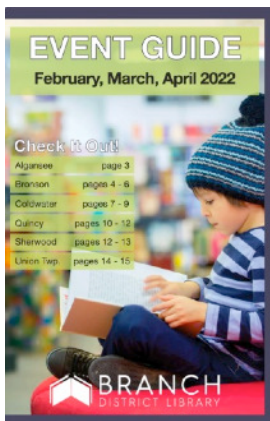


Didn't we just have a meeting?? With the holidays, the time between the December and January meetings always seems so brief! The holidays at the library are at times slow and quiet, and a times a blur of activity with kids out of school. As you'll see from our branch reports, some locations are seeing an increase in youth attendance finally.

As you know, the State of Michigan is requiring all local governmental units, which includes libraries, to adopt a Universal Chart of Accounts. Our accountants have our UCA ready; however, they won't be giving it to us to use until after the close out of the 2021 books and audit, to ensure that 2021's numbers stay consistent. They don't want to risk changing codes in their system as the audit is happening. So we'll have to use the old chart of accounts for the first month or so, then re-code everything after the audit.

Speaking of audits...I reported last month on how impressed I was at how staff and handled the so-called "First Amendment Auditors" in our library in December. [You can see for yourself, since they finally posted their video of us.](#) They had a number of negative interactions around Coldwater, including the part of this video after the library, but the video shows how our staff didn't make a fuss. I hesitate to post this link to get them more views, which is clearly their goal, but I'm just really proud of staff handling this according to our training on the topic.



Our Event Guide, after a two-year pandemic-induced hiatus, is back! Major kudos to all the managers and programming coordinators for getting so many great events and activities scheduled in advance. It's a lot of work, but families are very appreciative to have all this great info at a glance to plan. And huge thanks to Kimberly for all the work she puts into the production of the guide. She makes it look easy, but I assure you it's not! A hard copy will be ready for you the next time you're in a branch, as well as other locations around the county, and you can check it out online now: www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/event_guide.

I applied for, and received, a grant for programming equipment from The Library Network cooperative, leveraging ARPA funds. We will be receiving a laptop, video camera, microphone, tripod, green screen, webcam, speaker system and microphone, weather canop, and carrying container. The items were valued at about \$3000.

I completed the State Aid report, a task that seems to take longer each year. We might need to modify our internal statistical report a little for 2022 to account for some of the new questions being asked. Amazingly, the State has still not released the final per capita numbers for State Aid to libraries. I assume they will have sorted this out by the time checks start going out in the spring.

about getting people onboard with us soon.

As you'll see in her report this month, Keeley Briggs has tendered her resignation to move on to a position in Lansing with the Michigan Library Association. I am grateful to Keeley for being a steady hand during this time of pandemic and for leaving a positive imprint on the library from programming to policy recommendations. She has set a great example for both being organized and methodical in a busy environment, and especially for treating young people with respect and dignity. We wish her all the best!!

Submitted by John Rucker

Happy New Year!

Please make sure to grab your own copy of the February, March, and April Event Guide! The Event Guide is full of great things happening for all ages at all branches.

Our digital Hoopla collection just got better! At the end of December, BDL purchased fifty-six eBooks and thirty Audiobooks. This created our very first Hoopla Flex Collection! With Hoopla Flex titles you will find thousands of new and popular books that you can borrow now or place on hold to read later. If you ever run out of Hoopla Flex borrows, you can always return a checked-out Flex item and select a new one. These are titles purchased specifically for our library users! Library users will have 5 Hoopla Flex borrows, in addition to the 6 Hoopla Instant borrows. Use your Flex borrows on thousands of specially marked Hoopla Flex eBooks and Audiobooks.

HOW TO hoopla: Two great ways to borrow from our Library's hoopla Collection!

#1

NEW! **hoopla Flex**

- Borrow the latest eBooks and Audiobooks
- Return one Flex title to get another Flex Borrow
- Check out a Flex title marked "Available" or Place on Hold if it's currently checked out



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Download on the **App Store** | **Roku** | **Google Play** | **Chromecast** | **amazon** | **amazon alexa**

#2

hoopla Instant

- Instantly borrow any title marked as Instant ⚡
- eBooks, Audiobooks, Comics, Movies, Music, and Television



Let's now forget about the other digital library app, Libby. I will be hosting a live demonstration of how to get started with borrowing ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines through the Libby app. This event will cover the basics and highlight our digital magazine collection. Spots are still available for this training on Friday, January 28 at 10:00 am at the Coldwater Branch. Register by calling any library location or online using our Events Calendar.

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner

- Happy New Year! BDL is gearing up for some incredible programming this winter and we started with a districtwide Winter Reading Challenge that runs from Jan 1-Jan 31. If you haven't signed up for it, there's still time!
- All of BDL's branches are having fun activities for patrons on "Bring Your Child to the Library Day" which falls on February 5 this year. There will be crafts, and activity sheets, and at some branches: snacks! Take the time to check out your local BDL branch or a BDL branch that you've never been to!
- Our branches and districtwide Grab-and-Go kits continue to be a huge hit! Both the Sensory Snow and Polar Bear craft kits received rave reviews. We are so grateful for the continued hard work and great products that our branches are putting out for our patrons.
- The One Book One County book discussion dates are live on the website. BDL patrons can check out *Written in Bone: Hidden Stories in What We Leave Behind* by Professor Dame Sue Black at most of our branches and also on Hoopla!

Submitted,

Jessica Tefft