

Three Oaks Township Public Library

Director's Report: October 14, 2025

September 2025 circulation statistics:

- 1,546 total circulation: 910 physical items checked out + 554 e-items checked out (Libby, hoopla, Kanopy) + 82 e-magazines (on Libby).
- 40 items borrowed via inter-library loan, 36 items lent via inter-library loan
- 39 different sign-ins on public computers
- 22 in-person programs were offered last month & attendance was 79 including passive programming.

Upcoming Events:

- Every Tuesday: Drop-In Play Doh Play Date, 11:00 – 12:00 noon.
- Every Wednesday: Knitting and Crocheting Circle, 10:30 – 11:30. Individuals of all skill levels are invited to bring their projects.
- Every Thursday: Lego Club @ the Library all day. Projects will stay on display for one week.
- Every Thursday: Adult Drop-In Color Me Happy Hour, 1:00 – 2:00.
- Every Thursday: Story Time, 4:30 – 5:00.
- Fall Flower DIY, Thursday, October 16, 7:00 p.m. Space is limited - pre-register at 756-5621.
- National Friends of the Library Week, October 19-25.
- Friends of the Three Oaks Library Annual Holiday Decorating Work Party, Thursday, November 20, 6:00. Bring an appetizer to share as we decorate.
- Holiday flower DIY, Thursday, December 4, 7:00. Space is limited – pre-register at 756-5621.

We're doing a Fall Flower DIY on Thursday and there are 10 people registered.

National Friends of the Library Week is October 19-25. The staff has all discussed this and decided to celebrate with baked goods and candy. We will have a raffle to win a mini bookcase with mini books.

I recently told you how happy I was to have found a computer company and last month they came and replaced all our computers and fixed some systems for us. It has been wonderful!! This amount was over the \$5000 in our budget for technology but we have not been spending and replacing/upgrading items for several years. We now have two wired-in public computers and five Surface laptops for patrons to use.

The Michigan eLibrary (MeLCat), the statewide shared catalog and inter-library loan component of the Michigan eLibrary, is celebrating 20 years of service to Michigan libraries and their communities in 2025! Growing from 12 member libraries in 2005, MeLCat now boasts over 435 libraries—public, school, academic and special. MeLCat has built a database with over 34 million holdings with an average request fill rate of over 90%. To celebrate, Mittens the MeLCAT mascot was introduced and is traveling across the state visiting libraries. Mittens recently visited us and the photos will be in this week's newsletter and featured on the library's Facebook page.

The Michigan Budget recently was passed with the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) line item fully funded, ensuring the Library of Michigan can spend federal dollars as allocated for statewide programs like the Michigan eLibrary catalog, MeL and MeLCat (interlibrary loan). The State Aid to Libraries line item stayed the same but didn't lose anything. The budget also included a one-time \$900,000 increase in state funding for MeL. No word on what they will spend that on yet.

Van Buren District Library recently learned they were Mobile Beacon's number one library distributor of cellular broadband data nationwide. They have 420 hotspots in circulation and used over 300 terabytes of data in just six months of 2025. For perspective, we have 10 hot spots.

After many recent delays in book shipments, Baker & Taylor recently announced they are closing their doors. Founded in 1828, B&T has been the main supplier of books to libraries for many years. Ingram Library Services and Amazon are trying to step up and fill the void. Our patrons have not and will not notice any changes in books available to them.