

DIRECTOR'S REPORT June 14, 2018

Budget:

According to the 2018 Tax Rate Request (L-4029), Branch County's Taxable Value has increased by \$60,454,899.00. The complete forms are in your packet. With that in mind, I have begun working on the 2019 Budget; my goal is to present it in the October meeting. Additionally, we also received a fantastic donation from the estate of Katharine Uhle. She bequeathed \$5,000 to the Branch District Library, in memory of her deceased son, Raymond J. Uhle. She requested that the donation should only be used for the purchase of books for the library, with each book marked with a bookplate indicating that it was acquired in memory of Raymond J. Uhle. The Uhle family lived in Coldwater many years; Mrs. Uhle was a school librarian and Mr. Uhle is an attorney and served 7 years as Branch County probate judge.

Community Engagement:

We sent several new clerks to the Beginners Conference. This conference helps employees new to the library world learn many new things to help them in their jobs. The conference is designed to help newbies in their successful engagement with the public. I always hope we will be able to interest one (or more) in the field of library science.

Library Circulation and Collections:

We are compiling a list of magazines for our annual order. People do not seem to read periodicals as much as they did previously; however, we have had some complaints and comments about our Detroit Free Press not showing up. We have explained the issue to patrons—we are trying to be good stewards of our funds and are waiting for information from two vendors; we want to have 7 day service but not pay through the roof for it. With any luck, this will allay the public's fears about us not ever having it again.

Media:

Director of Public Services, Kimberly Feltner, and I spoke with Ken Delaney at WTVB in late May. We talked about the Strategic Plan and Summer Reading Programs.

Programming:

Jessica Tefft, Kimberly Feltner, and Camri Wages spent several days at the various high schools talking about the Summer Reading Program and that time has already proven to be valuable. We have more teens than ever signing up for the Summer Reading Program!



By the way, have you signed up for the Adults Summer Reading Program?

Why not? It's very easy, we have cool prizes, and the challenges are designed to expand your reading interests.

Building:

On June 13th, I spent the day looking at branches with Adam Nelson from FTCH. We looked at the Alganssee, Coldwater, and Sherwood branches. He took many pictures and asked many questions. He asked several pertinent questions about meeting rooms, study rooms, size of collections, etc and I felt comfortable with his knowledge of public libraries.

Thank you for serving on the Board.



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT
June 15, 2018**

- Evergreen Migration: after weeks of preparation (and months of laying the groundwork) we went offline on May 22 to start migrating from our shared Michigan Evergreen system to a solo BDL Evergreen system. We were scheduled to go live on May 24, but things went so well we were ready a day early and went live on May 23 instead!

Since then, we've been involved with major behind the scenes data cleanup work. We're still not quite finished, but we should be by next week. I am very happy with how well things have ended up. Our migration project manager at Equinox, Rogan Hamby, has been absolutely fantastic and we very much appreciate his hard work and knowledge.

When all is done we'll have a system that's both easier to use for staff and has more features for our patrons. Thank you so much for approving this!

- Our county-wide yearbook scanning project continues well. We hit a milestone of finishing all the Quincy High School yearbooks and are now scanning the Quincy Middle School. Soon we'll be moving to the Union City High School. Our Heritage Room volunteers have been amazing doing all the scanning before sending the files up to cataloging and IT to finish.
- On our website, we've added a widget to directly search NewsBank from our web page to try to boost usage of that service. We really love NewsBank, but its usage has been below what we'd like to see. Time will tell if this has any effect.
- Coldwater Branch: yesterday the dumbwaiter repair was finally finished. It ended up being a bigger repair than first thought due to some original pads needing to be changed out. Pads which supported the entire assembly. All is well now.

Submitted by John Rucker



One of my favorite parts of my job is to represent BDL at community events. I love to have the chance to tell people that BDL is way more than books and to get them excited about their library. During this last month, I was able to represent BDL, along with Linda Dull (Children's Services Coordinator) at the BISD Family Fun Day at Heritage Park. This is such a great event to connect with families across the county. With the help of Traci Counterman, Sherwood Branch Manager, we were invited to the Union City Middle School to talk to all of their students. Myself and Camri Wages (Union City Clerk) went on June 11 and told approximately 180 students why the Library Rocks! and about Summer Reading. The students were very receptive to the idea of reading/listening for the chance to win great prizes. Also they were impressed that all of our library services are free!

The majority of my time lately has been consumed with Summer Reading and answering questions from the patrons and staff about Wandoo Reader. The online tracking systems allows for the use of a Family Management Portal where parents can register with one email and password to log reading time for themselves and their children. This saves the parents from needing to remember several different user names and passwords. Also a perk with the online registration is the staff created challenges to encourage readers to step out of their reading comfort zone. Challenges are age specific but all have them tasked with checking out items at their libraries, attending programs, or using one of our digital services. As with all changes, both staff and the public have had some great questions and we continue to move in a positive direction. In order to make SRP as accessible as possible BDL has continued to offer paper copies of both registration forms and reading logs.

Respectfully Submitted:
Kimberly Feltner



It's June! It's hard to believe that we're already halfway through the year but here we are, with the Summer Reading Program in full swing! The Teen Services Department has been busy and numbers are great!

The Summer Reading Program kick-off was June 2 in the Courthouse/Library Parking Lot and on the Library lawn. There were inflatables, life-size board games, carnival games, and carnival food. There were over 60 kids in attendance and it was a huge success. In anticipation for SRP 2018, and the Kickoff Program on June 2, I went around and spoke to every English class in Branch County. It took 2 weeks, and every high school was attended, with the exception of Pansophia. I spoke to over 400 teens and while there was a significant interest in the event, it was a popular date of conflicting events across Branch County.



In addition to school visits and the SRP Kickoff "Lock Out", the Teen Services Department has been providing an average of 2.5 programs a day throughout the district with all three Teen Services employees providing programming. Lindsay (Teen Services Clerk) began district wide programming this month, in preparation for a busy Fall 2018 of programming with only Keeley (Teen Services Assistant).