

Summer Reading Program

As you can see from the stats and from the reports in this month's packet, SRP 2022 has been quite the improvement over 2022-2021. It's truly heartwarming to see all the happy faces of families, children, and individuals in the library this summer!

Policy Changes

At our June staff meeting (in person for the first time since February 2020!), we went over the slate of policy changes from the June Board meeting. Policies that need to be posted publicly have been replaced with the updated versions.

Staffing

Lynnell had her last day at Alganssee in late June, after overlapping with Teresa to help get her trained. Teresa is settling in and already making some new contacts with the local Amish community. At the Coldwater Branch, Angie, our long-time clerk in Kids' Place, announced her departure set for August, so we have advertised for that position. Jeanne Unro has joined the Heritage Room volunteers. IRS mileage reimbursements have uncharacteristically been updated mid-year to 62.5¢ due to high gas prices.

Bookmobile/Outreach

Colors and upholstery have been selected for the bookmobile, and our deposit check has been sent off. Cheryl has been finalizing the procedures and applications for the Library by Mail program. Our new postal meter for same program has been ordered and should arrive soon.

Facilities

Windows have been cleaned at the Bronson and Quincy branches.

STP Painting completed exterior painting at the Coldwater Branch and submitted a proposal for interior painting for next winter. Additional quotes will be sought for that project. We have received many compliments on the quality of the new paint job.



The Coldwater HVAC required some additional work this month, but this time only on the computer controls portion of the system.

Millage News

The Yes Committee reports that the Daily Reporter and the Shopper's Guide messed up their ad buy for the millage effort. They are trying again to get something in before the deadline. They did have a very successful social media post, shared 39 times as of this morning and reaching nearly 1,500 people. A few dozen yard signs have been posted around the county.

Covid Update

There were no active Covid-19 cases in the last month, though the leave policy was used 1 time after a close contact. Calhoun County is now back to the high transmissibility stage, so Branch is probably not too far behind. Our mitigation strategies at this point are following CDC guidance still for illnesses and utilizing the temporary leave policy. The plastic barriers have been put in storage at all branches except for Coldwater, which has opted to keep them up only at the main desk, but has removed them elsewhere.

Materials Challenges

While we have not had any challenges recently (and only about 5 since 1991), the branch managers and the management team have looked closely at our materials selection policy in light of the increasing national incidence of materials challenges.

IT Department

To help with our walkthrough with the painters, I took the drone up for an inspection and took new photos. I was request to do the same for the Algansee and Quincy branches, and did so.

Some more time on the Sherwood roof as the IT department moved and secured the new satellite dish. Unfortunately, the effort wasn't completely successful to get around a tree in the way, so we did order a connection cable that was twice as long. On a cooler day, one more trip up the roof will be needed to install the new cable.



Curtis and I worked Strawberry Fest and sold about 15 old computers, and have sold several more since.

The photocopier at the Alganssee Branch reached the end of its life and has been replaced by our contractor, Solutions of Southwest Michigan.

A couple dozen more Branch County yearbooks have been scanned by Heritage Room volunteers and added to our digital repository, along with a couple of Branch County history books.

Meetings Attended

Cultivating Community, multiple Coldwater DDA meetings, Alganssee Twp., County Commissioners, Coldwater City Manager, Coldwater Advisory Board, Library of Michigan Directors.

Submitted by John Rucker

July 15, 2022

My July report will be a little short this month due to time away from the library for a great family vacation. Before that happened the Books & Brew Book Club met at Biggys for a great talk. The book for June was [Anxious People by Fredrik Backman](#). The group appreciated the quirky characters Backman has in this book. The next title to be discussed on July 27 is [Deacon King Kong by James McBride](#).

I attend a webinar from the Michigan Library Association, "How to Respond to a Public Challenge." ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom has reported over a 60% increase in challenges to books and materials. The panel addressed how proactively to prepare for materials, displays, or programming challenges. They also introduced the association's new [MI Right to Read Coalition](#).

Lastly, our second annual county-wide Summer Coloring Contest is complete. Library staff member, Ben Lyon, created 2 custom ocean-themed coloring sheets. All our local schools passed the sheets before the school year ended. The coloring sheets turned in become some of our Summer decorations at the branches. You can see the branch reports for how many entries they had. Our judge had a hard time selecting the 2 children and 1 teen/adult winner as the entries were all AMAZING!

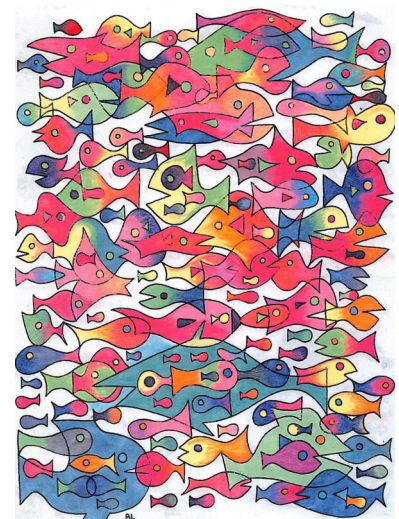
Winning entries were:



Gracie, age 0-8, Quincy Branch



Brittany, age 9-12, Bronson Branch



Victoria, Teen/Adult, Quincy Branch

Submitted,
Kimberly Feltner

- The 2022 Summer Reading Program will be wrapping up in two weeks and that's hard to believe! Our branches have put out some incredible programs, grab and go bags, and have hosted wonderful outside presenters. I am so grateful for the dedication that BDL staff has to making SRP the best for patrons of all ages. It will wrap up on July 30, as will the BDL Staff Summer Reading Program.
- The Branch District Library will be hosting a series of diverse and inclusive programming throughout the district in collaboration with other Branch County organizations for the Cultivating Community initiative happening in September and October. On the docket so far is the following:
 - Storywalk: A large picture book (representing diversity in our community) will be separated and each page laminated and put on stakes outside of the library. (Coldwater, Union, & Quincy)
 - Book Tasting: A display will be done inside the library that highlights all of the diverse books that BDL has in the collection.
 - The Human Library: The Human Library creates a safe space for dialogue where topics are discussed openly between our human books and their readers. We will have human books from all walks of life, not just different ethnicities. Our aim is to find volunteers that run the full gamut of the human experience: Alcoholics, Soldiers with PTSD, Muslims, Homeless, Atheist, Police Officer, Teacher, etc. Human books will be able to be checked out for 20 minutes, and the event will be from 5PM-8PM on October 1, 2022.
 - Our Teen Services Coordinator will be discussing the 7 elements of storytelling and how to present a teen's life through their lenses, and why their story is important to share. The aim is to develop empathy, build understanding, and then hopefully, at the end of the month, be able to get together and share each teens story and get together and watch it.
 - Fiber Arts/Textiles Trunk show @ Union Branch: This will show culture through fiber arts, different styles of embroidery through different cultures: Native American, Amish, Folk, etc.
- I will be teaching/hosting a True Colors session for our new employees in August.
- We have some really incredible programs coming up this Fall and I cannot wait to share more about them next month. Our Family Fright Night will be happening on October 8, so make sure you save the date!

Submitted,

Jessica Tefft