



Certificate of Deposit update: the bank accepted our draft minutes and got the paperwork going to reset access to our accounts based on our special meeting. Schedules have prevented us from getting all the required signatures just yet, so we don't have any new information to share yet. Next week we should have all the signatures collected and then we'll be able to collate all the information for present to you.

Please notice that our 2020 financial statements have been re-organized to match the order and grouping of our 2020 Budget document. This is the first time that the documents have been in sync like this, and many thanks to Taylor, Plant, and Watkins for being so accommodating with this re-organization!

Jessica Tefft and all the branch managers deserve a big shout out for our very successful 1st all-district Take Your Child to the Library day. It was highly attended, and there were many smiling faces around the district. And, as Jessica reports, a number of families visited multiple branches that day to get a taste of how our different branches have so much to offer.

I am even more impressed this second time around as we prepare our next event guide. All staff involved with scheduling programs have put together a fantastic slate of programs for the next quarter. There is really something for everyone. And thanks to Kimberly for making it all look so good again.

We had our first snow delay of the season: a 2-hour delay on Thursday February 6.

Carpets have been cleaned recently at the Coldwater and Union Twp. Branches by Hawver Steamway. We are very impressed at the job done!

I hope everyone has their copy of *Shores Beyond Shores*. If not, be sure to get yours in the library or from Hoopla, and mark your calendar for our special event with the author, Irene Butter, at the Tibbits Opera House on March 28 at 2pm. You won't want to miss this!

At the Coldwater Branch, I've temporarily removed the exterior cameras so we can mount them lower for easier maintenance. I also installed an additional camera in the basement of the Bronson Branch to help keep an eye on a potential hiding place.

The Coldwater Chamber of Commerce helped us find a new home for our old meeting room tables, and we are thankful for their help! Our generous donor of the new tables is working on a plaque and a couple other items before we make a public announcement.

IT land this past month, approved purchases were ordered and are beginning to trickle in. I also worked with our IT staff on our infrastructure for automating software updates.

In state library news, the Michigan Library Association has now formally met with State Senator MacGregor, who has agreed to incorporate desired changes from libraries into his proposed changes to the MI Library Privacy Act. Among other things, the bill, SB611 will be amended to:

- explicitly say that surveillance video does not count as a library record, so long as it doesn't identify what materials a patron is using;

- clarify that general personal knowledge is permitted to be shared with law enforcement (i.e., if a desk worker knows a patron's name without looking it up, it's permitted to share this);
- Staff who violate the privacy act unintentionally won't be held personally liable.

Hopefully, these changes make it to the final bill and are passed.

At the federal level, the draft budget published this week seeks to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services, including defunding the Library Services and Technology Act. This is the fourth straight budget proposal to attempt this. Popular and congressional support has not been behind this goal in the past, but interested parties should still contact their federal representatives. Here is the American Library Association's take:

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2020/02/ala-takes-fy-2021-budget-cuts-seriously-urges-members-congress-visit>

Submitted by John Rucker



- Met with our Baker and Taylor vendor. They are our primary materials (books, DVDs, audiobooks) vendor and are a huge part of our annual expenses. This was just an annual check in to make sure we were taking advantage of all benefits and processes to get materials in the hands of our patrons quickly and efficiently.
- Established a new vendor for audiobooks, TEI Landmark Audio. They are able to offer audiobooks at a discounted rate that is very competitive to our main materials vendor Baker and Taylor. Branches are exploring leasing audiobooks as an option to get current and popular materials on the shelf but not making them a permanent addition to the collection which saves on space.
- Met with RX Optical to discuss their employee benefit discount card. This is a no contract, free program for BDL for the employees. All employees received a discount card to use if they chose to use RX Optical for their vision needs.

### **Marketing:**

- Prepared for two big district wide events, Take Your Child to the Library Day and One Book One County (including a video shoot). In order to add some extra marketing for the Take Your Child to the Library Day, we did "boost" the event on our Facebook page, for a very small fee, getting an additional reach of 500+ people. The event was well attended and we will be exploring this marketing strategy again for the upcoming One Book, One County author visit in March.
- Prepared the Spring Event Guide covering March, April, and May 2020. This takes way more time than I can ever plan for and can be all consuming to get it done. This time we will be using a local printer, Graphics 3, to print versus printing in-house like we did for the last one. The new event guide will be out soon for distribution at all the branches.

### **Training:**

- Attended "Ready Set Bank @ Your Library" a program developed by Capital One and the Public Library Association for training people using Mobile Banking. This program is geared towards Senior Citizens but would be applicable for anyone who hasn't used online banking before. The one thing that I liked was the classroom training wasn't bank specific and would apply to any financial institution.

- I attended the True Colors Workshop presented by Sheila Taylor and sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on January 17. The training was eye-opening and worthwhile. I recommended that all staff members attend this training for the interpersonal communications required between coworkers and employees and because of this, it will be something that BDL will explore in the fall for Staff Training day.
- As a part of the Woodlands Children and Teen Services Committee, I have been helping my fellow committee members plan a fun “Youth Services 101” day on March 5 at Albion District Library. The itinerary will include speakers from all over Michigan, and will include topics from story time and early literacy to funding, working with others, and collection development. I am really excited to bring this to the Woodlands Co-op and hope it’s a success!
- February 1, 2020 was *Bring Your Child to the Library* day! This was a special day of activities, refreshments, games and takeaway goodies for the families that traveled around the district to become acquainted with all the different locations that the BDL has. It was a smashing success, with 13 families visiting at least 3 branches! Two families visited four branches and one family visited 5 branches!
- The BDL will have a booth at the local Farmer’s Day community event on February 20, 2020 with information and goodies!
- OBOC (One Book One County) is in full swing, and the books are available at all six locations! OBOC is a community-wide project where BDL encourages everyone in the county to read the same book at the same time. *Shores Beyond Shores: From Holocaust to Hope: My True Story* is BDL’s 2020 choice and Irene Hasenberg Butter’s story of survival. Discussions will be during the month of March and will culminate with Irene Butter coming to Tibbits Opera House to speak and sign books on March 28, 2020 at 2PM.
- This month in districtwide Teen Services, Lindsay Villa, Teen Services Coordinator, is offering two programs at all six locations: K-Pop/K-Drama Club and a bookmark craft.

Submitted by Jessica Tefft