

Budget

Though we weren't able to schedule a finance committee meeting before our full board meeting, we do have a recommendation reached via email for the discussion. Preparations for the 2023 budget have occupied most of my time recently; however, there is more news in the following areas:

Staffing

October 8th was the last day for Sandi Podolan, our Teen Services Coordinator. Sandi has returned to a position teaching English. We wish her all the best! Currently, we are advertising for this position and the children's coordinator.

Cheryl Lawrence, our outreach manager, attended the ALA Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) conference this week in Scottsdale AZ, and has come back energized and full of ideas. Fun fact: Matthews Specialty vehicles, who is building our bookmobile, has put the render of our interior they are currently building on the front cover of their current glossy brochure. I guess we really picked a winner!

On October 11, we held our staff in-service day. We had excellent presenters on providing good customer service from Zingerman's in Ann Arbor, and on conducting the reader's advisory interview from Novelist. Other library staff did short presentations on using our digital services, Library by Mail, and technology topics. Many thanks to Jessica Tefft for organizing an excellent day of training!

Facilities

The office furniture approved some months ago was finally delivered to the Coldwater Branch. It is a nice addition to the workspace, thank you! Unfortunately, it was missing some pieces, like the pole to connect it to power, so it will be another month or so before it is 100% ready to go. We can use it in the meantime, however.

Sherwood village used some of their ARPA funding to install central air conditioning to our Sherwood Branch!

FOIA Request

We received yet another Freedom of Information Act request for staff contact information from the same Florida data broker, Smart Procure, who has filed several times prior. I have fulfilled the request and completed all the required paperwork.

IT Department

Our Evergreen upgrade went very smoothly, we are now on version 3.9. I also wired the Quincy Branch basement in preparation for an additional security camera to be added. Curtis and I also spent some time on the roof and in the ceiling at the Sherwood Branch this week re-wiring the satellite internet connection so it could be moved to get past some tree obstructions. Finally, I took in a demo from a new vendor for computer management software that is really exciting. I'll be asking the Board to consider a proposal for purchase.

Training

I attended a virtual session with our library legal firm Foster Swift on upcoming changes to the Michigan minimum wage and other labor law issues coming up next year.

Meetings Attended

Branch County Community Foundation Annual Meeting, 3 Coldwater DDA meetings, Aviza Insurance (BCBS).

Library Card Sign-Up Month

The Library has completed a VERY successful library card sign-up month. There were a total of 143 new library cards issued. This included several cards of the redesigned Library1 program. This was an increase of 90% in new library cards from 2021. The staff did a great job talking about the advantages of having a library card. Staff attended special community events for even more chances for people to sign-up. The library was at Branch County Pride Festival, Bruin Blast at Kellogg Community College, Applefest, and the Branch County Community Baby Shower. I sat down with Ken Delaney at WTVB and was on air talking about library card sign-up month. Additionally, there were a total of 47 referrals for new cardholders. The lucky winner of the \$100 Visa gift card was Brooklyn who got her library card at the Alganssee Branch.

MI Library Appreciation Month

Michigan Library Association (MLA) annually designates the month of October as a statewide observance to celebrate the contributions of Michigan's public, school, academic, tribal, cooperative and special libraries. It is a time to encourage all residents to visit their library in person or virtually and connect to the numerous services, resources and collections their library now provides.

Meetings & Community Events

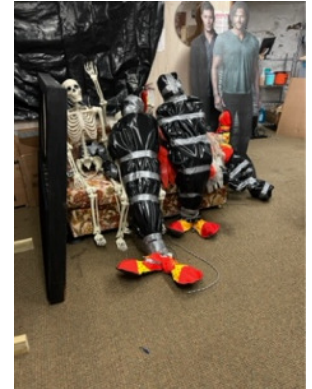
I continue to attend the weekly Kiwanis Club of Coldwater meetings. Hopefully, the library and the service club can come together to work on an early literacy project in 2023.

Cheryl Lawrence and I attend the Bruin Blast at Kellogg Community College. This event was their welcome back to students. It was a great opportunity to talk to the college group. We highlighted our free online homework help and the benefits of having a library card.

Submitted by Kimberly Feltner

October 12, 2022

- Our writing contest is live! "Haunting Hooks" is a month-long competition that will only allow participants to write a creepy intro to a scary story. Entries will be accepted until October 30th. They will be submitted by email or in person.
- BDL hosted a "Community Conversation" on October 1, from 5PM-8PM. These conversations featured 9 Human Books that spoke on topics ranging from Veganism to Addiction and Teenage Motherhood to being a member of the LGBT+ Community and a Veteran!
- Family Fright Night happened on October 8 and patrons loved it! We had games and crafts, trick-or-treating, and a haunted circus maze for our teen & adult attendees. The doors opened at 4PM and very quickly there were over 150 patrons inside our doors. By the end of the night, we had nearly 500 patrons that visited the event. Throughout the night we heard lots of compliments. It was so fun! The haunted circus maze was probably the coolest thing that the basement has ever seen. If you want a tour of what it looked like, check out the Facebook live on the BDL page. It was terrifying!
- On October 10, BDL had our staff in-service day, where we had trainers from ZingTrain (on Customer Service) and NoveList (Reader's Advisory) and Lightning Talks from Cheryl Lawrence, Kimberly and John. I thoroughly enjoy icebreakers and thus, I'm in charge of them. This year we did two! BDL Bingo and Hide & Seek. The staff loved it! We also had food from Buffalo Wild Wings.



Submitted,

Jessica Tefft