

Staffing

We are once again fully staffed! Brittany Gemmill had her last day at the Quincy Branch, and has started working in the Heritage Room already. Bonnie's last day as the Heritage Room Coordinator is today. Our sadness is tempered by the fact she is transitioning to be a volunteer in the room now!

We conducted interviews for the open Quincy Branch position, and are delighted to welcome Cortni Hull to the library! Over the course of the interviews, we were also lucky to find someone willing to join the library family in a substitute capacity to help cover absences or big events; so we welcome Lynn Marshall as well!

Facilities

As noted elsewhere in this packet, the Alganssee Township Board formally voted to approve an expansion and renovation of the existing township hall, and to move the library from its present location to the township hall. We are excited for this opportunity, and look forward to what the future brings! I am recommending that we now include in the Special Revenues draft budget for next year using the donated money set aside for the benefit of the Alganssee Branch.

In Quincy, voters did not approve a ballot measure that would have allowed Quincy Township to purchase a building for a new township hall. So our relationship with the use of the basement township hall of the library should remain unchanged for now.

At the Coldwater Branch, we have employed a contractor to take care of a minor issue in one of the ground floor restrooms and some small damage to a basement wall.

State Aid Report

The State Report is completed and filed. This year, Kimberly and I took a few sections at a time together over a few weeks so that she'd have some experience filing it. Explaining the nuances to someone else was also very helpful for me in doing quality control.

IT Department

There was much work this past month continuing to swap out cellular hotspots for our patrons. All but 3 are done now as we wait for devices to reach the end of their checkout term.

Our Evergreen Integrated Library system got its annual upgrade with no issues. It's mostly a behind-the-scenes feature upgrade, with not too much different that library users might notice.

I have spent more time than I wanted these past weeks trying to get our current time and attendance software solution to work the way we want it after some recent changes. Failing at that task, I've conducted test-drives of several alternatives. We have made one of those alternatives work for us, and will be implementing the change on November 27. This product is somewhat more expensive than what we've been on this past year.

Budget Draft

As you know, we made no changes to the proposed draft at the last Board meeting, so what you saw then is still the version under consideration. However, since the draft was published, we did get the final numbers from the State of Michigan for the Personal Property Tax reimbursement, which were higher than we expected. This additional revenue can offset the cost different in the above-mentioned time and attendance software, and still leaves some additional revenue you might want to allocate to other areas of the operating budget.

Meetings and Events

BDL had a presence at the Branch ISD Career Day at the Dearth Center, where we had about 150 students engage with library staff.

The Coldwater Branch was host to the annual combined Friends of the Library meeting for all BDL branch groups. We had 12 in attendance, and the hottest topic of the night was trying to figure out better ways to get their information out to the public.

Attendance to children's, and even teen, events continues to grow across the district. Foot traffic in general is up, too. And as you can see in our statistical report, materials usage continues to increase, too, as we look to end our 3rd straight year of increases following the precipitous decreases of 2020.

I participated in the Coldwater Main Street-sponsored "Growing with Google" training event, where I learned a few things about Google's business profiles, analytics, advertising, and how to leverage them better for the library. It was a nice event, and very well attended.

Submitted by John Rucker

Winter Event Guide

The new December - February Event Guide is now available at every branch or [online](https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org). It is packed full of festive fun for all ages. Why not check out one of our FREE programs or events?

Coldwater Noon Club

The library was invited to talk to the Coldwater Noon Club. I was happy to represent BDL and share all the great things we offer. For this presentation, I focused on new services that the group might have not heard about yet. I brought with me several items from our Library of Things. The group also got a highlight of our digital services. It was well received and I am always more than happy to talk to any group about how great our library is!

Meetings

Library meetings included our cataloging department and interlibrary loan department. The marketing team got together to watch training and discuss. I attended my weekly meetings with the Coldwater Kiwanis Club. I participated in interviews with John and Sarah Strong for the Quincy Clerk position.

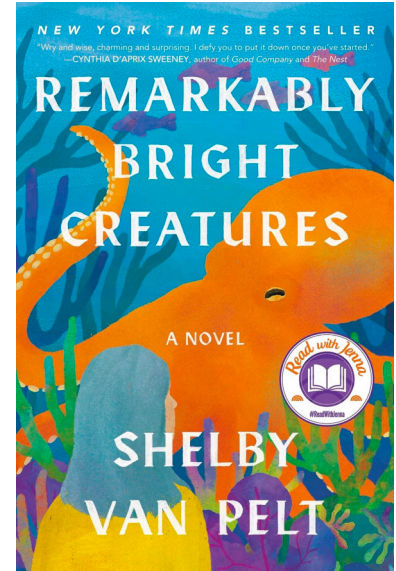
I had the pleasure of welcoming two new library staff members for their orientation. Cortni Hull is coming on as the new Quincy Public Service Clerk. Lynn Marshall is our new substitute Public Service Clerk.

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner



- I am so excited to have Cortni (Quincy clerk) and Lynn (floating clerk) finishing their training this week and next. Lynn has been traveling around the county this week and trained at Coldwater, Bronson, & Sherwood. She'll hit the other branches next week and the following week.
- Brittany, our new HHR Coordinator began on Monday, November 13. We are so excited to have her! Likewise, we're also sad to see Bonnie's (current HHR Coordinator) last day on November 16th (although she'll still be here in a volunteer capacity and we're so grateful for that!).
- Our Winter Reading Challenge is almost here! The BDL 2024 Winter Reading Challenge - Are you Yeti to read? will be running from January through February!
- I'm so excited to announce the 2024 OBOC (One Book One County) book - *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt:



After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago.

Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.