

Millage News

Jeanne Berg continues to get names of those interested in being on the yes committee or at least having a yard sign. She has been at all of the Friends meetings I have attended lately drumming up support.

Updated information on the millage is available at <https://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/millage>, with more to come!

Library Staff News

Sarah Strong was able to start at BDL as Quincy Branch Manager a week earlier than expected, which was a very nice surprise. Sarah has been acclimating quickly and has already met with Quincy Township, Advisory Board, Friends of the Library, and more. Training continues with the management team and other Branch Managers. She also has selected a replacement for retiring Renee Hardy from a pool of interested internal candidates. Brittany Gemmill will be starting at Quincy the end of May. The Quincy Advisory Board is graciously hosting a reception for Renee on Monday, May 16, from 2-5.

At the Union Twp. Branch, the Friends of the Library hosted a lovely open house to wish Judy well on her retirement. We will be interviewing next week for our new Union Twp. Clerk.



Updated Library Hours

After consulting with the Quincy Advisory Board, we have set new hours for the Quincy Branch, effective June 1, that will provide a more consistent schedule day to day. It is a slight increase in total hours open, which is being offset by removing the 7-8pm hour at the Coldwater Branch, the slowest of the week at that branch. Coldwater will now close at 7pm M-F, also effective June 1.

MI Right to Read

MI Right to Read is a grassroots coalition of librarians and concerned Michigan residents, brought to life through the efforts of the Michigan Library Association. The coalition opposes any attempts to ban books from Michigan libraries based on content subjectively deemed inappropriate. Its purpose is to educate the public and oppose any current or future legislation that infringes upon First Amendment rights and intellectual freedom. The goal of

the coalition is to protect Michiganders' right to read and ensure that librarians across Michigan are entrusted to continue to do their jobs and serve the needs of all students and communities.

Visit MIRighttoRead.com to learn more.

Trustee Vacancies

As the BDL Board knows by now, Coldwater City Council appointed Robert Hostetler to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Martha Watson, which expires on 12/31/2022. We continue to seek someone to fill the vacant Union Twp. Representative seat.

Covid Update

There were no uses of the temporary covid leave policy in the past month. With regional and local cases rising somewhat, I won't be surprised if that changes.

Meetings Attended

Some time off and being busy with personnel changes, resulted in me attending somewhat fewer meetings this past month. Meetings attended: Library of Michigan Directors, Woodlands Library Cooperative Advisory Council, Coldwater DDA, Union Twp. Friends of the Library, Quincy Friends of the Library, Quincy Advisory Board.

Submitted by John Rucker

May 12, 2022

- I, along with Lynnell Eash, represented the library at Jennings Elementary's Kindergarten round-up. The night I was there, I was able to sign up ten new library cards.
- Cheryl Lawrence, Christian Holibaugh, and I represented the library at the Project Connect/Walk a Mile Event in Coldwater. It was the last Saturday in April. If you remember, it was one of the cold weekend days and winter coats were out to survive the morning event! This was the first time for both Cheryl (in her new role as Outreach Manager) and Christina participated in an outreach event. At our booth, we had library information, free hand sanitizer, and an I Spy game. A good amount of kids searched Monroe Street to find specific items to get "treasure" out of the large inflatable treasure chest!
- At the end of March, I joined the Kiwanis Club of Coldwater. The club's mission for serving children and literacy aligns very well with my personal and professional passions! I look forward to serving alongside other community members with similar interests.
- The next round of Event Guides has arrived! Programs for May - July are highlighted, including our upcoming Summer Reading Program. Get a copy for you and your friends at any branch or view it digitally on our [website](#).



Submitted,
Kimberly Feltner

- Attended the Branch County Community Network meeting on April 20, 2022.
- Branch County maps are in! Maps are available and located at every branch to pick up.
- In this era of transitions, I got to put on my “programming” hat and help out with some of Quincy’s programming. On April 19, Professor Emeritus John S. Geisler presented Part 2 of his "Sauk Trail, US 12, Detroit-Chicago Road" presentation and it was absolutely incredible with 15 attendees. Additionally, I also was able to get back to my Teen programming days and hosted the Pringles challenge at the Quincy branch on April 27th. We had five teens show up and it was a blast!



- There has been so much training going on, and it’s an awesome thing to be a part of! We have some incredible new staff and what a privilege it is to have them!
- Summer Reading is here! Well, almost. In three weeks, the 2022 SRP theme “Oceans of Possibilities” will be upon us.
- The SRP “Oceans of Possibilities” Kickoff Party will be held at Heritage Park on June 2, from 4PM to 6PM. There will be booths representing all branches of the Branch District Library, Carey’s Bakery food truck, and Jonny Hawkins’ drawing classes. Each branch will have a craft, or something to make and take at the Kickoff Party. The TAC will be making ice cream with kiddos.

Submitted,

Jessica Tefft