

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



BOOKS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING!

BranchDistrictLibrary.org

About BDL

Formed in 1991, Branch District Library (BDL) serves more than 46,000 residents of Branch County, Michigan, and neighboring Allen Twp. of Hillsdale County. The Library is comprised of six locations around Branch County. BDL, an independent unit of local government under Michigan law, is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees, appointed by the Branch County Board of Commissioners and the City of Coldwater.

BDL currently serves more than 14,000 active cardholders with a collection of over 108,000 items housed in our six branches, and a digital collection of almost 2 million items. The library also offers a variety of services to our patrons: access to computers, wireless Internet, mobile printing, free notary and fax service, great programs and events for all ages, and so much more.

Branch District Library, where books are just the beginning!

“

Thank you for everything you
have done for this community!

*Patron comment received at the
Bronson Branch, September 2024*



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

2024 was the year when visits to library programs finally exceeded their pre-pandemic levels, though total visits to the library were still somewhat lower. It was a vibrant and dynamic year, full of laughter and curiosity.

But it's not just in our buildings where great things happen. Whether visiting a school, starting a StoryWalk®, launching a new Little Free Library®, or hosting a pop-up library, BDL staff were also out in the community to provide collections and services to people where they are.

“

My daughter loves going to the library to get books to read, but she really enjoys the different crafts and activities that they have throughout the year.

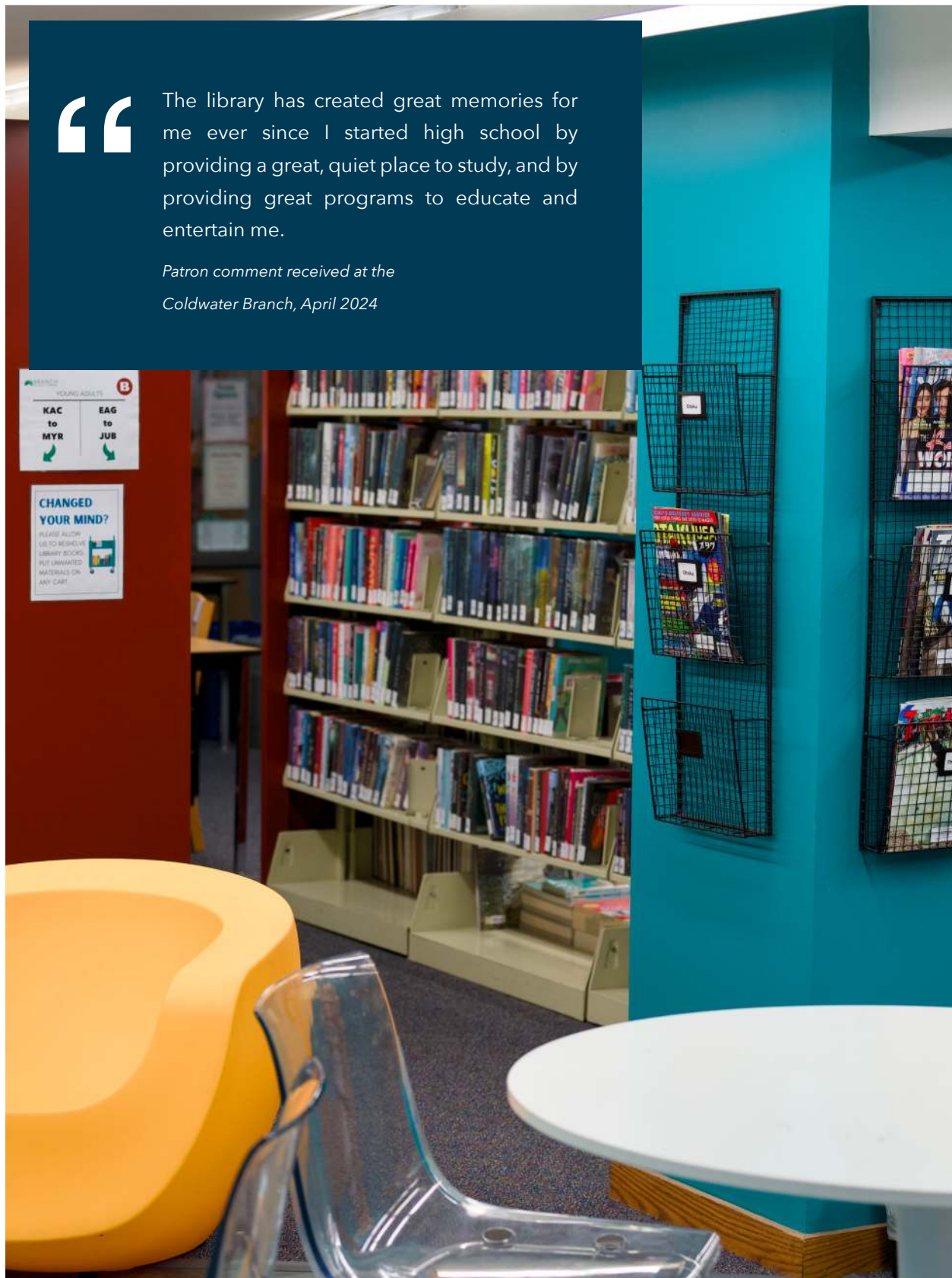
*Patron comment received at the
Quincy Branch, April 2024*



