

WOODBURY COUNTY LIBRARY-Moville
Air Conditioner Issue
July 20, 2022

The Woodbury County Library Board was first made aware of issues with the air conditioning at the June 9, 2022 meeting and was told the City of Merville was working to get it fixed. When the Library Board met on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, we learned that the City of Merville had informed us that the AC repair part won't be available for another 10-12 weeks due to supply chain issues with a computer chip.

Since then, the Library Board has informed the City of Merville that this isn't acceptable, as our staff can't continue to work in such an oppressive environment, that we aren't providing adequate service to the residents of Rural Woodbury County and Merville by being forced to close at noon due the heat in the building, and that we fear damage to our materials in the Library from the humidity and heat.

The AC unit at the Merville Community Center (which provides AC for the Library) quit working the week of May 23rd. Merville City Hall was notified that Monday, May 23rd, and again on Tuesday, May 31st.

As the temperature and humidity have increased, the books have begun to take on moisture. The library staff notified the City of Merville and 3 working de-humidifiers were brought in on Monday, July 11th. While the units help with the humidity, they are very loud and add a great deal of extra heat to the building.

The Library staff has suffered through with fans and by opening the doors in the mornings (as none of the windows open in the building). This has created other problems as we had birds enter the building, along with bugs (wasps, flies, spiders) and dust. The Library has been closed most afternoons with staff being sent home since June 9th as the temperatures become oppressive in the building (often it is cooler outside). The Library closed early 16 days in June and 11 so far in July.

Summer is the busiest times for the Library with reading programs for children as well as educational workshops. (Our "bugs" program had 98 attendees!) The reading program scheduled for June 7th-July 14th had to be limited to morning only activities due to concerns about the heat from parents and paid presenters. This was very frustrating to families who look forward to the programs, and for the staff who spent a great deal of time preparing for the programs.

Following the meeting on the 13th, Eric and Carol Nelson of Merville have loaned the library the use of a portable AC unit that will cool one room for the staff to work. The Library Board has contacted CW Sutter about getting temporary cooling units, and Sutter has located 2 portable rental AC units that will be available on Friday, July 22nd for \$2140/month each, plus installation. The units require a 208/230-volt 1 phase 60-amp power source, which will also have to be arranged.

The Library Board is working with the City of Merville to get temporary units rented and installed. However, we wanted to make the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors aware of the situation in case of any payment issues as this certainly was not an anticipated expense by the City of Merville, and we really need to get the resolved ASAP.

Thank you,

Carol Nelson
Woodbury County Library Board Secretary

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Air Conditioner Issue UPDATE
July 21, 2022

The City of Moville held a City Council meeting on Wednesday, July 20th, and included on the agenda the AC issue at the Community Center/Woodbury County Library. They discussed the cost of getting temporary cooling units and then discussed the purchase of a new AC unit. With the purchase of a new AC unit, the HVAC Company providing the unit explained that the broken "control unit" needing repair could be by-passed and the AC turned back on. It was explained that this process could possibly damage the existing unit in the long run, but since a new one was being purchased, this wasn't a concern in the short-term (they hope!)

The motion to purchase a new unit and by-pass the control unit so that the AC could be turned back on was approved. If the by-pass works as planned, AC should be back on in the Library by early next week (week of July 25th). If the by-pass doesn't work, we will still need to pursue the option of getting something temporary.

We will keep you posted as to the status of the by-pass as soon as we know results.

Thank you,

Carol Nelson
Woodbury County Library Board Secretary