





It's budget time again, so that has been occupying the majority of my time lately. In other news:

- The recent Michigan Supreme Court ruling that invalidated Governor Whitmer's executive orders had no real effect on our day-to-day operations. MDHHS and MIOSHA have both issued orders and rules that cover most of what the executive orders required. SB 1108, a bill to allow virtual meetings of public bodies for any reason through the end of 2021, and after that for a subset of specific reasons, has passed both chambers of the Michigan legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature. It is the opinion of the Library of Michigan's legal specialist that so long as 2-way participation at public meetings is provided, libraries may continue to conduct virtual meetings and remain in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, even before the Governor signs SB 1108 into law. This is good, since the library doesn't have sufficient indoor spaces to allow social distancing of all trustees and those who might be in attendance.
- Our library attorney, Anne Seuryneck at Foster Swift, is of the opinion that all library actions taken under the effect of the executive orders before they were nullified by the Supreme Court remain valid. So there should be no need to vote on everything again later!
- The MDHHS rules require libraries to operate at 50%, rather than the earlier 25%. We have modified our procedures accordingly.
- As indicated in the 2021 draft budget under consideration in this month's packet, rather than decreasing, state aid to libraries increased for FY 2021 by over one million dollars.
- After the retirement of two longtime BDL employees, we advertised this past month for replacing the two positions. Interviews are scheduled for next week.
- Due to the pandemic situation, we did not hold our usual annual staff in-service day, and instead remained open to the public. Instead, library staff did a self-paced Red Cross safety refresher. We look forward to being able to conduct our usual training in the future.
- Branch Managers and other library staff met recently to Brainstorm some ways to get our materials circulation numbers up. It was a productive meeting, with some ideas incorporated in the budget, and other longer-reaching ideas to come to fruition a little later. Stay tuned!
- I have continued a wide variety of virtual county and state meetings, though in-person meetings are resuming now with some organizations and townships. I met in-person with Lisa and the Quincy library advisory board this week, their first meeting since the pandemic.

Submitted by John Rucker



- Due to the pandemic, our annual staff training held in October was cancelled for 2020. It was a hard decision. Instead of the fun, full day, in-person event we asked staff to complete virtual First Aid/CPR/AED training with the Red Cross. They will complete 31 interactive lessons and will receive a certificate of completion.
- Banned Book Week was September 27 - October 3. This annual event celebrates a person's right to read, without censorship. Virtually we hosted a Banned Book Emoji puzzle guessing game. Some emoji titles were easier than others but it was well received. Patrons asked several questions about why titles are challenged or banned.
- October is MI Library appreciation month. We encourage Branch County to show their appreciation and support by visiting their local library branch for grab and go services. Don't forget that our digital library providers, Hoopla, Libby/Overdrive, and RBdigital are open 24/7.
- BDL hosted a community virtual stickerboard event on our Facebook page. People collaborated to place stickers and complete a picture of an owl. It took 313 hours and 42 minutes to finish. Unfortunately we don't get data on how many people participated. But have had several people ask when we will share another board. A new sticker board will be online soon!
- The RFID project is moving along. There had been a backorder of some components due to Covid-19 but supply is slowly getting back on track. Our order should be arriving at the end of October. John and I met with our project manager to review BDL's timeline and will be finalizing our tagging plan and software installation.
- I took one webinar this past month, "New Hoopla Portal Experience".
- I attended meetings with the Finance Committee and Aviza Insurance Agency for the annual review of the health insurance plan.

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner



- Happy Autumn! Fall has shown up with gusto and we have been planning and decorating accordingly! Our Fall Grab & Go kits have been such a huge hit with our patrons that some branches are running out of kits before the week ends, and what a great problem to have! We hoped for this response from our community, and are thrilled that our patrons want them, and we'll continue providing them. We're grateful for the tremendous success that they've had over the past 6 weeks, and the holiday season promises lots of great programming kits as well! Additionally, our staff has continued to put out incredible video programming. We are so lucky to have such a talented staff!
- The Cares Act Grant is underway! Our contract with Verizon has been finalized and the hotspots should be at BDL in the next month. We are so excited to be able to provide this for our community and patrons.
- Library1 Cards are making headway! We have two signed Library Service Agreements from Coldwater High School and Pansophia Academy and another interested school in our county. The Library1 Cards should be finalized next week, and we'll get them to CHS as soon as possible.