

Tax Rate Request Form

I am happy to report that after our lengthy delay in getting the L-4029 form to approve last month, it was quickly sent on to all of the relevant parties and everything should be in order now.

Freedom of Information Act Request

BDL received yet another FOIA request for business contact information from SmartProcure, the Florida-based data broker. I filled the request within the deadline and filed the required paperwork.

Allen Township

Since Allen Twp. has no online presence I could find, I contacted the Hillsdale County clerk for details on the township's meeting schedule. Sarah and I will go to an upcoming meeting to make introductions and broach the topic of redoing our contract for library services. I also contacted our attorney about the framework for a new contract, and Anne told me they have templates for this sort of thing which she'll send me as a start.

Staffing

The past month was hectic as we tried to cover staff absences due to vacancies, illness, and personal time, but we managed. Kimberly, Jessica, and I all joined in with the substitute pool to get things done.

I join others in this packet in welcoming Casey Sybesma to the library as our new clerk at the Sherwood Branch. Very happy to have her join the team!

Brittany Gemmill, currently the clerk at the Quincy Branch, has been selected to be our next Heritage Room Coordinator. She'll be starting soon, but won't leave the Quincy Branch until we have a new clerk ready to take over. Brittany has relevant background experience in archival work, a demonstrated passion and talent for helping guests with their genealogy quests, and she's been a great team member during her time so far at BDL.

Bonnie Sherman, our current Heritage Room coordinator will not step down until she's passed the torch to Brittany. And BDL is very lucky that Bonnie wishes to stay active in the Heritage Room as a regular volunteer once the changeover happens. Bonnie's two-decades of service in the Heritage Room gives her a deep understanding of the needs of our guests and the resources available to help them, and we'll be glad that she'll stay with us in any capacity for a while longer.

As for the now-open Quincy clerk position, we have posted for this job and have received quite a few applications. We hope to begin interviews very soon.

Facilities

There is no definitive news yet from the Alganssee Township board on what might happen with the Alganssee Branch library, but the Township did have a special meeting to discuss possible square footage needs and floorplans both for a renovation of the current township hall, and for constructing a new hall and library. Teresa and I submitted detailed notes about the needs and wants of a possible library for them to consider.

As you'll see in Lynnell's report, the new window coverings for the Bronson Branch that were approved in February finally were installed after some delays from the installer. They look great!

After getting very behind in inspections due to a corporate acquisition and the confusion that resulted, our fire extinguisher inspections have finally resumed. You will see a few extra bills from the new vendor, Certa-Site, for both the inspections as well as some required maintenance on some units.

IT Department

Verizon had a recent promotion, so we were able to upgrade 17 of our wifi hotspots to a much better version for free. It will take a while to swap them out as loan periods on the existing hotspots come due.

Curtis was able to work out a vexing issue that had cropped up with our RFID pads, for which we are very thankful!

Meetings and Training

Kimberly and I met with our Blue Cross Blue Shield representative and were thrilled to learn that BDL's rates are staying the same next year, and one of the prescription benefits is actually improving.

The Finance Committee met to work on the budget recommendation for this packet.

I attended the Branch County Community Foundation's annual celebration. It was great to chat with community members and learn about all the good that is being done with BCCF's support.

I had my annual State Aid report training. There are a few changes for this year, but BDL is ahead of the curve. The new State Aid report requires tracking self-directed programs

(puzzles or coloring sheets we hand out, take-home kits, etc.), but BDL has been tracking this internally for a while now. The window to file the report is now open, and Kimberly and I will start this one together.

Our staff in-service day was really thought provoking as we started the day with staff from Pines Behavioral Health to experience a poverty simulation, and then had a presentation from the Shelter House Teen Share program. We had a fun interlude of library trivia compiled by Kimberly, Jessica, and myself, and ended with a budget recommendation preview and Evergreen news. Between this and Family Fright Night, Jessica has had a very busy and successful time!

Finally, I also attended the monthly meeting of Michigan Library Directors.

Submitted by John Rucker

StoryWalk Grand Opening

The second time is a charm! We couldn't have asked for better weather for the official grand opening of the StoryWalk. Our community partners Great Start Collaborative, Kiwanis Club of Coldwater, the Children'sCity of Coldwater, and a representative from the Kiwanis Childrens' Fund were in attendance. A teacher from Lakeland Elementary was able to bring her 4th grade classroom. After some brief remarks we cut the ribbon with our giant scissors and the kids took off! Everyone enjoyed reading the book and the special activities on each sign. All attendees were able to enjoy a cookie and a special commemorative bookmark. We raffled off 2 copies of the book that was in the StoryWalk, *We Laugh Alike*. The winners were two students from the 4th grade classroom!



Library Card Sign-up Month

During September we had a total of 150 new cards. Twenty-four patrons returned the special themed Bingo sheets. Three new patrons from Bronson were selected for the book bundles that included gift cards.

Meetings & Trainings

I attended meetings with Branch County Community Network, Aviza Insurance Agency, and the Kiwanis Club of Coldwater. I was able to meet with a vendor, Unique, and heard about services that will benefit BDL in communicating with new residents in the county. I took a training on the State Aid report.

A new staff orientation was held for our newest public service clerk, Casey Sybesma! It was a jam-packed session at Sherwood where she will be stationed. Welcome Casey!

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner

• It's Spooky Season! We had a great time at our annual Family Fright Night on October 7. We had over 435 patrons come through and trick or treat, make crafts, and play games. We even had several of the littles slay a dragon up in Kid's Place! The biggest of thanks to our incredible staff who were just absolute rockstars for the event. Nicky, our Teen Space Coordinator, transformed the basement into the creepiest of haunted forests. It was entertaining to hear the screams come from the basement while I was at the circ desk at different points in the night!



- Staff Training Day was held on October 9, and I heard great reviews from staff. We went through a poverty simulation held by Kim Hemker and other shelter house staff and it was eye opening, to say the least. Staff was given a name and a backstory and were asked to improve the character's situation, or at least manage to survive it. It was so hard, and one of the most frustrating events I've participated in. We enjoyed El Cerritos for lunch, had a speaker come from Michigan Legal Help and Holly Carpenter from Teen Share. Kimberly and I orchestrated some trivia and John ended the day with budget talk and an Evergreen update. It was a good day.
- I attended the BCCF annual event on September 21. It was a great time to talk with others and really learn more about the grants that BCCF gave out in 2022 to community members.
- And speaking of BCCF and grants....BDL received a \$5000 grant to add more items into our library of things! This is so exciting and I can't wait for the items to be added into our collection!

Submitted by Jessica Tefft