

Personnel

I join Maria in welcoming Kelly Hulce to the Union Twp. Branch. Kelly joins us from the education sphere, and we are very glad to have her join the team and share her perspective and expertise. We now also have candidates we can interview for the open bookmobile driver position.

Facilities

As Teresa noted, air conditioning is fully restored at the Algansee Branch. We have had some windows cleaned and weeding done at Union Twp. Branch. The bookmobile had some minor maintenance.

IT Department

Most of my IT work has been prep for the Aspen Discovery Layer launch. When not doing his normal heavy and valuable workload, Curtis has also been prepping outgoing older computers for our annual sale during Coldwater's Apple Fest next month.

Meetings Attended

Michigan Library Directors, multiple meetings on Aspen Discovery Layer with Equinox Open Library Initiative.

Submitted by John Rucker

Technical Services

The Technical Services Department is working on creating a Holiday Picture Book Collection in our children's area. A wide variety of holidays will be represented. This collection will allow library users to check out fifteen Holiday Picture Books for two weeks. More holiday-themed items from our other area will still be under our regular loaning rules. These changes will help share a limited resource during the busy holiday season!

Aspen Discovery Layer

So far, the ease of setting up Aspen has held to what they told us. There is plenty of documentation that makes adding in a new reading list or placards (more about those soon!). Next week, the vendor will start copying from the test site to our production site. That will be live for staff and additional testing later this month.

Library Card Sign-Up Month

Before the next board meeting in September, is the kick-off of our annual Library Card Sign-up Month Campaign.

Some special perks are during Sign-Up Month!

- Sign up for a library card during the month of September and receive a limited-edition library swag item. Available while supplies last for all-ages!
- Already have a library card? Share the Library Love! Current library users can pick up a referral sheet at any library location. Then invite their friends to sign up for a library card, and they will have the chance to win fun prizes!



It also the perfect time to highlight our special cards for teachers and students in the county:

- Library1 Cards are available for students attending school in Branch County. These cards can check out only print items shelved in the Juvenile and Young Adult sections
- Teacher Cards are available to educators at Branch County schools or homeschools. These cards have longer check-out times and more items per library card!

This year's theme, "A Library Card Hits All the Right Notes," is a reminder that libraries offer something for everyone—no matter your age, background, or goals. Whether you're checking out a classic story or trying something new, finding harmony at the library's programs, vibing

out in a cozy nook, or composing your future with new skills, there's a seat in the front row at the library for you, and your library card is the ticket.

Fall Event Guide

Grab a copy today! The [Fall 2026 Event Guide](#) has arrived covering programs happening for September - October!

Meetings

Kiwanis Club of Coldwater

Aspen Discovery

Submitted

Kimberly Feltner



- The 2026 Summer Reading Program wrapped up on July 25th after 8 weeks of rawr-some programming! During the course of the program, we had nearly a 50% completion rate for Branch County, and that is incredible! A huge thank you to everyone that participated, planned and executed programs, and worked the front lines this summer! I also want to thank the vast amount of donors we had this summer! We couldn't do all we do without you!
- Our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten graduation celebration will be held on August 22 at 11 AM in Kids Place at the Coldwater branch. We have eight graduates this year and I am thrilled!
- Attended Aspen Training meetings this month and the monthly Branch County Community Network meeting.

