

Since the last Board meeting, we had our 30th anniversary open houses around the district. Thanks to all staff who participated in the set up of these events, and many thanks to the local cooks and bakers who provided the refreshments!



August/September have been a little quieter, with not much in the way of programming in August as we let families focus on getting back to school.

Kimberly, Ashley, and I met with Tim Taylor about our draft of the Uniform Chart of Accounts. Tim found our draft to be a good starting point and will fill in all the gaps we couldn't do by year end. He's hoping he won't have any complications where he can't do a year-over-year comparison next year in our financials, but he's just not sure yet the software will permit this given how much has to change. Time will tell...

A thank you to Mark Hicks, Sherwood Village President, for helping to take care of the wasp problem at the Sherwood Branch. Also, the bushes have all been trimmed at the Alganssee Branch by the Wood family, who are also coordinating with us to replace the carpet in the library, which dates from the 70s (if not earlier!). We have a quote for you to consider for emptying the library for this purpose in the discussion section of the agenda.

As you may recall, in our policies in a few places we have tied things back to ALA documents and statements. Last month, [the ALA updated the Library Code of Ethics](#), adding a 9th item affirming libraries' roles as champions of equality and diversity:

We affirm the inherent dignity and rights of every person. We work to recognize and dismantle systemic and individual biases; to confront inequity and oppression; to enhance diversity and inclusion; and to advance racial and social justice in our libraries, communities, profession, and associations through awareness, advocacy, education, collaboration, services, and allocation of resources and spaces.

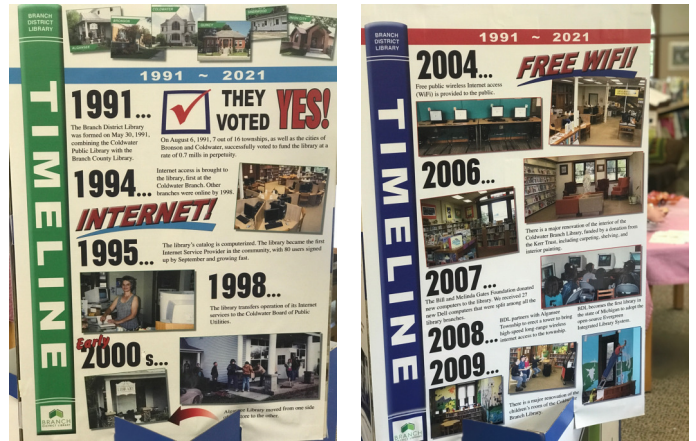
This proved surprisingly divisive among the Michigan Library community, which is why I bring it to your attention. Some context is useful here, too, in that in the past the ALA itself has not always been on the right side of fostering fair and equal treatment of patrons, issues, and collections. This update was as much a mea culpa from the ALA as it was the right thing to do. This addition to the Code of Ethics can be a conversation starter, especially in areas that haven't had to think about such things much.

IT work done: replaced network routers for Bronson and Quincy due to failures, reorganization of the Coldwater Branch computer labs, testing for the Evergreen upgrade later this month.

Finally, I'd like to wish a fond farewell to Lindsay Villa and Yasmen Alsuraimi, who are both leaving BDL to pursue a new direction. We'll miss them and wish them success and happiness!

Submitted by John Rucker

The marketing department was busy in the last month! First up was the creation of the four-sided display for the 30th-anniversary celebration. Toni Nickerson, who works in Technical Services, did an amazing job showing our timeline! Branch managers, Lynnell Eash and Julie Baratta, were able to take part in school open houses. It was a grand total of six events between Bronson, St. Mary's, and Union City Community Schools. The marketing department provided hundreds (!) of handouts about library services and our upcoming fall programs.



Part of the 30th Anniversary Timeline Display

BDL is celebrating Library Card Sign-up Month! Anyone who signs up for a library card throughout September will have the chance to win prizes! Adults will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Visa gift card. Youth will be entered into a drawing for a basket of school supplies. For our current cardholders, we are offering a "Refer-a-Friend" contest. Adults may refer a friend who needs a library card. Both parties will be entered into the drawing for the \$100 Visa gift card. "Refer-a-Friend" forms are available at any library location or you can print them from our website at [BranchDistrictLibrary.org/sign-up](https://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/sign-up)

The Technical Services department cataloged 1,194 items in August! There are many great new materials being added to your libraries. You can always view the list of new items recently added to the library at [BranchDistrictLibrary.org/new](https://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/new). I received an update from our biggest materials vendor, Baker & Taylor. They are dealing with staffing shortages, shipping disruptions, and material shortages of paper. Our staff are working hard to get new things for the library but the effects of Covid-19 are still problematic.

In human resources, we held our annual Aflac Open Enrollment for all staff. Planning is underway for the annual staff training on October 11.

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner

- Fall is here and we have so many incredible programs coming up this for kiddos, teens, and adults. We are collecting recipes for a cookbook out of Sherwood, a local author fair in Coldwater, a mindfulness program for teens districtwide, and story times for the littles! We have also started planning for our community Halloween gathering: The Great Pumpkin party!
- The Great Pumpkin Party will be a 10 station extravaganza outside in our parking lot and around the Coldwater branch. There will be crafts for both kids and teens and lots of games and candy! It will be held on October 16 from 2PM-5PM. We hope to see you there! A big thanks to Royal Chevrolet for providing money to purchase some candy for the event.
- I am currently working on training to get my True Colors Personality Assessment Certification. The True Colors system uses complex personality assessments and characteristics into practical tools and actionable programs. The goal is to teach people and organizations how to identify and recognize different personalities, and better understand themselves and others. I'm excited to share what I learn with our staff!
- I've also working on getting several grants for the Playaway Launchpads. These Launchpad tablets are incredible tools for early literacy that patrons can checkout and take home!