

This year's National Library Week was fun and ended with a balloon extravaganza at the Coldwater Branch and great show for the kids at the Bronson Theater put on by Stevens Puppets!

Personnel

- As Kimberly notes in her report, Pat Kaniewski is retiring at the end of the month. Pat guided the Union Twp. branch through the construction and moving into the current library building before stepping down to continue to serve the library for many more years. We wish Pat all the best in her next chapter!
- We had one round of interviews for the open Sherwood clerk position, before deciding to repost the opening. Additional interviews will be scheduled soon.
- On April 21, several BDL staff and Teen Advisory Committee members joined area volunteers to clean the downtown Coldwater business district for Earth Day.
- On April 28, the Coldwater Advisory Board held a training session and appreciation lunch for the Heritage Room volunteers. Curtis and I gave a refresher on operating the computerized microfilm reader.



IT Happenings

- A months-long project to improve our Evergreen library system got fully deployed. Starting in December, Kimberly and I have been overhauling all the rules in Evergreen that implement our Borrowing and Lending Policy. It's a complicated beast, and hasn't been working as well as we'd like for a while. Happy to say, looks like it was a complete success!
- I had get up in the ceilings to rewire a few things at the Bronson branch because of the new privacy booth, and at the Coldwater branch because of the new printers.
- The copier at the Bronson library finally broke down and had to be replaced. Our copier service vendor delivered it this past week. The total was about \$4,000, within my spending authorization, and will be in a future bills report.
- Curtis installed new public desktop computers to the Bronson branch, and laptops for staff and public use at 5 branches.

- Curtis and I have been deploying the new printers and are about halfway finished. I have donated one of the old printers and some supplies to the Children's Museum of Branch County.

Libraries and Intellectual Freedom

There have been a number of stories in the news lately, in Michigan and out of state, about challenges to library materials and to the library profession itself. In our publicity packet, we share an article from our local paper this past month about how a majority in the state of Michigan do support libraries' traditional model of providing a wide range of topics and viewpoints in the materials that their users request and check out, without censoring legal content. BDL has enjoyed strong support from our library guests, and we want to take this time to affirm to all of them that, following our Materials Selection Policy, we neither promote an agenda nor take away anyone's right to read. We will continue to be here for all, to meet their educational, informational, and recreational needs.

Meetings Attended

Coldwater DDA, Michigan Library Directors.

Submitted by John Rucker

The Marketing team has been very busy preparing for the June/July Event Guide and Summer Reading. Our campaign for Summer Reading includes bookmarks, yard signs, posters, and a social media campaign. Upon a suggestion from our Bronson Branch Manager, Lynnell, the yard signs will be a general Summer Reading announcement. Each branch has a small number of signs that they can place in their communities. The plan is to get several years of use out of them. The theme for the 2023 Summer Reading is "All Together Now" which focuses on teamwork, friendship, and community. As soon as marketing gets the final sponsor list for the program, we will be able to print the flyers and put them out. I am excited to be able to print the flyers in-house with our new printer that lets us do larger sizes, like 11x17!

I did a radio interview with WTVB for National Library Week. This allowed me to promote two big events happening at the Coldwater and Bronson branches at the end of April.

We have two new staff who will be ordering materials at the Coldwater and Union Twp. Branches. Both staff received training on the principles of collection development. I reviewed with them our Materials Selection Policy.

Pat Kaniewski will be leaving BDL at the of May. Pat spent 17 years as a the Union Township Branch Manager before she retired in 2014. She came back to the library as a substitute clerk and provided much need help covering service desk positions all over the county. In the last 4 years she has been working in our Interlibrary Loan Department. Her years of experience have always provided a high level of service to our library guests!

Meetings in the past month included the Kiwanis Club of Coldwater. The children's services coordinator, Erica Donihue, and I met with some City of Coldwater representatives. We discussed a permanent installation of a Storywalk at Heritage Park. This is a project that the library has been working on with a local service club. Stay tuned for more about that next month!

Submitted:

Kimberly Feltner



Yard Signs



- The 2023 Summer Reading Program starts in 3 weeks! "All Together Now" begins on June 5 and will end on Saturday, July 29th. We are going to have so many incredible programs this summer including presenters from: Mad Science of Detroit, Pint Size Polkas, a Nerf war with Joel Tacey, A2 Magic show, Mr. Jim, and SO much more! Our massive foam SRP wrap-up party will be at Heritage Park on July 31st from 6PM - 8PM and put on by GR Foam Party. It's going to be a blast!
- This month saw a lot meetings: program planning meetings, a Family Fright Night meeting, Great Start Collaborative meetings, and an outreach meeting.
- Completed Public Service training with Maria Piper, new branch manager of the Union Township branch.
- Planning for Family Fright Night is underway and I am absolutely thrilled to announce that this year's theme is "FairyTales" with a haunted forest in the basement. It is going to be so much fun, and October 7, 2023 will be here before we know it!
- Planning for Staff Training Day on October 9, 2023 is also underway! I've reached out to the Kim Hemker at the Shelter in hopes that we can take part of their Empathy Simulator on that date.