“

The library has created great memories for me ever since I started high school by providing a great, quiet place to study, and by providing great programs to educate and entertain me.

*Patron comment received at the
Coldwater Branch, April 2024*



Organizational Principles

CORE VALUES

At the Branch District Library:

- We are Forward-Thinking
- We are Involved
- We are Trustworthy
- We are Community-Focused
- We Provide High-Quality and Diverse Programs



MISSION

To provide the people of our communities with library collections and services to meet their educational, informational, and recreational needs.



VISION

Our vision is to provide vibrant resources and inclusive spaces for people to thrive through innovation, education, and entertainment.



“

Great books from the whole county and weekly storytime my granddaughter loves along with scavenger hunts.

Patron comment received at the Union Twp. Branch, April 2024

Our Team

BDL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Oversight of BDL is provided by a Board of Trustees, representing all the communities of Branch County. Monthly Board meetings are always open to the public.

Trustees as of December 2024

President	Vice President	Secretary
Benjamin Jewell <i>Representing the City of Coldwater</i>	Susan Smith <i>Representing Quincy Twp.</i>	Kimberly Langworthy <i>Representing the County-at-Large</i>
Susan Brooks <i>Representing the County-at-Large</i>	Robert Hostetler <i>Representing the City of Coldwater</i>	Joseph Lynch <i>Representing Union Twp.</i>
	Karen Smith <i>Representing Bronson Twp.</i>	

Management as of December 2024

BDL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Director	Assistant Director	Dir. of Public Services
John Rucker	Kimberly Feltner	Jessica Tefft

LIBRARY STAFF BY THE NUMBERS

38
Library Staff

5
Staff with MSLIS Degrees

6
Staff at BDL 10 Years or More

2
Staff Working on Their
MSLIS Degrees

The Most Popular Items of 2024

With nearly 160,000 checkouts last year, many thousands of items are checked out only a small number of times, or even just once. These are the highly popular items that stand out in that list.

For the fourth year in a row, People magazine is the most popular item overall, and for the fourth year, a title in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series is the most popular kid's book.

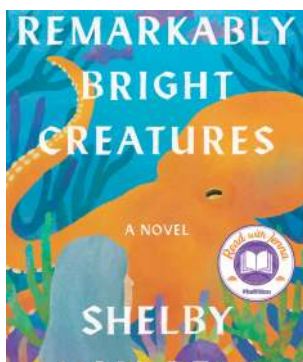
BDL's choice for the 2024 **One Book, One County** reading event, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, was our most popular adult fiction book by quite a large margin.



