



- I would like to thank all library staff involved in planning events and support for our Summer Reading Program. It's underway and things are really hopping! This wouldn't be possible without the concerted efforts of the Branch Managers, Linda Dull, Kimberly, Jessica, and everyone else who works so hard behind the scenes to make the magic happen. And many thanks to all the great community sponsors helping to fund the fun!
- I joined a Library of Michigan task force for evaluating the data that LM collects on libraries in the state, as well as how that data are collected, as well as other ways of using this data for planning programs and initiatives. This committee will meet every 2 months and will make recommendations to changing how our State Aid report collects data.
- There is a State-level group called the Trial Court Funding Commission (TCFC) that is looking into reforming the way Michigan trial courts are funded. Among other changes this Commission is recommending using penal fines, guaranteed for libraries since the the first Michigan Constitution of 1835, to fund reforms to the trial court system. The TCFC's final report on the matter is due in September, though their interim report from April is available now online at <http://publicsectorconsultants.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/TCFC-Interim-Report-FINAL-VERSION-FOR-CONTENT.pdf>. It varies from library to library, but at BDL penal fines typically comprise 10-15% of annual revenues. Anyone reading this who feels strongly about the potential ramifications of the TCFC's recommendation is encouraged to contact their legislator and share their opinion.
- The two positions authorized last month to be filled have been advertised online and in local print media. We have set a deadline of June 21 for accepting applications, and will be considering internal as well as external candidates.
- Cross-training among the management team continues. It's a slow process with all the other changes going on at this time, on top of Summer Reading. But we'll get there.
- I continue to evaluate HR and timekeeping software and hope to have a final recommendation soon.

Submitted by John Rucker



- Back in April, BDL applied to receive a free a Braille-enhanced storywalk for visually impaired children. Only 35 libraries were eligible to receive a kit from the Library of Michigan and the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons and we are very pleased that Branch District Library was selected! The storywalk encourages families to explore stories by touch and reading out loud while visiting this unique experience. The story that was selected is *The Giant Jumperee* by Julia Donaldson. The storywalk will be placed on the library section of the 4-Corners Park, with approval from the Coldwater City Council. This is an ideal location for the storywalk, with the open spaces and clear sidewalk path. Also, library staff can keep a close eye to provide any needed maintenance. The project would be placed the week of June 24 and would remain up until August 23 to allow time for families to enjoy the experience. Special thanks to staff members Keeley Briggs and Ashely McCall who were responsible for obtaining this amazing project for BDL!
- Even though my job title has shifted, I am still remaining closely involved with Summer Reading and assisting the branches with any issues that arise. With all big programs, especially those involving online activities, there are always problems that pop up but staff have been handling the weird occurrences great!

Community Events:

- Represented BDL on the Coldwater Chamber Chat on WTVB. It was a super short segment (3 minutes) but always great to have the air time to talk library!

Training:

- Myself and the newish ILL Clerk Pat Kaniewski, traveled to Lansing for a refresher course on MeLCat and the system library staff use internally. It was part review and brand new for me since this has been one part of the library I haven't had much interaction with. It was a great training and I have lots of notes to talk to staff about.

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner



- *A Universe of Stories: Summer Reading Program 2019* is live! BDL Patrons began logging on June 3 and will continue to log until July 26. For the first time, all 6 branches are beginning and ending the summer reading program at the same time and as a district we are offering the same grand prizes at all of our branches. Several local sponsors for the program will assist in providing milestone prizes throughout the eight weeks and grand prizes. Registration will continue to be open until the program's completion date. To date, there are 137 Adults, 512 Children, and 99 Teens registered for the program.
- Teen Services are holding two district wide programs this month: Galaxy Bleach t-shirts and edible Mars Rovers. At Coldwater, there are two additional programs: Galaxy Spray Paint program and a Solar Oven program in which smores were made and consumed.
- Attended the Woodlands Advisory Council meeting held at the Jackson District Library on Thursday, June 13. Dale Jaslove, from Publishers Consulting, discussed his progress on identifying local collaborations for Woodlands member libraries.
- Kimberly Feltner and I have completed some portions of Director of Public Services training. We will continue as opportunities arise for such training to occur during this transitional phase.

Submitted by Jessica Tefft