

Since my last report...

- The custom matching end panels for Union Twp. Branch arrived, and we met the carpenter with all his gear to install them and modify the trim...only to find that the panels were delivered in the wrong height. We had to send them back and 6 weeks later finally got them installed this past weekend. The trim is now expertly cut to closely fit around the panels, top and bottom. The final bill for the carpentry came in \$200 cheaper than we had budgeted for.
- All of the gear approved for this year's computer purchasing was ordered and has arrived. Prep for deployment is underway.
- The Director's Office renovation/Coldwater office chairs project is mostly finished. The reactions to the office fixtures and furnishing have been quite positive, especially from the new occupant—which is exactly what I was hoping for! The projector screen hasn't arrived yet, though Kendrick's is working on sorting that issue out. As soon as that final piece, the balance of the approved funds will be used for replacing worn out chairs as we discussed. I'm optimistic for being able to replace at least ten chairs.



A related bill from Ludwick Electric for \$3,637.91 was paid to do work in the director's office, finish the elevator camera installation, and some work associated with the fire alarm installation.

- We produced a video of a nature walk for participating children at the Coldwater Branch. With photo releases in hand, this video may be viewed on our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/Acc5qfkZlog>
- Linda and I have been working closely to get her up to speed on all the big and little things peculiar to BDL. I am really excited at the experience and knowledge she's bringing to our system. We have a bright future ahead!
- With the approval of the Coldwater Branch Friends of the Library, we took out a bush by the flag pole to enable placement of a bike rack near the west entrance. Enough people bike on that side that giving them convenient parking was warranted.
- On July 27th we had an upgrade of our Evergreen system. This was easily the smoothest upgrade we've had in the 8 years we've been running this automation system. Our host—Equinox Software, Inc.—has really streamlined the process. What took us a long weekend 8 years ago took only a couple hours of downtime this time around. I haven't had a chance to explore all the new features just yet, but look forward to doing so.

- The torrential downpour of July 29th, which caused flooding all over Coldwater, also caused leaks at the Coldwater Branch in at least two sections where we had thought the repairs had done the trick. Hoekstra Roofing, who has been trying to repair the poor job done in 2009 by Chenoweth, will be back to try to find the causes of this further leaking. The Hoekstra rep is amazed, though, at how bad the roof looks at only 7 years old. It's a certainty that we won't get the promised lifetime of the job Chenoweth did before a total replacement is needed again.
- We are very excited to see Kimberly moving on to bigger and brighter things, though we are saddened to lose such a quality team player in our IT department. We will be posting for her replacement right away.
- I will now be producing the monthly statistical report. I coded an interface to pull the data directly from the appropriate database tables whenever possible. With far less human intervention in generating the report, there will be fewer chances of error. And the programmatic nature of the report makes it possible to easily do comparisons, sums, and logical groupings that were prohibitively difficult to do accurately and in a reasonable amount of time on a spreadsheet. Many thanks to Gina for keeping the stats going the past year and a half and for providing the springboard for the new look and feel.

In this month's packet, you'll see updated reports for 2016. I re-ran all the reports to double-check all data for this year. There are a few data sources that weren't there before, and some trends are visible that you may not have noticed before. So please have a look and let me know if there are any other stats you might like to see that we are not currently showing.

Submitted by John Rucker