

- As you'll see in other reports, our Summer Reading Program has finished and prizes have been awarded. While not quite up to our usual level of participation and activities, this year seemed much more normal than last year.
- The slate of policies changed/added last month are all [on the website](#).
- The RFID project is completed! Everyone has worked so hard on this, and Kimberly has executed the project very well. We are already seeing dividends with shorter checkout times and finding lost items.
- The policies still have the old logo, but as you can see we are celebrating our 30th birthday with a new look! Seen from one point of view, this new logo is evocative of the roof lines of several of our branch libraries. Seen from another viewpoint, the logo brings to mind hands holding a book. From another point of view it might be a corner window looking out to the world. Providing different viewpoints is an important part of what libraries do, so how fitting that this new logo itself can be seen in so many different ways!



The prominence of greens in the logo is a reminder of the importance of agriculture to our community, and the different shades of green are a callback to our diversity. Prominently displayed on the logo is the word "BRANCH". This is not just where BDL is located; it's also a reminder that the people of the Branch County area are the focus of everything we do.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be rolling out this new logo to our library cards, signage, publications, policy documents and all the rest..

- Over the next couple of weeks, [we'll also be having small open houses](#) at each of our branches with some light refreshments, a small historical retrospective, and visiting with friends and patrons past and present.
- Unfortunately, after another 6 weeks of posting, advertising, and direct contacts, we still have had no responses to our request for proposals to paint the exterior of the Coldwater Branch. We have reported this to the City, asked for any help they can offer, and will keep trying.

- Work continues by the City of Coldwater on the 4 Corners park west of the Library.
- Meetings this past month: Coldwater DDA, County COVID meeting, Library of Michigan Directors.
- As of Monday, August 2, the Library began requiring face coverings for staff, and strongly recommending them for patrons, regardless of vaccination status. This comes from guidance from our local health department. When the health department indicates it is safe again to do so, we will revert to our previous stance on face coverings. No other changes were made to our operations in response to this guidance.
- This has been a month of weather events disrupting the library! We have had to close Branches at various times due to power outages. Today, Friday, August 13, only Union Twp. and Coldwater branches were able to be opened. Thankfully, though there are branches down nearby, none of our buildings were damaged in this latest storm.

Submitted by John Rucker

August 11, 2021

I am always shocked when August rolls around. Summer flies by at the library! Staff around the district are preparing for back-to-school open houses. The marketing department has been hard on work advertising the upcoming Fall programming. I have been going through and updating handouts and sending things to our printer with the new logo. It will take some time to get the old logos replaced because we have our logo on anything and everything!

August also means it is time for the Branch County Fair. I spent several days working the library booth. Shockingly I still heard comments about not knowing that the library was open! I made sure people knew about the many new services BDL introduced in the last year. Students were excited about the online homework help program Tutor.com. Many people wanted to learn more about the craft database, Creativebug. Small flyers were being handed out for the 30th-anniversary open houses. A variety of library swag was available since we are clearing out old items. I made many trips to the ATM to support the food vendors and enjoyed a lot of fair food.

I am glad to report that the RFID project is complete across the district! The staff did a great job tackling a project that many libraries hire an outside company for. After a lengthy session with the vendor, Tech Logic, the shelf management tool is working. I tested the tool at Coldwater and Algansee. Training at the other branches will happen over the next several weeks. Working with Lynnell at Algansee, we were able to scan the whole building in a little over two hours. The shelf management tool alerted us to items that are in our catalog with a status other than available. We found a good size stack of missing items and items removed from the catalog. There are four shelf management tools available around the district. Every branch will have time to use it on a monthly schedule.



Some of the "found" items!

I hope to see everyone at one of the 30th-anniversary open houses. We will have a display outlining our BDL history since 1991 and great treats from local bakers.

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner

- The 30th Anniversary celebration is underway! The Director, Assistant Director and I have been planning the open houses this past month and I'm excited to share that nearly all refreshments will be provided by local bakers in our service area.
- BDL had a great turnout at the fair, even with being shut down for one day due to heavy storm damage. We gave away stress balls and coffee mugs for the adults, mini-squishes for the children and teens, and lots of pens, pencils, and candy for all!
- There are several school open houses this month. Nearly every branch was able to get into the schools to set up a booth to talk with parents and students!
- August is nearly over and that means we're gearing up for Fall programming! We have an exciting list of events happening this fall including: a painting "Mocktails & Canvas" in Sherwood, a local author fair in Coldwater, story times at all branches, "Mindfulness for teens" and so many other fun programs!
- We've had 6 Elementary schools express interest in our Library1 Card program! I will be following up with those leads next month!
- SRP 2021 is in the bag and what a great year it was! We had a total of 569 registered for the program and 283 completed the program. Congratulations to our winners!

Children's Winners

Alganssee - Morgan P., Maizie H., Ellie M., Eli M., Allison P

Bronson - Berkley M., Brady S., Albany M., Kendall C., Blake S.

Coldwater - Abbie H., Dylan D., Easton S., Natalia C., Myles B.

Quincy - Henry S., Luxe L., Felicity B., Gracin H., Koda J.

Sherwood - Tristan H.

Union Twp. - Annie T., Zaiya M., Cal D., Alina C., Joseph B.

Teen Winners/Districtwide Teen Winners

Alganssee - Danica S., Jesse T.

Bronson - Lorelei S., Connor L.

Coldwater - Ayat A., Nathaniel G.

Quincy - Edward M., Libby B.

Sherwood - Cassie R., Olivia W.

Union - Elizabeth A., Gabriel R.

DW Winner: Quincy - Coelie S.

DW Winner: Sherwood - Leila A.

Adult Winners

Alganssee - Ann E.

Bronson - Cathleen P.

Coldwater - Akihiko M., Mary G.

Quincy - Barbara M.

Sherwood - Katherine W

Union - Camri W.

Submitted,

Jessica Tefft