MOST POPULAR

People

346 checkouts

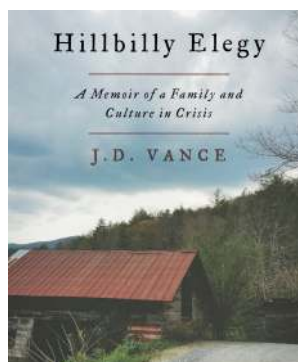


FICTION

Remarkably Bright

Creatures

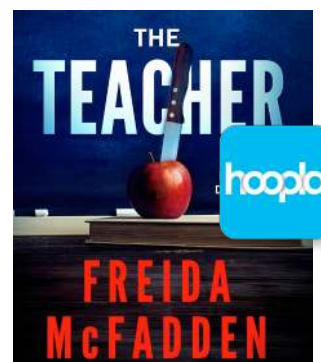
220 checkouts



NON-FICTION

Hillbilly Elegy

28 checkouts



AUDIOBOOK

The Teacher

67 checkouts



MOVIE

The Hunger Games

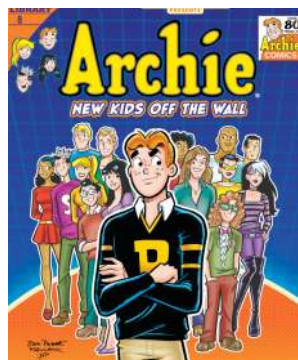
53 checkouts



DIGITAL MAGAZINE

The New Yorker

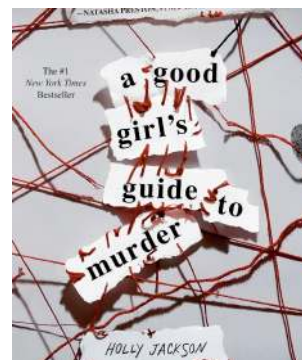
101 checkouts



GRAPHIC NOVEL

Archie

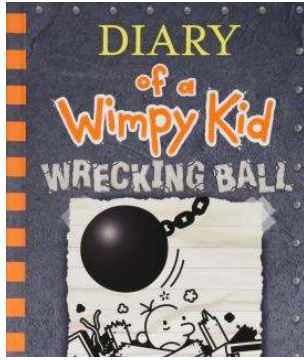
307 checkouts



YOUNG ADULT

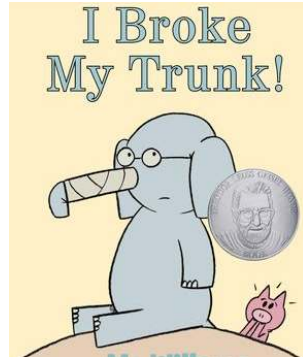
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder

28 checkouts



KID'S BOOK

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Wrecking Ball
30 checkouts



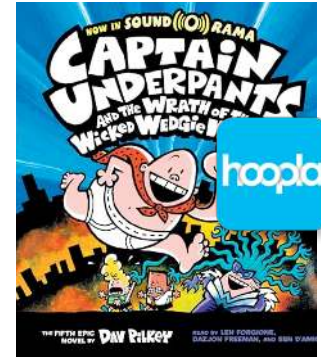
KID'S PICTURE BOOK

I Broke My Trunk!
27 checkouts



KID'S GRAPHIC NOVEL

Dogman: the Scarlett Shredder
43 checkouts



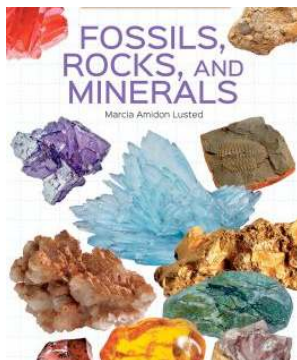
KID'S AUDIOBOOK

Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman
67 checkouts



LIBRARY OF THINGS

WiFi Hotspot
325 checkouts



KID'S NON-FICTION

Fossils, Rocks, and Minerals
11 checkouts



KID'S MAGAZINE

Ranger Rick
27 checkouts



KID'S MOVIE

PAW patrol: The Mighty movie
59 checkouts



KID'S VIDEOGAME

Super Mario RPG
30 checkouts

Quincy StoryWalk®

JUNE 26, 2024

The StoryWalk® in Quincy Village Park was installed in June 2024. Thank you to the service clubs, businesses, and private individuals who contributed to the project: the Quincy Historical Society, NIKA Club of Quincy, the Quincy Chamber of Commerce, BRECO, the Jennings Elementary Student Council, Cheryl Balcom, Wava Gano, and Jeanne Berg.



“

It was a cute story and fun activities to do along the way!

