

It's our busiest time of year, and the library is really active this time around. So nice to be back to this level of traffic!

Personnel

The Sherwood clerk position is open again after the selected candidate decided the position wasn't a good fit after all.

Facilities

- New furniture continues to arrive, and we are seeking new homes for some items that still might have some life left in them.
- We upgraded one of Bronson's water fountains to the bottle-filler kind like we have installed in Coldwater and Quincy.
- As you can see from Traci's report, preparations are well under way for the Sherwood Branch's upcoming interior renovations. It is very exciting for the interior and exterior work to sync up like is happening. In a while it sounds like there will be a very noticeable difference all around!

Training

I attended the Niche Academy live training session with Kimberly on Managing Difficult Conversations. We both took away some good pointers for our personal toolkits.

Information Technology

- There are still quite a few desktop computers left after our Strawberry Fest sale. We will continue to try to find them a home.
- Aside from typical maintenance tasks, I spent some time making improvements to our internal employee records system.

Meetings Attended

I met with our telephone system support people, Coldwater DDA, and the Library of Michigan Directors.

Submitted by John Rucker

Marketing

First up was a radio interview with WTVB to talk about Summer Reading and upcoming events at our locations. Then the marketing team met for library website training. Next is how well the video presence on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram is doing. Adding in weekly videos is making a difference in reaching individuals on different platforms. In the last ninety days, our reach on Facebook was up 57.6%. On Instagram, reach was up 139.3%. Meagan Marsh is filming some of our longer adult programs when possible. The plan is to share these informational events on our YouTube channel. She has recently posted two videos. They were about the author Gene Stratton-Porter and Backyard Birding which were done by our Teen Services Coordinator Nicky Ball. This is perfect for busy patrons who may not be able to attend these events in person! The short video content that Meagan has been creating is working very well on our channels. This was the lead-up for our very own BDL TikTok which went live on July 5. We are very excited to see how it grows. A variety of library staff have been very helpful in filming videos for programs awareness and library services.

Storywalk

Our Children's Services Coordinator, Erica and I meet with Great Start Collaborative to review their Talking is Teaching campaign and their partnership with the StoryWalk. Their campaign will be incorporated into our individual signs. We also received funding from the Coldwater Solar Group that will help purchase books and maintain the StoryWalk.

Technical Services

Another busy department in the last month! Two new collections have been added to our library catalog. First up is a video game collection purchased by the Quincy Branch. These video games represent all major gaming consoles. There is a juvenile gaming collection that is rated "E" for everyone. There is also an adult gaming collection that includes games rated "E 10+" and up. Next is the Library of Things! The Library of Things is a collection of non-traditional materials including gadgets, tools, games, kits, electronics, and more – all available to check out for free with a library card. Items like loom kits, telescopes, and sleds are now available for checkout! This was a very big effort since every item had to be evaluated for where to place a barcode, how to label it, and then where to store it. Several branches now have a variety of "things" and you can find them all in our catalog!

Human Resources

I held an orientation with the new Sherwood Clerk. One of the clerks at the Coldwater Branch, Ian Scott, received a Certificate of Library Development. He completed the required

classes to achieve the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services Basic Essential Workplace Skills Certificate. Lastly, we have two new notaries at BDL. Those are our Union Twp. Branch Manager, Maria Piper and Outreach Manager, Cheryl Lawrence. This gives us a notary presence at every location including the Bookmobile!

Meetings

I attended several Kiwanis of Coldwater meetings. I also met with a representative from the Michigan Counties Worker's Compensation Fund.

Submitted

Kimberly Feltner

- There are two weeks left in our Summer Reading Program, and we have over 900 registrations, 164 completions, and over 2300 activities completed. Our Summer Reading Wrap-Up Foam Party on July 31st will have a food truck (On the Roll) and a dessert truck (Carey's Bakery) for patrons to purchase, if they'd like to do so. We are expecting up to 500 attendees for the foam party, and are so looking forward to it!
- The Branch County Fair is almost here! We will be in the Schlubatis building (Almond Barn) and we will be handing out lots of different goodies. We will also be attending Kids Day from 12-6PM in Burton Hall on Tuesday, August 8. Staff will be taking turns at the library booth. It's going to be a blast!
- The first 1000 Books before Kindergarten Graduation party will be happening on August 19th. We have 9 kiddos that have completed the program. They will be given caps and gowns, and a diploma. There will be refreshments, as well.
- Family Fright Night will be here before we know it! Family Fright Night will be on October 7th from 4-7PM. "Fairytale" is the theme for 2023, and the Coldwater library branch is going to be transformed into a wild ivy-laden destination. The basement will become an enchanted (turned haunted) forest, and we are all so excited!
- Meetings attended this month: Great Start Collaborative meeting & Coldwater Public Library meeting. The BCCN meeting is July 19, and the Coldwater Community Center meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first week of August.