

With a senior in high school, active in spring sports, I have had a lot of time off here and there over the last month, so I have less to report than usual. Things have been busy as we prepare for Summer Reading! And, like others say in this packet, I also had a lovely time at the Algansee Open House.

The only formal meeting I had this past month was the Library of Michigan Directors, where we heard from a representative from LEO who presented on the Youth Employment Standards Act (YESA) and took questions from the audience. There were lots of what-ifs about youth volunteers, and the LEO person said she would research and get back to us on them. I am actually now slightly optimistic that letting kids volunteer for NHS, 4H and like might get a little easier than our current understanding given to us from Library of Michigan that I reported on last month. Stay tuned!

I am working on a number of long-term projects—Aspen Discovery Layer, seeking tax exempt status, next year's budget, and more—but have nothing concrete to report just yet.

In IT land, I have done some tweaking of some of our internal-use custom software, and have been prepping the next upgrade of our public wifi service gateways.

Since it just happened this week after Christina submitted her Coldwater report, I do want to give a special shout out to Brittany Gemmill for the excellent local history presentation she did on the Lewis Art Collection, some pieces of which still remain in the Coldwater Branch library. Brittany's months of research and prep really shone through, and the audience was very appreciative!

Submitted by John Rucker

## Alganssee Library Open House

Congratulations to our Alganssee Branch staff on a fantastic open house celebrating the new library location on April 25. Teresa Shilling and Amber Fast created a memorable event for everyone who attended. From outdoor games and displays showcasing library services and collections to the delicious cookies, the event highlighted the sense of community and joy that can be found at the local library. Another highlight was the Alganssee Friends of the Library Book Sale, held in the Alganssee Township Hall, where many visitors, including myself, discovered some great new reads.

## MERS/Empower

After almost a month with the new record-keeping software, Empower, we were finally offered training in the form of a webinar. Unfortunately, the training came later than needed. Following the announcement of the employer match, there was interest from employees in setting up accounts. As a result, I had to learn the enrollment process before the webinar was scheduled. Since then, five new employees have enrolled, bringing the total number of employees contributing to their post-employment savings plan to twenty.

## Marketing

It's time to Unearth a Story at Branch District Library for Summer Reading. The newest edition of the [Event Guide](#) is now available at all library locations and online. This summer's theme focuses on dinosaurs, fossils, and discovery, with activities and programs designed for all ages.

Just in time for the many upcoming summer programs, Meagan Marsh released a new video "[🌟 BDL How To 🌟 - Online Calendar Edition!](#)" She provides tips on how to find and navigate the online calendar, register for programs, and create a personalized digest tailored to individual interests. It is part of the library's growing collection of "how-to" videos available on our YouTube channel and website.



## National Library Week Checkout Challenge Results

During National Library Week, April 19–25, we exceeded the weekly checkout goal of 2,500 items, with a total of 2,779 items checked out. A total of 821 unique patrons checked out items from our branches, Hoopla, and Libby. Winners were announced for all the branches for a Meijer Gift Card.

- Alganssee: Jennifer S.
- Bookmobile: Waldron Learning Center
- Bronson: Luke K.
- Coldwater: Michele J.
- Quincy: Ginnie S.
- Sherwood: Haley C.
- Union Twp. Haley M.



*Union Twp. Winner: Haley M.*

## **Meetings**

Kiwanis Club of Coldwater

Annual Friends of the Library Meeting held at the Quincy Branch.

Submitted

Kimberly Feltner



- Summer Reading is HERE! Registration for the 2026 Summer Reading Program will open on May 15 on Beanstack. Printable logs will be available online and in branches on June 8th. SRP will run from June 8 - July 25th, with prizes being picked up at the branches by July 31st.

- Our Summer Reading Program Kickoff event will be held on June 6 from 5-7PM at Heritage Park by the Youth baseball fields. We will have four wet inflatables, (make sure to wear your suits, kids!) a fossil dig, and perhaps even some dinosaurs roaming around!

- I attended the Annual Friends Meeting on 4/28 at the Quincy branch. It was so heartwarming to see every branch's Friends represented there!
- Attended an informational meeting to see what updates Beanstack has implemented before the Summer Reading roll out and I'm so excited about it! There are great things waiting for our patrons on Beanstack this summer!
- Looking ahead to August, we're already beginning to plan our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Graduation event! We have 7 completions so far and have at least 2 that will most likely finish the program by August 1.