Patron comment received at the Quincy Branch, July 2024



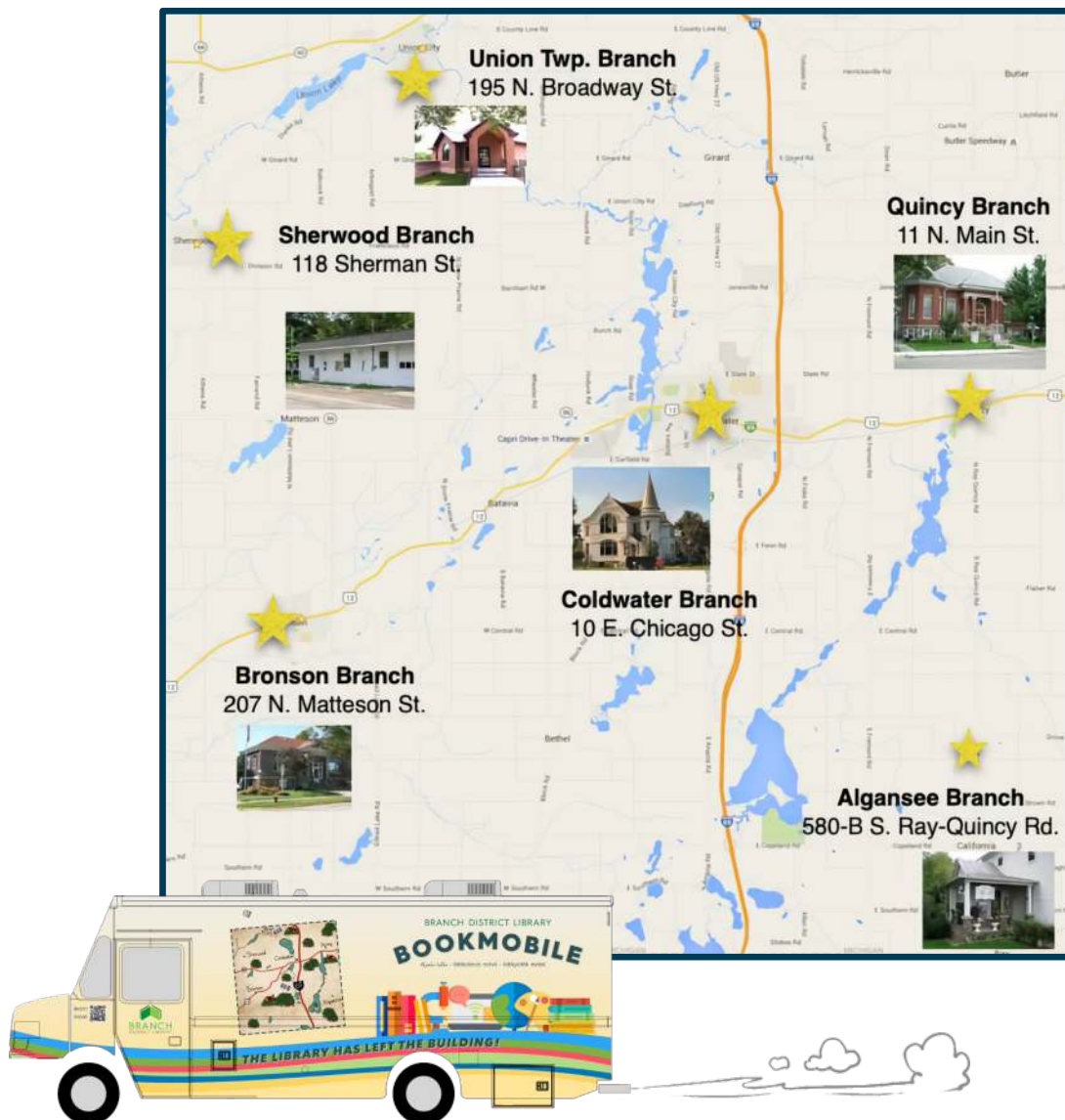
The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson. StoryWalks have been installed in 50 states and 12 countries across the world.



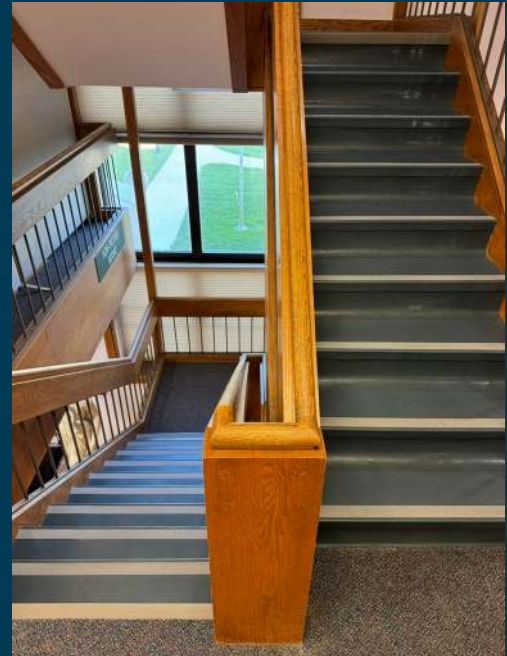
Your Hometown Library

**YOU'RE NEVER
MORE THAN A
FEW MINUTES
AWAY FROM
YOUR LIBRARY.**

BDL has six branches conveniently located around the county to serve you. And starting in Spring 2025, BDL is thrilled to introduce our new bookmobile, where the library will indeed leave the building and take our great services and collections far and wide!



