

# myMCLS

MONROE COUNTY  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Summer 2025  
Newsletter

Featured Inside:

Summer  
Reading  
@MCLS!

Letter from  
the Director

Kids Corner:  
Reading  
Unicorns

@The Branches

Coming Soon  
Booklist



## SUMMER READING IS BRIGHTER THAN EVER!

**COLOR OUR WORLD** one page at a time! Summer Reading 2025 at your Monroe County Library System invites readers of all ages to dive into vibrant stories, creative programs, and joyful challenges that spark imagination and build connection. For kids, Summer Reading is more than just fun—it helps keep their minds active and engaged all summer long, combatting the “summer slide” through books, play, and discovery. This year’s program also includes something extra magical: Reading Unicorn cards will be coming to the library! They’re a brand-new addition to our beloved Reading Dragon families (you can find more details about Reading Dragons later in this newsletter).



### KIDS

Visit your local branch for crafts, play groups, special events and more! Pick up a summer reading log and complete it for special prizes.

- Find an event and register at <https://bit.ly/mclssummerevents>.
- Show your completed reading log at any MCLS branch to receive a free prize book, donated by Directions Credit Union.
- You can also show your completed reading log at Directions Credit Union, located at 15470 S. Telegraph Road in Monroe, to receive a \$5.00 deposit in your child’s savings account.

### TEENS

Turn in book reviews to receive prize scratch off cards. Scratch your card to reveal fun prizes. Entry slips are available at any branch of the Monroe County Library System.

- Complete the slip with any three books or six graphic novels you read.
- Redeem the slip at your local library branch to receive a scratch off prize ticket!
- Learn more at [mymcls.com/teen-summer-reading-2025](http://mymcls.com/teen-summer-reading-2025).

### ADULTS

The fun isn’t reserved for kids and teens alone! Adults are also invited to participate with free drawings, book reviews, and games.

- Track your reading, review books, or play Summer Reading Book Bingo to win prizes.
- Find a participating branch at [mymcls.com/adult-summer-reading-2025](http://mymcls.com/adult-summer-reading-2025).

FIND PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES! [mymcls.com/summer-reading](http://mymcls.com/summer-reading)



# Letter

## From the Director

Summer at the library is always a special time. There's a different kind of energy that fills our spaces—kids racing in to share books they've read, teens diving into graphic novels and summer challenges, and families making memories together through reading, play, and exploration. It's one of the seasons where the heart of the library truly shines.

This year's Summer Reading theme, *Color Our World*, feels especially meaningful. It's a reminder of how stories add richness to our lives, and how every reader—no matter their age—brings something vibrant to our community. Whether it's a child discovering a new favorite series, an adult enjoying a quiet moment with a book, or a neighbor stopping by a library program just to connect, these little moments matter. Summer Reading isn't just for kids—it's for everyone. Our libraries are full of ways to explore, grow, and create, and our summer events reflect that. From craft programs to reading challenges, Escape Rooms and storytimes, there's something for every age and every interest. You might even spot our beloved Reading Dragons and brand-new Reading Unicorns popping up across the county!

One of the highlights of the summer season is always the Monroe County Fair. It's a tradition that brings our entire county together, and we're thrilled to be part of it once again. If you'll be visiting the Fair this year, I hope you'll stop by the Monroe County Library System's booth. We'll be showcasing some of the unique and surprising things your library offers and giving you a peek at what's ahead for fall. Whether you come for a chat, a game, or just to say hello, we'd love to see you there.

And if it's been a while since you last visited your local branch, summer is the perfect time to come back. Whether you're picking up your next great read, using a computer, bringing your child to a program, or just enjoying a quiet corner with a good book and some air conditioning, you're always welcome here.

Thank you for being part of the Monroe County Library System. Libraries thrive because of the people who walk through our doors, share stories with us, and believe in the power of learning and connection. We're honored to serve you—and we're so glad you're here.

With heartfelt gratitude, *Nancy Bellaire*

## Kids Corner Reading Dragons

### Now Including Unicorns!

Dragons have invaded the library! Reading Dragons are a free, card-game based reading incentive program, available at the Monroe County Library System. Collect new dragon families each week by reading!

#### How It Works:

- Stop by a MCLS branch to pick up a reading tracker and starter cards
- Use your tracker to keep tabs on your reading, and earn a family of mythical creature cards for each row you fill
- A family includes 4 cards showing the egg, baby, teen, and adult of the creature you choose

#### Collect Dragon Families

- Once you complete a row, bring your tracker to the library to get a new family of dragons
- A librarian will initial the end of your row when you collect your cards
- You can receive one (1) new family each week!

Learn more at [mymcls.com/reading-dragons](http://mymcls.com/reading-dragons)





## Backyard Chicken Keeping

### Ida Branch Library

Monday, June 23, 2025 from 6:00pm–7:00pm

Monroe County 4-H will present a one-hour backyard flock educational program. Teen leaders and volunteers from the 4-H Small Animal Program will cover choosing the right birds, biosecurity, care, as well as Q&A. Ida Township Zoning Administrator, Tim Duby, will be on hand to answer your questions as well. Don't miss this opportunity to learn what it takes to successfully raise chickens in your own backyard!

