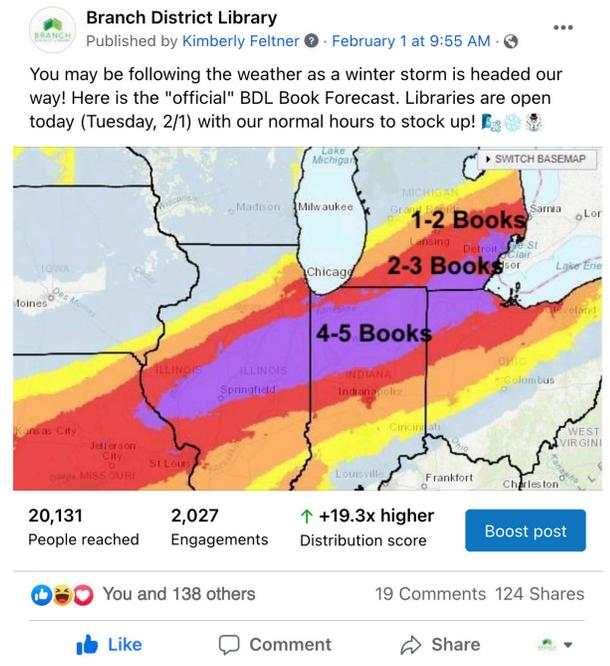


- Though it's still snowy outside, we yearn for the warmth and activity that summer brings! We have had our first Summer Reading Program planning meeting where Jessica previewed the special reading challenges and activities in store on our Beanstack app.
- Speaking of snow, the weather resulted in being closed for two days in early February, and closing at 3pm on February 17th.
- I have had multiple contacts with our attorney, and the County Clerk and Treasurer, on getting things squared away for our millage renewal ballot. Everything is going smoothly so far, and we are situated well for this early in the process.
- The Teen Advisory Council has resumed regular meetings thanks to Teen Services Coordinator, Sandi Podolan, with a small core group and outreach initiatives for seeking additional membership from around the county. We look forward to hearing their ideas for library programs and services!
- Outreach manager Cheryl Lawrence has taken possession of the special mailing bags for our upcoming books by mail service. We'll have some on hand at our meeting for you to see. Cheryl has also coordinated a couple of visits for us to tour other nearby libraries' bookmobiles and chat with their staff about operations.
- The Marketing Team received training on our new website software, and welcomed Cheryl Lawrence and Sandi Podolan to the team.
- Kimberly and I worked on updating the statistical report collection and presentation, including the inclusion of a couple of additional data points required by the Library of Michigan, like curbside service numbers, and updating our service value estimates for the year.
- While we are still searching for a representative to fill the open Union Twp. seat, a branch manager the Southern Michigan bank in Union City, who is a Coldwater resident, has expressed interest in being on the Board for a Coldwater or County-at-Large seat. Ironically, it was Julie Baratta's efforts to help find a Union Twp. representative that led us to this new contact.
- There will be an unexpected additional operating expense this year: Google has decided to start charging organizations like us who have received free email and collaboration services for the past 16 years. After investigating other options, we have decided to stay with Google, because even at about \$3000 added each year is a good value for the variety and quality of services they provide.

- After some initial difficulty, I finally successfully installed a new hardware management system for our wifi access points.
- Training this past month: a financial management webinar from the Library of Michigan, which will result in a handful of new, needed policies. I also completed the Library of Michigan's Advanced Director's Workshop, on hold for a couple of years due to the pandemic and required for maintaining our State Aid.
- Meetings this past month: Algansee Twp., County Commissioners, Coldwater Advisory Board, Library of Michigan Directors. Also a first meeting about a partnership between the Library, Tibbits, the Community Foundation, and Branch ISD for a series of programs and events in October. Bronson Advisory Board, Bronson Friends of the Library, Bronson Township.

Submitted by John Rucker

- Conducted orientation for our two newest library staff members, Erica Donihue and Brittany Gemmill. They are training in our Public Services Department. If you stop in at the Coldwater branch you may see their friendly faces at the Service Desk!
- Posted a library official "Book Forecast" on our Facebook page In anticipation of the early February snowstorm. This post was very well received by our library users and even other libraries, all the way down to Florida! It was one of our most successful posts in YEARS reaching over 20,000 people. Now if only our collection or program posts did the good.
- Led an in-person workshop about our digital library service Libby. We had a great turnout and the group learned Libby basics. The group also requested that the library hold another workshop about the other digital library service, Hoopla! Watch for that on our calendar soon.
- Attended a virtual MLA Library Advocacy Hour regarding penal fines.
- Watched an online workshop titled "Unattended Children - Learn how to talk to parents about their children's behavior."
- Represented the library at the Branch County Partner's Meeting in February. I shared the our recent job posting for the Coldwater Branch Manager and the upcoming One Book One County event.



Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner

- BDL branches had a blast celebrating “Bring Your Child to the Library Day” on February 5. There were crafts, activity sheets, and snacks!
- The districtwide Winter Reading Challenge that ran during the month of January was a success! Over a dozen patrons read for the pleasure of it, and knocked out a whopping 10k minutes!
- The One Book One County BDL book discussions are next month! BDL patrons can check out *Written in Bone: Hidden Stories in What We Leave Behind* by Professor Dame Sue Black at most of our branches and also on Hoopla!
- Attended the Branch County Community Network meeting on January 19, 2022.
- It may seem early, but Summer Reading Program 2022 is right around the corner, and we’ve been working getting it organized. The theme is Oceans of Possibilities, and it’s going to be a blast!

Submitted,

Jessica Tefft