Facilities Improvements



RECARPETING AT THE COLDWATER BRANCH

Maintaining a grand old building takes a lot of work. After two years painting the Coldwater Branch inside and out, in 2024 it was time for new carpeting, flooring, and stair treatments.

Your Library by the Numbers

**2,020,518**

Digital Items
Available for Checkout

**109,959**

Physical Items
On Our Shelves

**162,225**

In-Person Visits
to the Library

**3,828**

Programs Put On
For All Age Groups

**36,702**

Uses of Digital Items
and Databases

**123,222**

Uses of Physical
Items

**411,317**

Total 1-Hour Sessions
On Our Free Wi-Fi

**29,602**

Attendance at
All Programs

**34,325**

Reference Questions
Answered

**13,960**

Free Prints for
Students and
Job Seekers

**1,094**

Checkouts of
Library of Things
Items

**\$2,118,802.31**

Estimated Amount Users
Saved By Using Library
Materials and Services

For even more, visit
BranchDistrictLibrary.org/stats

MORE THAN JUST BOOKS



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I love the children's activities
for my kids.

*Patron comment received at the
Algansee Branch, April 2024*

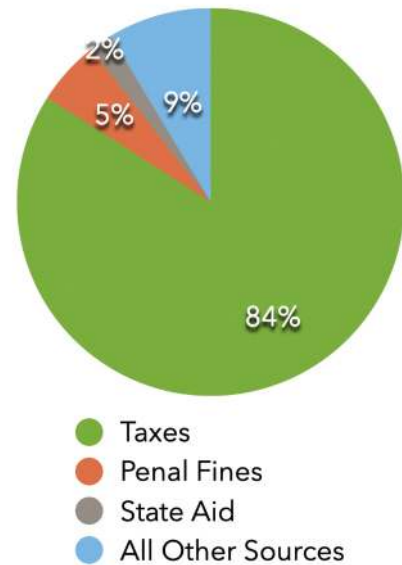




Finances

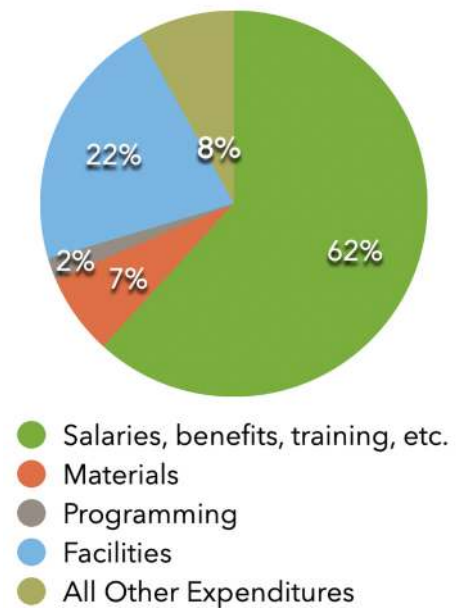
2024 REVENUE	
TAXES	\$ 2,050,763
PENAL FINES	\$ 131,030
STATE AID	\$ 47,419
ALL OTHER SOURCES	\$ 211,025
TOTAL	\$ 2,440,237

*In 2024, the average residential household in Branch County paid about **\$96** in library taxes.*



2024 EXPENDITURES	
SALARIES, BENEFITS, TRAINING, ETC.	\$ 1,596,700
MATERIALS	\$ 175,495
PROGRAMMING	\$ 47,302
FACILITIES	\$ 556,591
ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES	\$ 208,356
TOTAL	\$ 2,584,444

*In 2024, the average residential household in Branch County received about **\$391** of value from library materials and services.*



UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	
2023 YEAR END	\$ 1,287,018
2024 YEAR END	\$ 1,080,496

“

I just wanted to get in touch to tell you how much we appreciate our librarians and library in Union City. Always helpful, courteous, and knowledgeable, these caring folks make the library a wonderful experience for everyone. Much thanks for their hard work!

*Patron comment received at the
Union Twp. Branch, July 2024*





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