Important News for Library Patrons
For the past 10 years, the Monroe County Library System has been a participant in MeLCat, Michigan’s statewide resource sharing system. Through this service, countless Monroe County residents take advantage of the opportunity to borrow materials from hundreds of other participating libraries across the state.

For technical reasons, MeLCat will be temporarily unavailable for new requests beginning Wednesday, November 18, 2015 through Friday, December 11, 2015. During this time the MeLCat servers will undergo necessary upgrades and move to a new site. Library users will be able to pick up requested MeLCat materials until Wednesday, December 2, 2015. MeLCat materials can be returned at any time.

Patrons are encouraged to plan ahead and place any desired MeLCat requests prior to November 18, 2015.

Most users will still be able to search individual MeL Databases. Searching across several databases at the same time will be possible until Wednesday, December 2, 2015.

The staff at the Michigan eLibrary understand that any interruption of service is an inconvenience, but strategically planned the downtime to occur during a period when MeLCat requesting is usually at its lowest. Once completed, all MeLCat services will resume as usual.

The Time Line
Starting Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 12:01 am:
• No new MeLCat requests can be placed.
• Please make sure to place your requests by Tuesday, November 17, 2015.

Starting Wednesday, December 2, 2015:
• MeLCat materials cannot be checked out.
• MeLCat materials can still be returned.
• Individual MeL Databases can be accessed at: http://www.mel.org/Databases
• When using the individual database links on the MeL Databases page, you will be verified that you are in Michigan based on the IP address of your computer. If the IP isn’t recognized as being in Michigan, you will not be able to login with your driver’s license.
• Direct access to the databases from within the Library will not be affected.

For more information, please visit http://bit.ly/melupgrades
As the season begins to change, our minds turn to the upcoming holidays, winter preparations, and cozy time spent indoors at home. The fall and winter months are an excellent time to make use of the Library for its wealth of resources, including books and printed materials, events for the whole family, and a myriad of online resources—including downloadable books, movies and magazines which can be enjoyed from the comforts of home.

Many patrons plan to utilize our MeLCat borrowing services as they plan holiday events or prepare for snowy days curled up with a good book. With this in mind, I would like to remind everyone of the downtime scheduled for MeLCat services. While MeL services will be back and better than ever by December 11, 2015, please plan ahead to make sure your requests may be filled before the hiatus.

To make sure you receive the materials you need, we encourage you to make your requests by Tuesday, November 17, 2015. As always, the staff at your local branches are more than happy to help you request materials, or you may do so online by visiting mel.org.

For more information about the MeLCat server work, including a brief Q & A, please visit http://bit.ly/melupgrades

- Nancy Bellaire

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The 17th Annual Writers on the River celebrates 17 years hosting the annual book and author fair, Writers on the River, in November 2015.

This unique celebration of writers, readers and books affords guests the opportunity to speak to local and regional authors and purchase personalized copies of their works.

Don’t Miss Writers on the River: Sunday, November 8, 2015
From 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The event is free and open to the public, held at the Ellis Library & Reference Center, 3700 South Custer, Monroe Michigan.

For more information, including biographies of the authors attending, please visit: http://bit.ly/writersontheriver

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The Michigan History Day Competition is an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan, which encourages students to explore local, state, national and world history. Students can select any historical topic that relates to the year’s theme, then conduct research, analyze their findings and interpret the significance in history. This year Monroe county students are invited to display their projects at the Ellis Library & Information Center in early February. Winners will be chosen in each age group and category to move on to the District Level.

Register Early! To Get Started:

- Stop by the Ellis Library & Reference Center for an info packet
- Contact Charmaine Wawrzyniec at: 734-241-5277, email charmaine.wawrzyniec@monroe.lib.mi.us
- Or visit MCLS online at http://bit.ly/mihistorymcls

@The Branches

Crafting Night Out: Arm-Knit Infinity Scarves
Dorsch Memorial Branch Library
Tuesday, November 17, 2015 from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Enjoy an evening out creating an infinity scarf in less than an hour! This is a super fast and easy way of knitting a yarn scarf on your own hands. Space is limited. Registration is required.

