

It's sort of hard to believe when we're just coming off a busy Summer Reading Program, but libraries overall continue to struggle in the post-covid era. Contributing to this, I'm sure, is a fact highlighted in [a recent survey of over 200,000 US adults](#): in 2023 only 16% of adults reported reading a book (or listening to an audiobook), magazine, or newspaper for pleasure. One of the things the academics speculate could help is making reading more social through bookclubs. BDL is doing our part through [multiple bookclubs at multiple branches](#), and we're even leveraging a popular modern smartphone app to help participants engage and connect.

## **Personnel**

I join Kimberly in welcoming Sarah Sanford to her new role in the technical services department!

## **Facilities**

BDL Management and Board President Ben Jewell toured 3 properties in the past month to see if there was any potential as places to move library support staff. Two of the properties didn't pan out once we saw inside, but one was very suitable. Unfortunately, before we could take any action, a cash offer was made and accepted. We continue to keep our eyes open for alternatives.

## **IT Department**

The major work in IT land in the past month was the telephone transition. All the work really paid off, along with the excellent support from our vendor (DS Tech, of Escanaba, MI), because this was one of the smoothest transitions I have professionally experienced. So far, things seem to be running very smoothly, and the new features we have are appreciated!

Preparations are also under way for our annual system upgrade for the Evergreen library system. I also spent time testing out some alternative software for printing and computer lab management, and for our security cameras.

## **Meetings**

Library of Michigan Directors, Woodlands Library Cooperative, Algonsee Twp. open house.

Submitted by John Rucker

## Library Card Sign-Up Month

This September, we invite you to celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month and discover how a single card can open the door to endless opportunities.

With a library card, you can do more than check out books. From free classes and job resources to homework help, streaming media, and cultural events, today's libraries connect communities to information, inspiration, and each other.

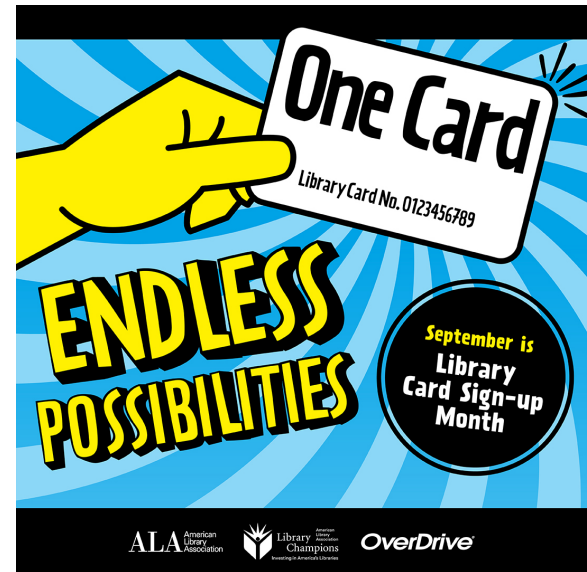
This year's theme, "One Card, Endless Possibilities," is a reminder that libraries are for everyone—no matter your age, background, or goals. Whether you're diving into a new hobby, searching for your next great read, brushing up on tech skills, or helping your child succeed in school, it all starts with a library card.

Stop by any library location or visit us online at [www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/apply](http://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/apply) to sign up for your card today. Because with a Branch District Library card, the possibilities are truly endless!

## Show Your Card and Save Campaign

As mentioned in last month's report, we are currently hosting our second annual Show Your Library Card and Save campaign, designed to highlight the value and benefits of having a library card. This initiative offers library cardholders exclusive discounts at a variety of local businesses, including deals on coffee beverages, laser tag games, spa treatments, floral arrangements, and more.

Participating businesses include: Foundation Golf Center, Adventure Zone, Austin Auto Detailing, Broadway Grille (Union City location only), Carpe Diem Skin Spa, Crescent Comics & Games, Tilted Tulip, Biggby Coffee, Glo Studio, Union Station, and Fortunate Farm.



