warranty coverage as applicable.

Brittany in the Heritage Room has begun outreach to local service clubs to preserve their histories, adding historical information for The Coldwater Rotary/Noon Club, with more to come. Head over to [our digital archive](#) to see some of this great new (old) content!

I replaced a dead security camera at the Bronson Branch.

Paperwork has been signed for our new phone system, but an implementation date has not been set yet.

State/National News

Happily, though unexpectedly, the Federal Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) fully funded MeLCat for the coming fiscal year (October 2025 - September 2026). The White House reportedly still wishes to dismantle IMLS, so what might happen after the next fiscal year is unknown. Over the next year, Library of Michigan staff plan to try to devise a plan for a majorly scaled back MeLCat for 2026-2027, while lobbying the State of Michigan for more funding so they don't have to implement this plan. Citizens are encouraged to contact their state and federal representatives on the topic of MeLCat and IMLS funding.

Meetings Attended

Library of Michigan Directors, Algonsee Township x 2

Submitted by John Rucker

Summer is always a busy time for the library and this year has been especially interesting with three staff out on parenting leave. Fortunately, our temporary summer help has been fantastic, jumping in, and quickly learning the ropes. A big thank you to Amanda Steele, Jessica Kelly, and Anissa Stevens for bringing their A game this summer!

Marketing

As we continue to promote and celebrate the Summer Reading Program, work has begun on fall programs. The Fall Event Guide is almost ready for the printers and events will be loaded into our online calendar by the end of the month. Also in July, we highlighted Disability Pride Month and Anime Month on our socials and in the monthly newsletter.

Technical Services

The department has finally caught up after managing the additional workload of processing the opening collection for the bookmobile. However, things haven't slowed down entirely, materials from the Holdback Heritage Room continue to keep them busy. Recent additions include fascinating historical items, such as blueprints from the Children's Village, which later became the Coldwater State Home.

Meetings & Trainings

- Kiwanis Club of Coldwater
- Quincy Friends Meeting
- Coldwater Main Street Meet Up tour of the Coldwater Branch
- MeLCat Mythbusters with Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS)

Submitted by Kimberly Feltner

- We had so many incredible submissions for the SRP coloring contest, but these three took the prize! Each baggie included lots of fun summer items and sweet treats!
- We currently have 850 registrations for the 2025 SRP season and nearly 300 completions with a week left of the Summer Reading Program. The last week is typically filled with patrons completing their respective programs so I'm feeling excited and optimistic about our completion rate this year!
- Our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Graduation ceremony will be held on August 16 at 3PM. Invitations will be sent out next week, and we are so excited for this group of kiddos to graduate! We have the most graduates to date - a full dozen! Graduates will receive a graduation squishmallow, a book, and refreshments at the ceremony. We are so proud of these kiddos!

