



I took time off in the last month to be with my family during Spring Break, so there is not as much to report.

Our spring in-service day was very busy, with a variety of projects going on around the district. We did straightening, dusting, cleaning, organizing, painting, moving things into storage, prepping for summer reading, and—of course—RFID tagging.

Kimberly's efforts with the Branch Managers and RFID tagging are going great. Steady progress is being made and most branches will likely be ready to take advantage of this new technology for our Summer Reading Program.

We have had the first of several internal meetings brainstorming updates to our collection development policy. I look forward to bring our work to the Public Services Committee in the not-too-distant future.

Linda Dull and Jan Clark both had their last days with BDL this past month before they embarked on their retirement journey. We wish them all the best and thank them for their many years of service!

I virtually attended our Woodlands Cooperative meeting this week, and am very happy to report that the co-op will be covering our bill this year for our digital magazine subscription! That's a savings for us of about \$3,000! Subsequent years, Woodlands will likely charge members proportionally for our content, but it will still be significantly less than us on our own.

Among meetings attended in the last month was the first meeting of the Quincy Advisory Board since October. It was very nice to see this lovely group of library advocates in person again! I also attended a *highly* informative webinar on bookmobile planning put on by the Library of Michigan. It was so inspiring!

At our December meeting, we requested \$69,781 (\$41,750 from our donated funds and \$28,031 from our assigned fund balance) for our Bronson Branch repairs, based on the estimates. The Bronson Friends provided \$15,750 toward the project. The total project estimate was \$84,781.

With all the bills in, I am happy to report that the project came in lower than expected, even with the delays and extra storage costs. The total came in at \$71,380.50. Our share of that was \$55,630.50: \$33,175 from donated funds and \$22,455.50 from the assigned fund balance.

Submitted by John Rucker



- For National Library Week, I put together a district-wide photo scavenger hunt. This was also the week of Spring Break with all that amazing weather. We received 12 submissions and awarded two gift cards. The theme for National Library Week was "Welcome to the Library". I created very short welcome videos for every branch. They premiered nightly on our Facebook page and are on our website.
- I would say that our first ever Spring In-Service day was a success. I was at the Coldwater and Quincy branches working and training staff on the RFID project. There was so much work going on that it trickled into the next day! Thank you for giving us this time to get the library ready for our "busy" season.
- As you may see in other reports this month, the RFID project is underway in all locations. We have one branch, Sherwood, that is completely done with the project. Our deadline for having this done is June 1, before Summer Reading starts. With the progress that has been made in the last month, we may be very very close to hitting our deadline.
- I attended the Algansee Friends of the Library Meeting. It was outside on one of those warm beautiful Spring days. They have added a new member making their group four members strong. This was the first meeting they had had since early 2020. The former Algansee Branch Manager, Jan Clark, attended and plans on staying involved with the group. It is nice when former library staff stick around, especially with the Friends groups. The group gave her a nice retirement gift and thanked her for her contributions at Algansee.
- I met with a vendor called Orange Boy. They offer library marketing and data collection services.
- We had to suspend service to one of our hotspot devices. This was the first time since we started circulating them back in February. It was overdue to the library by 7 days. The device was quickly returned and is back on the shelf waiting for the next patron.
- We are having issues with our local media, Shoppers Guide and The Daily Reporter. They are both owned by the same large media group that covers dozens of papers around the state. We have had incorrect ads placed in the Shoppers Guide and The Daily Reporter five times. We notified them of the problems and were assured that they would be fixed. The ads for National Library Week and the RFP for the Coldwater exterior painting were not published. I would like to think that we can get this straightened out and will continue to try and fix it. Moving forward, however, we are planning on diversifying our marketing into other avenues.



Library staff enjoying the photo scavenger hunt!

Submitted,
Kimberly Feltner



- BDL is giving out trees from the Neighborhood Forest organization for Earth Week! This organization is dedicated to planting trees across the nation through the hands of both children and parents. Trees will be arriving next week and will be given out to patrons at their home branch.
- One Book One County 2021 was a great success! The discussion for *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* was offered twice during the last week of March and we had a total of 11 participants! Jeanne Berg did a wonderful job facilitating these talks.
- Last month I mentioned that BDL received a \$1000 grant from the APEX Energy Solar grant. This will help cover a 1/4 of the cost of a new library service, Playaway Tablets. The tablets have learning apps that have a powerful impact on development and education and these tablets ensure that everyone can access them. We are allocating \$1500 from donation money to BDL for this new library service and additionally, have also applied for another grant to help fund this project.
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten is an early literacy initiative that BDL is launching during National Children's Book Week next month. On May 3, children ages 0-5 can be registered for this initiative that encourages parents to be active participants in their children's education. Easier than it sounds, 1000 books before your child enters Kindergarten is as simple as reading to them 3 short stories over the course of a year. Or 1 story a night for less than 3 years. This initiative will be rewarding participants with goodies at certain milestones: 100 books, 500 books, 750 books, & 1000 books.

Submitted,

Jessica Tefft