### Show your LIBRARY CARD and save!

From September 1 - September 30, Branch District Library cardholders will receive unique offers and discounts on goods and services at participating businesses, just by showing your LIBRARY CARD!

<b>Biggby Coffee</b> Coldwater, (517) 279-9013 \$1 off a drink	<b>Glo Studio</b> Coldwater, (517) 628-4456 \$5 off an Infrared Sauna Session Use the code FIVEOFFSAUNA when booking at GoingToGlo.com.	<b>Union Station</b> Union City, (517) 741-5961 10% off your order
<b>Tilted Tulip</b> Coldwater, (517) 278-3734 10% discount	<b>Austin Auto Detailing</b> Coldwater, (517) 677-8677 10% discount off any service	<b>Broadway Grille</b> Union City, (517) 741-9900 15% off Appetizers
<b>Adventure Zone</b> Coldwater, (517) 278-9663 Buy 1 Get 1 Free game of Laser Tag	<b>Carpe Diem Skin Spa</b> Coldwater, (517) 836-1715 10% off all services and products (This offer cannot be combined with any current promotion, gift certificates, packages, or semi-permanent make-up services)	<b>Fortunate Farm</b> Union City, (517) 677-5743 Adults: Sunflower Bouquet for \$7.00 Kids: Show their library card and get entered into a drawing for a FREE pumpkin (three winners)
<b>Foundation Golf Center</b> Coldwater, (517) 279-6164 \$2 off any size range bucket	<b>Crescent Comics &amp; Games</b> Coldwater, (517) 781-4426 10% off purchase	<p>SCAN HERE!</p>

**September is Library Card Sign-Up Month**  
Library cards are FREE if you live, own a business, or attend school in our service area. Non-residents may purchase an annual library card for a fee.

**Sign up at any library or at [BranchDistrictLibrary.org/apply](http://BranchDistrictLibrary.org/apply)**

## Marketing

The Marketing Team held our annual staff Canva training, a required session for anyone creating flyers or promotional materials for the library. The training covers design fundamentals, branding guidelines, and how to effectively use Canva for library-related projects.

## Technical Services

We have started this year's annual collection cleanup. First up was magazines. Branches have been reviewing older records and removing outdated issues that were still appearing in the catalog. As part of this process, I also spent time researching ways to improve how magazine requests work for our library users.

While our library offers a wide range of fantastic physical magazine subscriptions, we've noticed limited usage when it comes to placing holds. One of the key issues is that our current system automatically assigns an issue at random. For example, a user requesting People might receive the February issue, even if they were hoping for a newer one. To address this, I have found a way to label magazines in the catalog that will allow library users to request the specific edition they want to read. This will be a long-term project, especially with existing subscriptions, but once complete, it will significantly improve the user experience.

I'm also excited to welcome Sarah Sanford to the Technical Services Team! Sarah has been with BDL for two and half years, most recently serving in the Coldwater Branch's Children's Services department. She will be moving into her new role later this month.

I often say catalogers have the best job because they get to see all the new books first!

## Meetings

- Kiwanis Club of Coldwater
- Woodlands Council Meeting
- Branch County Community Network

Submitted:

Kimberly Feltner



- The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten graduation celebration took place on Saturday, August 16th, honoring 15 amazing graduates! We had 14 graduates show up, and that is by far the largest group of graduates we've been able to celebrate to date. Each graduate received a Squishmallow, a book, and a certificate. This was our third graduation celebration, and it was a wild success!
- Staff Training Day will be here before we know it! Currently in its planning stage, it looks like half the day will be spent on security training/active shooter training and the rest of the day will be BDL staff teaching/training.
- Family Fright Night is planned! We are so excited for this year's theme and all the fun that will take place inside the Coldwater branch on October 17th from 5PM-7PM. Please invite family and friends to join us.
- Meetings: I attended several meetings this past month. John, Kimberly, and I attended the Woodlands meeting together and it was so nice to see our peers and talk with them about the happenings at their libraries. I also attended a programming meeting to plan programs for December-February, and lastly, a Family Fright Night meeting where plans were wrapped up!

