

- This past month has largely been occupied with finalizing the budget proposal to the Finance Committee, whose final recommendation you see in this month's packet.
- I attended the 30th anniversary celebration of the Branch County Community Foundation, and the 10th anniversary celebration of the Union Twp. Branch building. Kimberly attended the Michigan Library Director's monthly meeting for me while I was occupied doing interviews.
- Speaking of that, we have conducted a number of very promising interviews for the 3 open positions, and hope to have these positions filled very soon!
- The IT department was active in preparing the Algansee Branch for it's emptying for the re-carpeting project. We temporarily relocated the networking gear to the basement so that the public could continue to have wifi service while we were closed. We logged over 100 uses during the closed period! The building is put back together and opened on schedule Wednesday the 14th.
- I'll echo the sentiment found in some of the reports in this month's packet about how nice it has been in the last month to see attendance and activity in the library slowly creeping back towards normal.
- This past Monday we had our autumn in-service training at the Coach Eby Center in Coldwater. This facility gave us the space to have all of our staff safely in the same space for the first time in 18+ months. It was such a nice experience, that I hope we can utilize the space again in the future. Topics covered this year were our internet filtering system, a 2022 budget overview, learning about the changing scene and options in the local and regional food bank system, and a wonderful team building experience facilitated by Jessica, which you can read more about in other reports. Many people helped with setup and cleanup, but a special shout out to Kimberly and Jessica for all they did to make our first all-BDL in-person meeting in a while be such a great success!



- We've had some back and forth with local health department orders related to covid quarantine requirements getting issued then rescinded. Happily, BDL staff have remained COVID-free for another month. As a reminder to the Board, the Open Meetings Act will allow us to have trustees attend virtually, in conjunction with the Branch County emergency declaration, only until December 31st. After that time, unless the OMA is further amended, all trustees will need to attend in person unless they are on active military duty, and we will need to rescind our virtual attendance policy.

Submitted by John Rucker

Library card sign-up month ended at the end of September. The library had seventy-five new cardholders spread out at all six branches. There were a total of fifteen referrals from adults who already had library cards. Seventy-four adults were entered into the drawing for the \$100 Visa gift card. A new Quincy patron was the lucky winner. Sixteen youth were entered into the drawing for a basket of school supplies. The winner was a tenth grader from the Union Twp. Branch.

I had the pleasure of meeting the Michigan Library Association's (MLA) Executive Director, Debbie Mikula. She has been out on the road connecting with Michigan libraries. Of course she needed to stop at Coldwater where we claim librarian Mary Eddy, who is credited for creating the state-wide library association. John, Jessica, Keeley, and I gave her a tour of our building and got ourselves new MLA coffee mugs!



In RFID news, I have conducted training with the Bronson and Union Twp. staff on how to use the shelf management tool. It is always fun to watch the group finding all of the "exceptions". We get a little excited to clean things up for our patrons and staff. Every time we scan it is a treasure hunt for items!

It was a very busy month connecting with our local community agencies:

- I attended an Altrusa meeting and talked to their Literacy Committee. We discussed the Michigan Third Grade Reading Law and trends in children literature.
- Keeley and I met with the new Michigan Works! Service Center manager, Carmen Bell. We gave her a tour of the Coldwater Branch. I outlined library services that can assist job seekers including the free prints, resume assistance, and the collection of workforce development books at the Union Twp. Branch.
- I will be resuming my volunteer work with the Schools of Hope program once a week. This week I attended a refresher training. This program takes place at Jefferson Elementary in Coldwater. It pairs me with a second grader who has been identified as needing extra help with literacy. The program is a collaboration between several community groups including United Way and the Coldwater Kiwanis. This will be my third year as a "reading buddy" and I look forward to working with a student soon.

Library staff gathered, for the first time since February 2020, for our annual staff training day. Presenters from the Branch Area Food Pantry and the South Michigan Food Bank explained

services they offer to Branch County. Both agencies highlighted the demand for food has grown exponentially during the pandemic. After the community organizations, staff spent the day on personality assessments. Jessica did an amazing job walking us through the True Colors personality test. After identifying our colors we were able to evaluate the strengths and stressors of each. BDL is well represented with blues, greens, oranges, and golds.

Did you know that October is Michigan Library Appreciation Month? The Michigan legislature designated October as a statewide observance to celebrate the contributions of Michigan's libraries, librarians, and library staff. Here are some statewide facts about your Michigan libraries.

- Michigan public libraries provided more than 13,000 live virtual programs for children, teens and adults reaching over 608,000 people.
- One-half of all Michiganders hold library cards, and in 2020, visited their local libraries in-person more than 33 million times, virtually nearly 55 million times, and borrowed over 57 million physical items and close to 12 million eMaterials.
- During the worldwide pandemic in 2020, 76% of Michigan's public libraries offered curbside services and 82% continued to provide reference services via phone and internet - providing a way to continue getting information and materials to residents even when library buildings were closed to the public.

Want to celebrate Michigan Library Appreciation Month? Attend a program, check out a library item (physical or digital), or use a digital library service!

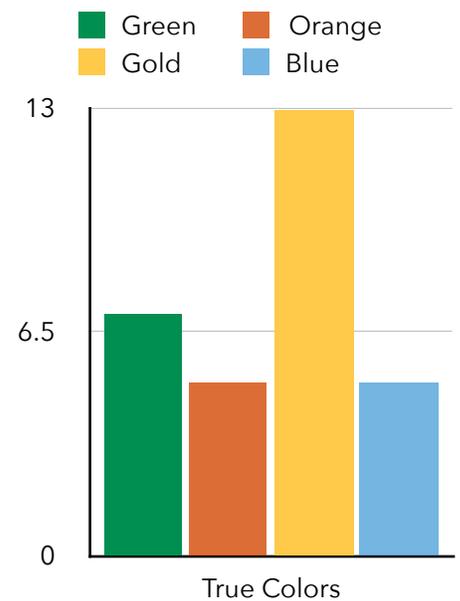
Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner

- Took a 2.5 day course on personality testing through True Colors. At the culmination of the 20 hour training, I was given a certificate and became a True Colors facilitator. True Colors is a company that began in the 1980's and was built off of 24 centuries worth of philosophy.

- Staff Training day was October 11 and we were grateful to the local food pantry for presenting for their organization. Additionally, I facilitated a personality assessment seminar with our attending staff. There are four colors that are represented in the True Colors color spectrum. It was a fun and engaging staff training that had the ultimate goal of more effective communication between staff, empathy for each other, and validation for themselves. The BDL staff colors are as follows:

- Greens (analytical, calm, investigative, logical): 7
- Orange (witty, charming, generous, eager): 5
- Gold (dependable, organized, stable, concerned): 13
- Blue (authentic, compassionate, sincere, enthusiastic): 5



- The Great Pumpkin Party was last Saturday (10/16) from 2PM-5PM. We had crafts booths, game booths, a fun photo background, and lots of candy!
- Will be attending the BCCN meeting on October 20, 2021.

Submitted,

Jessica Tefft