



BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org



Alganssee Branch



Bronson Branch



Coldwater Branch



Quincy Branch



Sherwood Branch



Union Twp. Branch

Dear Library Supporters,

This year has definitely been an exciting and productive year for your Branch District Library. In 2012, the Library has offered programs attended by 7,000 children and 650 young adults and adults. Patrons have used the Library's 73 computers in all six locations over 50,000 times, and used the library's wireless access for their own computers over 125,000 times—already a 25% increase in usage over last year. The Library has provided over 3,000 free resume prints for our patrons, assisted 600 people seeking historical information or ancestry research in the Coldwater Heritage Room collection, and responded to over 11,000 reference questions, in addition to circulating about 15,000 books and materials each month. The Bronson Friends continue to raise money and have broken ground on a media center addition to the Bronson Branch library building that celebrated its 100th year in May.

In May, Evette Atkin joined the District as the Library's new Director, and she began immediately to reach out to the community. She revitalized the District Library Friends group and launched the Geek the Library campaign sponsored by a grant by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Stay tuned for many "Geek" activities at the library!

Our continuing efforts to assure that the Library's collection and services meet the educational, technological, and recreational needs of the public throughout Branch County unfortunately are threatened this year by a dramatic drop in funds available. The Library relies on a tax millage, on penal fines, very little State aid, and on your contributions to pay 4 full time and 27 part time employees who serve the public at all 6 district library locations and keep the doors open over 8,000 business hours per year—all on a budget of only \$1.1 million 2 years ago that has now dropped to barely \$900,000. Plummeting penal fines prevent the Library from providing the same hours of service in 2013, and substantial budget cuts are contemplated.

In fact, the Library is receiving over \$100,000 less in penal fine revenue this year than it received in any year since the District Library was formed in 1991! (See chart on back.)

The Library's complete budgets are available on Library's website with additional information on Library costs. As 2012 draws to a close and we all think of what we value in our lives and in our community, we hope that you and other Library supporters will consider a generous donation to continued Library services*. You may direct your gift to support the district as a whole, the Holbrook Heritage Room, or any particular branch.

We thank you!

Evette M. Atkin

Evette M. Atkin, Director
Branch District Library

Carole Bolton

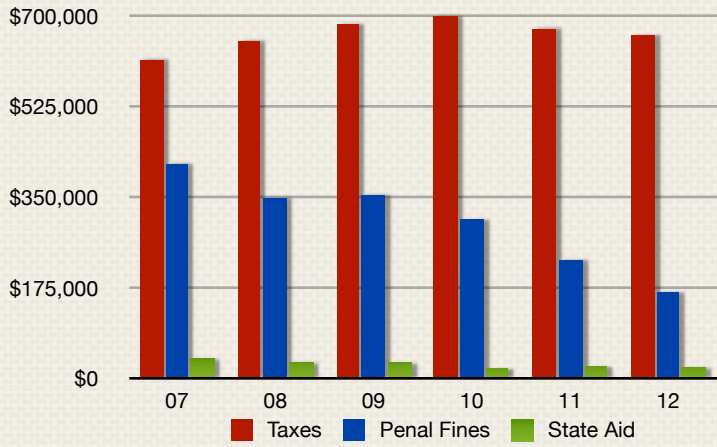
Carole Bolton, President
Coldwater Public Library Board

Dorothy Cherry

Dorothy Cherry, President
Branch District Library Board

*Your donation to the Branch District Library remains an itemized deduction on your federal income tax return.

BDL Operating Revenue
2007 - 2012



Branch District Library
10 E. Chicago St.
Coldwater MI 49036