Register at [bit.ly/idachicks](http://bit.ly/idachicks)

## Summer Splash Dayz!

### Dundee Branch Library

Thursday, June 26, 2025 from 10:30am–11:30am

Come cool down with the Library! Splash Pads, a sprinkler & water play will be available to cool down! Please bring a towel, sunscreen and a water bottle if needed. We will have a Splashin' good time! This is a drop-in program for children ages up to 9 years of age.

## Painted Pages

### Ellis Library & Reference Center

Thursdays from 1:00pm–2:00pm

June 26, July 3, July 10, July 17 & July 24, 2025

Enjoy story-based art from paintings, to collages and more! For kids ages 7 and up.

Register at [bit.ly/elpaintpg](http://bit.ly/elpaintpg)

## Crafting and Chatting

### Maybe Branch Library

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 from 5:00pm–7:00pm

Bring your unfinished craft projects in to work on among friends. Share your knowledge and learn something new. Coloring pages will be available for those who are in between projects.

## Summer Reading Kickoff Event

### Ida Branch Library

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 from 10:30am–11:30am

Join us for our Color Our World, Summer Reading Kickoff event with Mark Rosenthal and his animal friends. Mark will use his vast knowledge of animals, combined with his amazing sense of humor, to introduce you to some of our planet's most colorful animals!

Register at [bit.ly/animalida](http://bit.ly/animalida)

## 5K Your Way 2025

### Frenchtown-Dixe, Blue Bush & Vivian Branch Libraries

Registration runs from June 23, 2025 to August 29, 2025

Lace up your shoes, pump up your tires, or dive into the pool- it's time to support the Friends of the Frenchtown Area Libraries in our annual 5K Your Way fundraiser. The

event begins in October, with registration opening in June. Choose your favorite way to complete the 5K challenge:

- Walk or Run
- Bicycle
- Swim
- Roll (wheelchair, rollerblade, skateboard, etc.)

Participate with friends, family, or go solo – everyone is welcome! Snap a picture during your 5K journey and share it with us when you're done! Let's make strides for literacy and community together!

Register at any of the three Frenchtown Area Libraries from June 23, 2025 to August 29, 2025.

- Registration Fee: \$25.00
- Ages 15 and under: \$10.00

Event packets will be available to pick up the week September 22, 2025

## Library Games Guild

### Dundee Branch Library

Sunday, July 20, 2025 from 2:00pm–7:00pm

Welcome to the Library Games Guild at the Dundee Branch Library, where dice roll, cards shuffle, and strategy rules supreme! Join us on our cozy, mysterious lower level, our secret lair of board game bliss (or, you know, the basement).

This is a 16+ event where adults and older teens can gather, snack, and unleash their competitive spirits over tabletop games. We'll provide some classic and new games, as well as snacks to fuel your brain power. But if you have a favorite game or snack, bring it along!

No experience? No problem! Whether you're a seasoned strategist or totally new to tabletop games, everyone is welcome to join the fun.

Oh, and here's the fine print: no little guild members allowed. This is strictly an adventure for the grown-ups and big kids, and unfortunately, we're unable to offer child care. So, leave the kiddos at home, grab your game face, and prepare for strategic mayhem, laughter, and the thrill of victory (or at least a solid attempt)!

The library makes every effort to ensure our programs can be enjoyed by all. If you have any concerns about accessibility or need to request specific accommodations, please contact the library.

## Coming Soon Booklist

### September 2025

- End Game by Jeffrey Archer
- The Secret of Secrets by Dan Brown
- Denied Access by Vince Flynn
- The Girl from Devil's Lake by J. A. Jance

### October 2025

- Twice by Mitch Albom
- The Proving Ground by Michael Connelly
- The Widow by John Grisham
- The Black Wolf by Louise Penny

### DISCOVER GREAT TITLES COMING TO MCLS:

- [mymcls.com/all-recommendations](http://mymcls.com/all-recommendations)

YOUR MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM  
840 South Roessler Street  
Monroe, MI 48161-1557

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Monroe, Michigan  
PERMIT NO. 455

mymcls.com  

**Holiday Closings**

All branches of the Monroe County Library System will be closed:

June 19, 2025

in observance of Juneteenth

July 4, 2024

in observance of Independence Day

September 1, 2025

in observance of Labor Day

October 13, 2025

in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day / Columbus Day

November 11, 2025

in observance of Veterans Day



# 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 <http://bit.ly/myclsfriends>

**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.

**The Monroe County Library System Board of Trustees**

Rob Peven, **Chair** ♦ Beth LaPensee, **Vice Chair** ♦ Dr. Rita Gordon, **Secretary**  
Catharine Calder, **Trustee** ♦ Mike Grodi, **Trustee** ♦ **Director:** Nancy Bellaire