

Happy to report: NO weather closures this past month! I took some time off to be with my family during spring break.

Personnel

- On Monday, March 27, Lynnell Eash was honored by Modern Woodmen as their Hometown Hero for 2023 for her tireless efforts to make her community a better place, from her work at the library to her many volunteering activities in the area. While the library is well aware of how great she is, it's so nice to see Lynnell appreciated for all that she does by those outside the library, too. Congrats!!
- We interviewed for the Union Twp. Branch Manager position, and offered the position to Maria Piper, formerly clerk at our Sherwood Branch. Maria started on April 3 and will be getting additional training for her new position over the coming weeks.
- Maria's change leaves an opening for a part time clerk at the Sherwood Branch. This position has been posted.
- We interviewed for the vacant Marketing/Helpdesk position and offered the job to Meagan Marsh. Meagan started at the end of March and also has a lengthy period of training as she gets up to speed on the position.
- Thanks to Jessica for organizing the morning events for our staff training and then for conducting a training session for recent hires after that. I heard lots of positive feedback!



IT Happenings

- The approved 2023 tech plan purchases have all come in and the IT department is working on prepping for deployment.
- Some major weekend after-hours web server maintenance was completed. No publicly-visible changes, but important and necessary work nonetheless.

Miscellaneous

- I joined Kimberly and Jessica in reading to elementary school children at the end of March for the United Way's classroom reading event around the county. I read to Mr. Grable's wonderful fifth grade class at Pansophia.
- A Freedom of Information Act request for BDL staffing information was received from SmartProcure, a Florida data broker with a long history of submitting FOIA requests to libraries, including several prior to BDL. The request was filled.
- We signed up for a storage unit for Alganssee and Quincy branches to share.

Meetings Attended

Union Twp. twice, Library of Michigan Directors, Coldwater DDA.

Submitted by John Rucker

- I participated in the annual "United We Read Campaign". This is a campaign coordinated by United Way during March to get a guest reader in every preschool through 5th-grade classroom. I volunteered to read at Quincy Elementary and actually got to read to two different 4th grade rooms. The students were amazing and engaged in the book I had brought.
- John, Jessica, and I held interviews for Union Twp. Branch Manager. Maria Piper, who has been with BDL for almost 5 years as a public services clerk, was selected. Training is ongoing with her for her new job duties!
- Staff In-Service Day was great! Jessica coordinated a busy morning with several presenters. I really appreciated the review of the CPR/AED machine. The afternoon was spent at the Union Twp. Branch cleaning and organizing their branch.
- Training with our new Marketing/Help Desk, Meagan, also continues. We had our first BDL marketing meeting earlier this week to discuss goals for 2023.
- On April 12, Christina Holibaugh and I presented to the H.C. Burnside Senior Center. Approximately 60 attendees were able to learn about their local library system. Christina talked about the upcoming programs and events at the Coldwater Branch. After the presentation, we stayed around to sign people up for library cards. Many took us up on our offer and it was a great time.
- A positive development occurred with the state's "Read by Grade Three" law. At the end of March the governor signed Senate Bill 12. It repeals a section of the law that prevented students from being passed into fourth grade if they did not meet one specific benchmark. However, the important part of the law still remains which is identifying children early on if they are struggling with reading and getting them early intervention! Libraries are resources for these children and our role in helping them improve their literacy skills remains.
- A meeting attended this past month included the Coldwater Kiwanis Club.

Submitted by Kimberly Feltner

- One Book One County concluded its discussions on *FireKeeper's Daughter* on March 30, and it was wonderful to see so many new faces come to the discussions and also to see the familiar faces coming back to participate. We had a total of 22 participants, and lots of fun and lively conversations were had.
- On March 22, I went to St Charles and read to a Kindergarten classroom for "United We Read" day. It was adorable, and they were the best!
- Staff Training Day was April 3, and it was such a productive day! We had a therapist come in and talk about mental health, and also a representative from the health department that demonstrated how to work an AED and did CPR refresher. The second half of the day was for spring cleaning for all staff who had already completed the True Colors assessments in October of 2021. For the rest of the staff, I led a training in the meeting room at the Coldwater branch. Hope Cafe catered the event, and they were absolutely wonderful to work with and the food was delicious.
- Summer Reading Program planning is almost done! The wrap-up party taking place at Heritage Park on July 31st is in the works, but it's going to be an absolute blast! Summer Reading will be here before we know it so mark your calendars for the first day to start turning in reading logs on June 5!
- Meetings: In the past month I've attended the BCCN meeting, & a BDL marketing meeting. In the upcoming two weeks, I have a Family Fright Night planning meeting, a Great Start Collaborative board meeting, and a Community Center Programing Committee meeting.