



## **Director's Report—Debbie Bird**

### **Columbia County**

At the Columbia County Finance Committee 2026 budget meeting, the libraries were granted a 76% County reimbursement, although this decision was not unanimous. We had requested an 80% reimbursement, but when I calculated revenues for the upcoming 2026 Portage City budget submissions, I calculated for another year of the current reimbursement rate of 73.096901%. The difference estimated brings in an additional \$7,932 to our revenue line. Most rewarding to me is the recognition from members of the County Board that Columbia County libraries are important to our small communities. I was not called back by the Finance Committee. Budget approval is now in the hands of the entire Columbia County Board of Supervisors.

### **Friends**

The Friends' Silent Auction is currently underway and will conclude at the Friends' Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 23. Library-donated paintings, a handmade quilt and some specialty gift baskets are currently on display next to the Study Rooms in the library for people to bid on. The Friends generously donated more than \$10,600 to the library this past year for programming. In addition, the Book Nook card tables and plastic bins were replaced with attractive wooden book shelf furniture. Generous donations from the community have made the book sale extremely lucrative in current years, offering quality materials for purchase.

### **Launch Pads**

Launch Pads are available for check out in the children's department, teen area and next to adult holds. Pre-loaded with content for kids, teens, and adults, designed with a simple, easy-to-use interface, and 100% secure, Launch Pad tablets are made to be passed from one set of hands to the next. No download time. No need for Wi-Fi. Access to powerful content is as simple as turning on each device—anytime, anywhere. Learning apps have a powerful impact on development and education and Launch Pads ensure that everyone can access them.

Available to anyone with a library card in good standing, these Launch Pads check out for two weeks. A charging cord is included in case you need to recharge your device before it is due. Currently only one Launch Pad per person can be checked out at time.