Color Me Happy
Dorsch Memorial Branch Library
Wednesday, November 18, 2015 from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Do you remember the sense of peace and enjoyment you felt coloring as a child? From choosing colors to the gentle, repetitive motion of your hands as you bring color to paper, coloring can be seen as a form of “active meditation”. If you are an adult looking for a fresh new way to bring stress relief to your busy life, this program is for you. Just in time for the upcoming holidays, attendees will learn about coloring as stress management and color their own masterpiece.

Fandom Friday
Bedford Branch Library
Fridays, November 20 & December 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM
Join us for Fandom Friday! We show movies, play video and tabletop games, host special events, have snacks and more.

International Games Day
Carleton Branch Library
Saturday, November 21, 2015 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Join us at the Carleton Branch Library for an afternoon of games as we take part in the International Games Day. Stop in to play our games or bring along your favorite game. We will have various board games, card games and other games for you to try. Bring the whole family!

Bedford Branch Hall of Trees
Bedford Branch Library
Tuesday, December 1 to Thursday, December 31, 2015
Join us this Holiday Season for the 15th Annual Bedford Branch Library Hall of Trees - one of the largest displays of Christmas trees in Monroe County. Trees will be on display the entire month of December. Anyone interested in participating Please contact the Bedford Library.

Erie Art Club
Erie Branch Library
Monday, December 7, 2015 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Students, kindergarten thru 8th grade are invited to join this fun and exciting Club offering various art projects and activities. The meetings are held at the library on the first Mondays of every month at 5:30 and are free.

Star Wars Night!
Ellis Library & Reference Center
Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Excited for Star Wars: The Force Awakens? Join us at the Mos Ellis Cantina for a night of characters, trivia, make your own lightsaber, and more! All ages are welcome. Be sure to bring your own camera for character and photo booth pictures. Come in costume for a chance to win a prize!

Beginning Essential Oils
Maybee Branch Library
Monday, December 14, 2015 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Come join us as we learn about essential oils. We will have a guest speaker, Lori Diver, who will have samples and lots of helpful information. This class will prep us for our upcoming D.I.Y. nights.

Snowman Canvas and Cookies
Bedford Branch Library
Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 10:00 AM
Please join us and create a simple snowman on canvas to give as a gift or keep as your own. Ages 8 and up are welcome to participate in the fun holiday program.

What our staff is reading.....

See the full staff reviews: bit.ly/MCLStaffReview

Coming Soon Booklist

February 2016
Jeffrey Archer - Cometh the Hour
Meg Cabot - Remembrance
Heather Gudenkauf - Missing Pieces
Peter Straub - Interior Darkness

March 2016
Rhys Bowen - Time of Fog and Fire
Stephanie Evanovich - The Total Package
Tracy Mcmillan - Multiple Listings
Bodie and Brock Thoene - Behold the Man

Check Out Our Coming Soon Newsletters:
- bit.ly/ComingSoonFiction (Fiction)
- bit.ly/ComingSoonNonFic (Non-fiction)
If you love the library and want to help enhance library services and promote library use, we extend an invitation to you to become involved in the Friends of the Monroe County Library System. Your membership also entitles you to invitations to Book Sale previews, special Friends events, and related Library mailings.

To receive this newsletter electronically, please visit mymcls.com/about_us

Become a Friend of the Library!

If you love the library and want to help enhance library services and promote library use, we extend an invitation to you to become involved in the Friends of the Monroe County Library System. Your membership also entitles you to invitations to Book Sale previews, special Friends events, and related Library mailings.

Please fill out the application below, call 734-241-5770, or visit mymcls.com/friends_mcls

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Name: ..........................................................................................................................................................................

Address: ........................................................................................................ Phone: .............................................

City: ........................................................................................................... State: ...................... Zip: ......................

Please make checks payable to FRIENDS OF THE MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM.

Classes of membership:

- Individual (annual)-$10.00
- Family (annual)-$15.00
- Senior (annual)-$5.00
- Junior (annual)-$2.00
- Life- $200.

Joining the FRIENDS of MCLS entitles you to membership in your local FRIENDS group. With which branch library would you like to be affiliated? ............................................

What would you like FRIENDS to support?

- Books ☐  Technology ☐  Programs ☐  Beautification ☐
- Other? ............................................................................................................................

We also welcome corporate sponsors. Please call the library for details.