

## **Tax Rate Request Form**

We finally have the L-4029 form, updated to our request, and it is in the discussion section for your examination and approval.

## **Free Covid Testing Kits**

Last week we took delivery of the first batch of free Covid testing kits from MDHHS. All BDL locations have them now and in the first week of offering them, we distributed 22 kits.

## **Staffing**

We have conducted our latest round of interviews, and hope to have a job offer presented and accepted soon.

The open position of Heritage Room Coordinator was posted internally, with interested candidates to be interviewed tomorrow, 9/15/2023.

The combination of open positions, back-to-school-time sickness, and planned time off have made for a rough month. Our substitute pools have been used to their maximum and library management have covered shifts at multiple branches. Even with that, we still have had to cancel some programming and even briefly close a couple of locations due to no one being available to work. A prolonged power outage in downtown Quincy also caused the closing of our library there for a day.

Finally, we note with sadness the recent passing of two former BDL staff: Shirley Eichler, who was at the library in a variety of capacities for over 20 years, and Kathy (Veysey) Will, who was Quincy Branch manager from February 1998 until August 2000.

## **Facilities**

Some small maintenance was performed on the powered entry doors and one of the bathroom stools at the Coldwater Branch.

## **Information Technology**

We are testing our upgrade to the next version of our Evergreen Library System, scheduled for the end of October.

## **Meetings Attended**

Branch County Commissioners, Coldwater DDA, Library of Michigan Directors, Woodlands Library Cooperative Committee.

Submitted by John Rucker

## **StoryWalk**

Erica Donahue, Children's Services Coordinator, and I did a radio interview at WTVB to promote the ribbon-cutting for the StoryWalk. Due to some wet weather, it was rescheduled for September 22 at 10am at Heritage Park. Fingers crossed for better weather the second time!

## **Technical Services**

You might notice a larger-than-normal number of items deleted from our library catalog for this month. This was due to a district-wide project where we removed items that were marked missing in the catalog. The last time this project was completed was in 2017. Missing items are the things that we can't find in our buildings for whatever reason.

The Technical Services team continued to work on the "Library of Things" collection. I have had several comments about how patrons love getting these items. One person told me that having the yard games and karaoke machine was perfect for their family gathering. My family has checked out the [Nut Gatherer Library of Things Kit](#). It made picking up walnuts from my yard much easier!

## **Marketing**

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when Branch District Library joins the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide to remind everyone about the valuable resources available with a library card. From borrowing books, ebooks, and audiobooks to getting homework help, learning new skills, or attending a book club or story time, a library card helps everyone do more of what they enjoy. All without stretching their budget. Join a free program and spark your creativity! Interested in trying a new hobby? Branch District Library offers more than books with our Library of Things Collection. It 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. During the month of September we are offering a special BINGO card. Complete one BINGO for a chance to get entered into a drawing for one of these book bundles including a \$50 gift card. Do you have friends who don't have a library card? Invite them to sign-up during September and play along!

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 together in a national effort to ensure every child signs up for their own library card. We invite those ages birth to teen to explore their library.



Children can get their very own library card designed just for them! This whimsical forest design is available at all six branches just in time for Library Card Sign-up Month!



There is nothing more empowering than signing up for your own library card. Through access to technology, media resources and educational programs, a library card gives children a head start on literacy skills before they even reach the classroom. A library card is your most important school supply and everyone should have one!

### **Meetings**

I attended the weekly meetings with the Kiwanis Club of Coldwater, in-person and virtually. I attended a meeting with John and Jessica to learn more about the IRS's VITA program.

I had my first E-Resource committee meeting for Woodlands Cooperative. It was a review session from what we all picked up from the Digipalooza conference. More work will be happening when the Cooperative starts their new fiscal year in October.

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner

- On August 19 we had our first annual graduation ceremony for our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program! We had 8 kiddos that successfully completed the program and 5 that showed up for the ceremony. The ceremony was short and sweet, and the graduates had a blast walking over the bridge to receive their certificates. They had refreshments and some of the cutest custom made cookies I've ever laid eyes on! The ceremony took place in Kids Place, at the Coldwater Branch and it was a highlight of my entire year!



- I have spent the last several weeks orchestrating the fine dance of covering shifts in the branches due to illness and staff shortages. A massive thanks to the MANY wonderful staff that have covered over the last 3 weeks on very short notice.



- Our next big event is Family Fright Night, which we are diligently planning for! The theme is Fairy Tales, and it's going to be such a fun night! It will run from 4-7PM on October 7.

- I am also planning our staff training day on October 9. We will be going to the Shelter House on Michigan Ave in the morning and doing an empathy-training simulation there. We will have lunch back at the Coldwater Branch and our afternoon will be filled with a couple guest speakers and a super fun activity for staff.



Submitted by Jessica Tefft