

Summer Reading Program

It's always wild to me at this time of year just how busy it gets and how amazing our staff are. With an influx of visitors and more and bigger programs to put on than usual, I am incredibly grateful for the talent, creativity, and hard work I see on display each day at all levels of the library!

Personnel

After 27 years at BDL, and 20 as Bronson Branch Manager, Lynnell Eash will be retiring. Please join us Friday, July 25th from 5-7pm at the Bronson Branch for an open house and celebration of all things Lynnell! I am excited for Lynnell to start her next chapter, but I sure will miss her being part of our story here at BDL.

The position has been posted internally and candidates will be interviewed by a selection committee representing the library and Bronson township.

Facilities

In the past few weeks, we have had air conditioning issues at 3 branches: Alganssee, Bronson, and Coldwater. We are still waiting to find out what's going on with the older unit at Alganssee that cools the rear of the building, not the new one just installed for the main library. At Coldwater, we are suspecting a computer configuration problem that has half of the building not cooling until later in the day than it should be. Contractors have been called. And at Bronson, the unit simply needs to be replaced (see the discussion item in the packet).



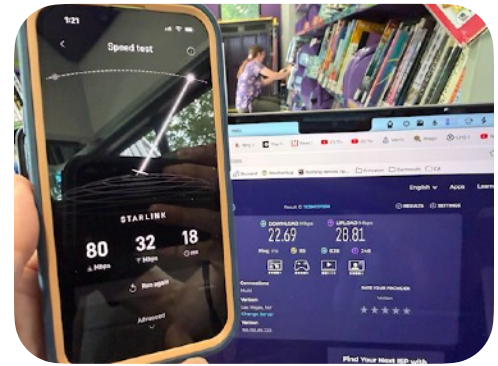
I took updated aerial shots of all the branches, looking closing at roofs and gutters, especially at the Coldwater Branch where we have had some recent rotting that implies water ingress where it shouldn't be. I have shared the photos with a local gutter specialist to get some expert opinion and guidance before proceeding.

The Coldwater Branch needed some minor electrical repairs on a breaker panel and a couple of wall switches. The Coldwater Branch was also the victim of a graffiti incident near the east entrance. Our cameras do not reach to that area outside, but thanks to quick efforts by our security officer, Trey, the graffiti was painted over within an hour of opening the library after it was noticed.

Speaking of the Coldwater Branch, Brittany led a tour of the library for a group from the Lagrange Library in Indiana who regularly take architectural tour field trips to other libraries.

IT Department

After a year of not the performance we'd hoped for with our cellular internet connection on the bookmobile, we have activated mobile Starlink service. Our initial tests at the California Township stop this week showed dramatically better speeds and latency, with a startup time of only about 2 minutes instead of much longer sometimes for the cellular to start working. Next up, permanently mounting the satellite receiver on the roof of the vehicle.



Meetings Attended

Library of Michigan Directors, Coldwater Friends of the Library, Quincy Advisory Board, Union Twp. Board.

Submitted by John Rucker

It has been a lot of little projects and loose ends in the last few weeks. Some of the bigger projects will start taking off in July and August!

Marketing

A significant portion of our efforts has been dedicated to preparing for Summer Reading. This includes updating the online Event Calendar. Also, creating Facebook events to increase awareness of major summer programs.

Due to strong demand, I ordered an additional small batch of Event Guides. By June 1, all extra stock had been distributed, and branch locations seemed to have just enough for their library guests. Hopefully, this reflects strong interest and attendance at library events across Branch County.

Audiobook Appreciation Month

June is Audiobook Appreciation Month. A time to celebrate the enjoyment, accessibility, and growing popularity of audiobooks. Established by the Audio Publishers Association, this month highlights the evolution of audiobooks from cassette tapes and CDs to today's widely used digital formats. Audiobooks make literature more accessible and convenient. I am happy that BDL offers two ways to access digital audiobooks with Hoopla and Libby, besides the audiobooks offered physically at our branches.

Meetings

Kiwanis Club of Coldwater

Submitted

Kimberly Feltner

IT'S SUMMER READING TIME!

- It's here! The 2026 Summer Reading Program has launched and we're all ready for a rip-rawr-ing time! From Dino digs to the ever elusive Bigfoot, there are so many incredible programs happening this summer - be sure to check one out!
- Our Summer Reading Program Kickoff party was a huge success! Over 400 people came to dig up fossils, slide down inflatable water slides, adopt a Dino, and explore the origins of their Dino-given name!
- Our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Graduation ceremony will take place on August 22 at 11:00AM. To date, we have eight kiddos that have completed in 2026!



