

## **Personnel**

Please join me in congratulating Lynnell for 25 years at BDL! We are so honored to have had her with us for so long, and look forward to even more great years!

It's been a rough month with a lot of sickness and even a couple of covid cases. With our sub pool running thin, we've been operating with reduced staffing, even with the management team also working some desk shifts.

## **Weather Closings and Delays**

Due to icy conditions, we closed early (5pm) on January 22, and opened late (11am) on January 23.

## **Facilities**

In our elevator inspection this year, the state inspector cited us for having a 30-amp fuse when we should have had a 20-amp fuse. The fuse in question had been in place for decades, according to Kendall Electric, and had passed many inspections from this same inspector, so I assume the codes had changed or something similar. At any rate, the fuse was replaced, and we were required by the inspector to have Otis Elevator confirm the replacement was done properly. That bill will be in a future packet.

The Coldwater Advisory Board permitted us to donate a City-owned antique writing desk that had been in storage for years to the Coldwater Community Center.

The Coldwater Branch had its annual fire alarm system inspection last week, no issues.

The branch to have its ducts cleaned this year was the Quincy Branch, which was also completed last week.

The new building project in Alganssee progresses. There have been several more revisions to their architectural drawings in the past month.

BDL was awarded a \$2000 grant from Apex Clean Energy to help stock the Bookmobile with materials! Huge thanks to Apex, and thanks to Cheryl and Jessica for working to get this grant.

## **Materials**

Thanks to Jessica, Christina, and Brittany in the Heritage Room for helping to wrangle up some missing back issues of the Daily Reporter after the newspaper messed up our

subscription that goes to Central Michigan University. It took weeks, but we finally managed to acquire ALL of the missing dates, going back to February of last year, and will have a complete microfilm record of the year.

## **Future Revenues**

In a meeting with Apex Clean Energy about their Coldwater Solar project, we learned what sort of additional tax revenue the library can expect to receive, most likely starting in 2026, and continuing for 20 years before dropping significantly. It's not a huge number, but nevertheless will be very welcome to our bottom line. Apex also told us that two other projects in the county were approximately the same capacity, so it's very likely the new tax revenue will be even higher. We will share more as we learn it.

## **IT Department**

The new servers that were authorized in January were ordered but were running behind on assembly. I am expecting them next week..

To assist in visits with stakeholders, I made a smaller view for our stats report that shows only the last 12 months of selected stats for a particular branch, something the large report with its district-focus can't do. If you want to see it, there is a link to it on the top of the main online stats report, or [here is a direct link](#).

To aid in the scanning and digitization efforts in the Heritage Room, I created a web app that will ingest a group of individual scanned pages, stitch them together into one document, and run optical character recognition on it so that it's searchable. That should make our processes more efficient; last week we added 13 new items to our online historical archive, including local directories [going back as far as 1860!](#)

## **Meetings**

Library of Michigan Directors, Apex Clean Energy, BDL Building Committee, BDL Personnel Committee, Coldwater Advisory Board, Sherwood Village, Woodlands Library Cooperative.

Submitted by John Rucker

## Marketing

Grab a copy of the next [Event Guide](#). It is full of events happening across Branch County from March to May.

The marketing team met to discuss several new patron services. Planning for the 2024 Summer Reading Program is also underway.

## Personnel

Six staff members elected to join the Lifecare Ambulance Member Perks program. The accountants were able to set the employee contribution as a one-time payroll deduction. That made the 2024 enrollment very easy for me.

I attended the Fall 2023 labor & employment update webinar hosted by Foster Swift. This six-part series covered a wide range of topics.

## Meetings

I attended several meetings in the last month including Apex Clean Energy, Kiwanis Club, Kiwanis Key Club, and the Woodlands Library Cooperative Advisory Council.

Submitted by Kimberly Feltner



- All branches participated in the annual “Bring Your Child To The Library” Day on February 3, 2024 and saw people stop by to enjoy treats & crafts.
- BDL’s 2024 Winter Reading Challenge “Are You Yeti?” is almost over! There’s time left until the end of February, to read at least 4 books and be entered into our grand prize drawing! We have three gift baskets that we’re giving away that include a Yeti insulated tumbler, tea, and some fancy hot chocolate and fixings for it!
- Our 2024 OBOC book discussion will be happening at a branch near year in exactly a month! I hope to see you there!
- The first 2024 Summer Reading Program - “Adventure begins at your Library” planning meeting is next week! We’re so excited to get planning for this. I know it’s snowy today, but it’ll be here before we know it!

