

I am very happy to welcome Sandi Podolan to our library team this past month. Sandi has come onboard as our district Teen Services Coordinator. She is settling in nicely and has already made positive changes to our teen services, and has a full slate of programming for teens already lined to be advertised in our upcoming new quarterly event guide.

Longtime Coldwater clerk, Cheryl Lawrence, has been selected as our Outreach Manager, to lead next year's bookmobile and outreach efforts. With that position in place, we posted job notices for the additional part time clerk in the budget, plus one additional part-time position to replace the desk hours that Cheryl will be giving up to move into her new role. Cheryl will continue to work on the service desk at the Coldwater Branch until the new clerks are on board. The final outreach/bookmobile clerk will be hired later, when we are closer to delivery of the vehicle.

Karen Smith and Sue Smith were confirmed by the County Commissioners for another 4 years on the library board. Thanks, Karen and Sue, for being willing to serve another term! We are still searching for a candidate willing to serve in the Union Township area.

The Library of Michigan reports that there are currently a number of bills in the legislature to modify the OMA, most to allow exceptions so public bodies can continue to have virtual attendance. Nothing signed into law yet, though. So as it stands, it's possible this would be our last meeting where our trustees may attend virtually. The current OMA allows for virtual attendance after 12/31/2021 only by those in active duty military service.

Covid news: Two staff utilized our Temporary Covid Leave Policy in the past month, though neither had covid themselves, thankfully.

The IT and marketing teams are busy working on a major overhaul to the library web site. If all goes well, expect to see the new site online in the next couple of weeks.

Meetings attended in the past month include, County Commissioners, Coldwater DDA, Woodlands Library Cooperative, Michigan Library Directors, multiple vendor meetings, and training from the ALA and LM on Intellectual Freedom and Materials Challenges. This was recorded, and once the recording is available, I will send the link to the board.

Library of Michigan has finally moved Beginner's Workshop, New Director's Workshop, and Advanced Director's Workshop to their online platform. I will need to take the Advanced training by March 1.

In the past week, we had two notable happenings. We had our first FOIA request for library security camera video, permitted since March by the Library Privacy Act. This request was filled, as there was no protected content in view. We were also visited by so-called "First

Amendment Auditors". These individuals spent less than 10 minutes in the building recording video in public spaces, as is their right. We had trained on this sort of thing earlier in the year, and staff did exactly what they should have: let them do their thing as long as they weren't interfering with patrons or violating their privacy. They even got a little tour of the Heritage Room and a free county map to take home. These two men also visited the county annex and Coldwater City hall, where they got a bit more drama. Videos of those two visits were posted to their YouTube channel and already have tens of thousands of views, but their visit to the library seems to have been too boring post. I'm ok with that outcome!



Submitted by John Rucker

- Jessica Tefft and I represented BDL at the famous Coldwater High School Craft Show. This was our first time and it was a huge success. I demonstrated our craft database, CreativeBug, using one of our iPads and hotspot. Several people signed up or renewed their library cards. We handed out over 150 holiday craft kits for children. This will be a community event that we plan on attending again.
- I attended the November meeting of the Branch County Partners. I also attended the December meeting of the Branch County Community Network.
- I gave a presentation to the Coldwater Kiwanis club. This presentation was right after the 2022 budget passed. I shared with the group the big project for next year of the county-wide Bookmobile. They were very delighted to hear of our plans to take the library on the road!
- There have been many great virtual trainings. I often find myself signing up and then planning on watching the recordings. This can result in a pile of trainings to be watched. I worked on my "pile" and attended the following:
 - How to Train Your Community on Libby
 - Smile! First Amendment Audits and Public Libraries
 - Library Marketing Conference
 - Child's Play: Cataloging Children's Material
 - Evergreen Reports (Beyond the Basics)
- My personal favorite digital library service, Hoopla, launched hoopla BingePass. This includes a collection of over 50 popular magazines that are available using 1 Hoopla borrow. You can then spend the next 7 days reading as many magazines as you can. They have also included a 7 day BingePass for the Great Courses with 1 Hoopla borrow. This can be found in the "more" section in the Hoopla app or by visiting www.hoopladigital.com/browse/binge.
- The last quarter of the year included meetings with the marketing and the interlibrary loan departments. In the marketing meeting, we evaluated the use of social media and how to best leverage it to our needs. The algorithms used by Facebook are making it increasingly difficult for posts from our page to reach our followers. Facebook is wanting pages to pay to boost their posts. Also, our posts are being penalized for adding links directing people to the library catalog or events calendar. This is all part of Facebook wanting you to stay engaged on their platform. We have several things to test in the upcoming weeks before we solidify a new plan for our social media presence.

- My big end-of-the-year project is collecting all the district programs into an Event Guide. It will cover February, March, and April of 2022. If you remember we had produced our second edition right when Covid-19 closed the library in 2020. Copies should be available for the public in early January. I am very excited about many of the great upcoming events that the staff have planned. We are very lucky to have such creative and fun people working at BDL!

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner

- The Playaway Launchpads are LIVE! Playaway Launchpad tablets are pre-loaded with content for kids and designed to be user-friendly. The tablets are specifically designed to be circulated. There is no download time, and no need for Wi-Fi. Learning apps have a powerful impact on development and education and the Playaway Launchpad tablets ensure that everyone can access them. Check one out at any of our six locations!
- Library1 Card updates: Coldwater High School is now up to date with Library1 Cards. New students and Freshmen have received their Library1Cards. Pansophia Academy is working closely with BDL to provide Library1 cards to all of their students at the beginning of the new year (K-12).
- The One Book One County book has been announced! BDL patrons can check out *Written in Bone: Hidden Stories in What We Leave Behind* by Professor Dame Sue Black at several of our branches and also on Hoopla!

Submitted,

Jessica Tefft