

Library Weddings

After a good deal of back and forth with our insurance agent, we have the supplemental insurance rider in place and an acceptable rental agreement. Now the wedding bells may ring!

In the Community

BDL has been all over in the last month. Several kindergarten round-ups, tables at a couple of community events, and Kimberly was even on the radio to talk about Library Card Sign-Up Month! Our community calendar has had additional sign-ups and we have had more events posted, so I think that program is well on its way to being a success.

Staffing

As Kimberly noted, Emma Barned joined us to fill a vacant service desk position, we are very happy to have her join the team!

Staff had to get a little creative this past month as one of our major book suppliers suffered a cyber attack that crippled its operations for weeks. Thanks to advanced purchasing, patrons shouldn't notice much of a disruption, if any. Thanks to Kimberly for starting the ball rolling getting another big book vendor added to our list of possibilities so we can have even more options moving forward.

3 years ago, the Daily Reporter stopped providing microfilm to us. After evaluating the options, we have selected Central Michigan University as our new microfilming partner and shipped 3 years' worth of back issues to them to be filmed. 2022 will be done the same way, then future years will have a copy of the newspaper sent directly to Mt. Pleasant for collection and filming. We are very happy to have this process moving again!

Finally, Valerie Albright let us know of her retirement as Children's Services Coordinator at the end of September. She will be missed!

Facilities

At the Coldwater Branch, we had the parking lot lines repainted. The City of Coldwater also put a sign on the front port requesting visitors to go no farther than the top of the steps. A water pump on the boiler also went out, but our contractor was able to save us money on the repair by going with locally remanufactured ball bearings.

At Algansee Twp.'s ARPA funds hearing on 9/12, several people in the audience voiced interest in using the funds to better the library—people we did not ask to come and speak on our behalf, I must say! None spoke against these ideas, and I have to agree that supporting the library would be a good way to affect a larger number of people. I am cautiously optimistic on this front and look forward to future

Penal Fines

Penal fines checks have finally started coming in! We had been getting reports, as you've seen from the the monthly packets, but the actual checks had not arrived yet at all this year, making us rather nervous. Happy to say things seem to be sorted out at the courthouse now!

Covid Update

A couple uses of the leave policy as one staff member was positive and others were waiting for test results. We did cancel our in-person staff meeting for August because of sickness and the number of absences.

IT Department

We upgraded our telephone system software, a major upgrade that involved new software on all of the computers.

After months of working through the Verizon tech support, we finally got 8 new WiFi hotspots in circulation to replace dead or lost ones. We are back up to our original amount of 23 for public use.

We (IT, Cataloging, and the management team) have begun testing for our Evergreen upgrade later in September.

Lib Mail now has the requisite work done by the Evergreen support people. What's left is for us to add and test our circulation rules and then publicly announce the program! Goal is to do so after the Evergreen upgrade.

Since we have had some materials purchasing for the bookmobile, we needed to the bookmobile to the stats report. On the interactive online stats report, expanding tables to see the branch numbers will now include the bookmobile.

Training

I attended a virtual training session with Ryand Dowd, the Chicago-based so-called "Homeless Librarian". He's not homeless, he's just made it a priority to figure out the best

approaches to serving the unhoused population in the library. It was a good session, and I did pick up a couple more things to try, and to share with others, as homelessness continues to affect libraries.

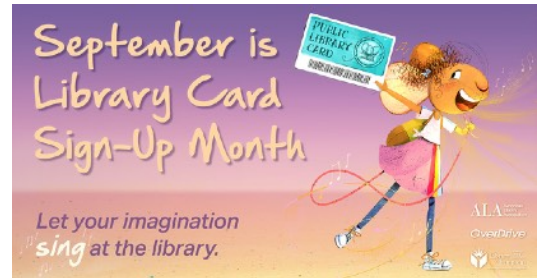
Meetings Attended

Cultivating Community, Woodlands Library Cooperative, Coldwater DDA, Algansee Twp., Coldwater Branch Advisory Board.

Submitted by John Rucker

Library Card Sign-Up Month

This September, Branch District Library, is joining the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide for Library Card Sign-Up Month. It is a time to remind parents, caregivers, and students that a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning.



You can celebrate National Library Card Sign-Up Month by signing up for a library card at any of our Branch District Library locations or online at www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/apply. When you sign up for a library card throughout the month of September, you are entered into a drawing for a \$100 Visa Gift Card. Adults may refer a friend who needs a library card, and both you and the new library card holder will be entered into the drawing for a \$100 Visa Gift Card.

With a library card you can discover new and exciting worlds! From borrowing audiobooks to streaming movies to taking virtual classes, there is so much you can access! Pursue your passions and dreams through your library's resources and programs. Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. During the month, the ALA and libraries unite in a national effort to ensure everyone signs up for their own library card.

Meetings & Community Events

I attended the Branch County Community Network and Branch County Partners meetings.

The library had an informational booth and pop-up library at Branch County Pride Fest. People could sign-up for library cards and check out books at the event! I also lead a small storytime at the beginning of the event. The special storytime books were donated to the library and represented the Pride community. We held a book raffle for the titles. Two lucky winners were selected and have already picked up their books at the Coldwater Branch.

Human Resources

Welcome Emma Barned to BDL! She joined us on August 25 as a public service clerk at the Coldwater Branch.

Submitted by Kimberly Feltner

- Programming started back up on September 1st, and patrons and staff alike are excited about it!
- Starting October 1st BDL will host a fun twist writing contest. "Haunting Hooks" is a month-long competition that will only allow participants to write a creepy intro to a scary story. Entries will be accepted until October 30th. They will be submitted by email or in person.
- BDL will host a "Community Conversation" on October 1, from 5PM-8PM. These conversations will allow the public to come in and spend 20 minutes with a chat host of their choosing to discuss their unique life experiences. There will be a select number of questions that event-goers can choose from to ask the chat host.
- A short week after our Community Conversation, staff and volunteers will dress up and work at BDL's Family Fright Night event from 4PM-8PM on October 8. We will have crafts, games, trick-or-treating, and a haunted circus maze for our teen & adult attendees.
- On October 10, BDL will have a staff in service day, and we are hopeful that it will be food from the Taco Truck, Taqueria Sabor Latino! Outside presenters will be on the agenda along with some Lightning Talks from the Admin team.
- We are sending staff members to the first in person conference since the beginning of the pandemic. How exciting!
- The 2022 Fair numbers are in and we saw over 1500 people at our booth!

Submitted,

Jessica Tefft