

This will be an abbreviated report due to some PTO off with my family.

## **Personnel**

All three babies have arrived, and all three BDL moms are on leave. Congratulations to Meagan, Sarah, and Meghan, and welcome to their new additions! Our new summer hires, Jessica, Amanda, and Anissa, have been doing great and will be a welcome addition to the hustle and bustle while we are short handed. Thanks so much to the new staff, and to Jessica and the branch managers and all who were involved in training to get ready for this.

## **Facilities**

The repair of the south side soffits at the Coldwater Branch is slated to begin the week of June 9.

I took a trip into the attic at the Bronson Branch to see if there might be a leak. Inconclusive at this time, but if there is a leak it isn't too bad. There are no obvious spots that are currently wet, though there are some suspect dark spots on the wood in a couple places. I'll have to get up there again in a few weeks and see if there have been any changes.

## **Summer Reading Program**

The summer of "[Color Our World](#)" has begun, and things are hopping at the library! I'm sure Jessica will say more about it, but our SRP kickoff party was a blast, and very well attended. I saw so many happy faces at our little carnival, and can see us doing this sort of program again.

## **IT Department**

Ludwick Electric did the necessary work inside the Sherwood Branch to prepare for the fiber optic installation, which Frontier did on June 5. Our rep says it will take about a week after installation for them to validate everything before we can actually use the service. Since this will likely happen while I am out of the office, we probably won't have things switched over by the time of our meeting in Sherwood on the 16th.

I've been working with Brittany in the Heritage Room to digitize and process historical video files for the first time for our [Local History Digital Archive](#). There are currently 4 videos up, including a history of Southern Michigan Bank, a documentary of the 1st Michigan Light Artillery Battery from the Civil War, a tour of the Heritage Room from 1995 featuring Randall Hazelbaker, and a celebration of the Coldwater sesquicentennial in 1987. The producer of

most of these videos, Q-1 Video, graciously granted us permission to publicly display these historical treasures, and may be working with us to provide additional titles.

To aid with the periodic required updates to our adult content filter, I worked out a way to automate the processing of over 2 million websites that we currently block. This decreased the processing time of this very tedious task to under 1 minute from start to finish, which will allow for much more frequent updates.

Last month with very little notice, our support vendor for our telephone system announced they were dropping support of our system, but not with enough notice for us to actually make any meaningful evaluation of options or other vendors before our contract expired. It did expire, and so our phone system is now unsupported, though still fully functional. The timing was good, though, to spur me to evaluate other options. I was already interested in going a different direction after we had a couple of events in the past year where power or Internet outages at the Coldwater Branch (where we physically host our current system) caused all 6 branches to lose their telephones. I was thinking about moving to a cloud-based system, as many libraries and other businesses have. I was also hoping to bring our support back closer to home. We started with a Michigan company that was bought, and then that company was bought, and the service dropped at each step along the way.

Well, I'm happy to announce a win-win scenario: we'll be going with a Michigan-based vendor, DS Tech of Escanaba, who came highly recommended from library-land colleagues. This will be providing us with a cloud-based system that actually has more features and is easier to manage (by far!) than our current system. And—even better—the total price is about \$1,000 less than what we are currently paying. We will be looking at an implementation date after the bustle of summer reading is over. After three meetings and a live tech demo with DS Tech, I am excited about this upcoming change!

## **Meetings Attended**

Quincy Friends of the Library, Sherwood Village

Submitted by John Rucker

## StoryWalk® Ribbon-Cutting

On a rainy, but somewhat warm Wednesday, the library hosted a successful ribbon-cutting ceremony for our second StoryWalk® installation in Coldwater, located at Waterworks Park. The StoryWalk® was made possible through the financial support of Altrusa International of Branch County.

The event was attended by community members, Lincoln School students, local officials, Altrusa members, Coldwater Board of Public Utilities staff, and families. The Bookmobile was on site and served as a source of entertainment before the official activities began.

We've already received encouraging feedback from visitors to the StoryWalk®:

*"The story went along with the nature walk—my son enjoyed all the questions at the bottom of the pages."*

*"I think it's a great way to enjoy the park. Thank you for all the work that you put into the Story Walk."*



## Altrusa Literacy Bench Dedication



Library staff were honored to attend the dedication ceremony for the new "Reading Buddies" bronze sculpture and bench, located at the Four Corners in Coldwater. This meaningful project was also made possible by Altrusa International of Branch County. The event featured a storytime reading by library staff member Erica Donihue, who read *Once Upon A Book* by Grace Lin to the guests.

## Meetings Attended

I attended several meetings of the Kiwanis Club of Coldwater. The Bookmobile was recently showcased at a club meeting, with Outreach Manager Cheryl Lawrence giving an presentation on its features and services. Kiwanians were enthusiastic. Many signed up for new library cards and checked out materials on the spot.

Submitted by Kimberly Feltner

- The Summer Reading Kickoff Party on June 1st was an wonderful success. The Kickoff was carnival-themed, and had a host of fun things to do! There were Inflatables, a Duck Pond game, a Win-a-Goldfish game, and large yard games. There was even a balloon animal maker and some jugglers! The Kickoff had delicious snacks, like Popcorn, Sno-cones, Cotton Candy, and some food trucks that were heavily utilized by families! We had over 500 people join us!
- The 2025 Summer Reading Program has arrived! Branches kicked off SRP with some incredible programs!
- I have been spending hours at the Quincy branch the last couple of week, and enjoying my time immensely.

