



Special Edition Newsletter
September 11, 2026

Library News



In Memory of Madeleine Brooks

It is with broken hearts that we share the sudden passing of our beloved staff member and Library icon, Madeleine Brooks. Surrounded by her family, Madeleine passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness.

For more than 20 years, many of you have had the pleasure of seeing Madeleine's warm smile and experiencing her kindness at our Checkout Desk. She was the example we looked to when it came to treating others with compassion and providing exceptional service to our community.

Madeleine's love for the Library, our patrons, and the community she served was truly unmatched. Her presence touched countless lives, and her kindness will be remembered for years to come.

She will be deeply missed by all of us who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside her.

How long have you been with the City?
I have been with the City for 19 years as of this June. My first 2 years were as a Library Aide, and I have been a Library Assistant for 17 years come August of this year.

What is something that you have learned while working for the City?
While working at the City I have learned how kind everyone who works and lives here are. Again, I feel Midland (and the surrounding area) is a great place to live, and especially raise children.

What is your favorite aspect about working for the City?
My favorite aspect about working for the City is all the wonderful people who work for the City, and how much they care about our community. It truly is a wonderful city and has so many things to do!

What are your hobbies/outside of work activities?
My hobbies include reading (of course), walking and playing with our 2 year old Black Labrador, Penny, and going on road trips all around Michigan with my husband, Curt. We especially love visiting all of the beautiful lighthouses we have in Michigan.

What's something people wouldn't know about your job?

Something people wouldn't know about my job is that before we check any item in we have to check contents and barcodes of each audiovisual item to be sure the barcodes on the disc and case match and that there are the correct number of discs. We also look through all returned books for any damage. On busy days that can be thousands of items per shift.

What do you think is the City's best kept secret or hidden gem?

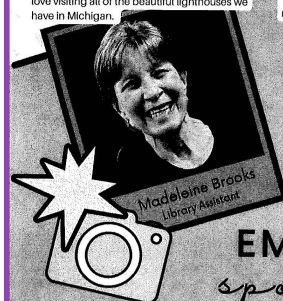
I truly feel the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library is our hidden gem, not just because I work there, but due to all the people that come in to visit from other towns and states and remark on how great our library is and tell me about other libraries they have visited or have in their area that aren't quite as nice. And the new patrons we get that have just moved to Midland from other states are really impressed with our library also!

What are three items that are always in your refrigerator?

The three items you will always find in my refrigerator are milk, cheese, and chocolate Boost.

Is there anything else that you would like to share?

The last thing I would like to say, which most who know me already know, is that I love my job at the Library and seeing all the patrons at check out! Having been at check out for 17 years I have watched so many children grow up, head to college, and even come back when they have children of their own! It is a blessing to be able to enjoy one's work, and I am very grateful for my job and the awesome coworkers I have now and have had through the years!



EMPLOYEE
spotlight

For those who would like to pay their respects, a celebration of life will be held at One Church (7206 W. Wackerly Street, Midland, MI 48642) on Saturday, October 10th at 11:00am.

Madeleine's family has asked that those who wish to honor her memory through a donation can do so by giving to the [Wounded Warrior Project](#), [Tunnel to Towers Foundation](#), [Humane Society of Midland County](#), or the [Grace A. Dow Memorial Library](#).

Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

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