Please join us in extending best wishes to Don Reyers, who has made it official and will retire from Lakeland this month. Don has provided us with over 9 years of devoted service, and he will surely be missed. Don started as a Sorter/Driver in March 2012 and we were fortunate when he accepted a Driver position in August 2012. Over his tenure as a Driver, he easily drove over 400,000 miles and delivered a countless number of book bags. Don was always dependable and could be relied on in driving safely through all the diverse weather conditions that Michigan has to offer. Driving in the winter is not easy for anyone, yet Don did it consistently and reliably for 9 years. As a further tribute to Don, to help ensure a smooth transition and uninterrupted delivery service, Don referred us with an excellent candidate for his replacement. Jeff Reyers, whose 35-year career in tool and die ended due to COVID-19, was hired as Don’s replacement. Don’s dedicated service will be missed. Please join us in wishing him a long and wonderful retirement.
SO, YOU WANT TO BE A LIBRARY DIRECTOR?
MAY 18 & JUNE 1, 2021

This two-part workshop will feature topics on the facets of the career of a library director and how to prepare for your interview. If you've been thinking about your future as a library director, then this workshop is a must for you! There will be Q&A after.

LIBRARY DIRECTORS TRANSITIONS

Salem Township Library - Sharon Engelsman
Sharon will be retiring April 15th after 44 years of service and dedication. She wants to say a great big thank you to all the Cooperative libraries and staff, as well as a big thank you to Lakeland Staff. Sharon will be missed.

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ADVOCACY DAY
APRIL 20, 2021

Michigan Library Association (MLA), the Michigan Academic Library Association (MiALA), the Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME), as well as others from all over Michigan will be meeting with legislators virtually. Please consider joining in and sharing the value of our libraries and the positive impact we all have in our communities.

FOML ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
APRIL 8, 2021

If you are a member of the Friends of Michigan Libraries, don't forget to register for the meeting! If you are not yet a member, browse the site for information.

MILIBRARYQUEST
SUMMER 2021 LIBRARY SIGN-UP

The Quest begins June 1st, but sign up now to participate. Many Michigan libraries participate and it is a fun way to engage teen patrons. Libraries will embed an image on their website for teens to find. Click on the image to sign up this month.

LIBRARY HUMAN RESOURCES: DRAFTING POLICIES THAT WORK
APRIL 21, 2021

This workshop can be especially helpful to libraries that do not have a Human Resources department, or who just want to get a better understanding on best practices moving forward. "As library services grow and change, are your library policies in line with your needs and mission? Are your policies inclusive and equitable? Carefully developed policies ensure high-quality library service."
Cedar Springs Public Library: The kids at Cedar Springs Public Library recently completed a LEGO Challenge program put on by their Youth Services Coordinator, Melissa Dubridge. Kids and teens, ages 4-17, were able to draw cards with random LEGO Challenges that they then had to build using only their imaginations and LEGO's at home. They then submitted pictures of their masterpieces and received an entry into a raffle for a Grand Prize! Participants could then pick another challenge at a chance to earn more raffle entries until the program was completed. For being a smaller rural library, CSPL had 98 LEGO entries! Staff was so excited to hear about the high participation number and claimed this program as a huge success! Pictured are only a few of the 77 children and teens that participated in this challenge. CSPL had a great Winter season and are certainly looking forward to their Spring and Summer programs in the coming months! – Cassie Hall

Fennville Area District Library: The author of this book may look familiar! Ms. Jacquie came on board as a Youth Services librarian in 2017 and is currently on staff here at the Fennville District Library as a sub. As a seasoned librarian she has brought years of book knowledge to our library, but did you know that she is an author too? Look for her new book to arrive in April.

Whale Fall Café
Our medium-size whale Mcrae delivers as much food to the depths, the cold ocean depths as 4,000 years of eating food particles. When a dead whale sinks, the cold sink gasps for blueness, and who better than illustrator Dan Tava to show us the bizarre deep-ocean divers who survive?

Supplemental information includes rare whole-fall photos from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Dr. Robert Vrijenhoek of NOAA, and Dr. Craig Smith, a deep-sea ecologist at the University of Hawaii, have helped Jacquie Seewald to ensure scientific accuracy.

Whole Fall Café is Jacquie’s second book, Step in and check out Mighty Max. The Bridge That Michigan Built.

Fennville Area District Library: The author of this book may look familiar! Ms. Jacquie came on board as a Youth Services librarian in 2017 and is currently on staff here at the Fennville District Library as a sub. As a seasoned librarian she has brought years of book knowledge to our library, but did you know that she is an author too? Look for her new book to arrive in April. – Excerpt from FDL Newsletter from Michele Overweg-Spans

(Continued on page 4)
Hastings Public Library: The Hastings Public Library is excited to introduce its newest team member. She loves to talk with patrons, is always willing to answer questions, and best of all, she works for free! Meet Lilly, the new virtual assistant on our website.

Click the blue message icon on any page of the site at www.HastingsPublicLibrary.org and she is ready and willing to answer questions.

She knows about services offered, hours of operation, library features, programming and so much more. She can even tell you a joke if you ask. If she can’t answer a question, we can give her more information for the next time that comes up, plus she’s smart and learns on her own. Say Hi and let us know what you think. – David Edelman

Loutit District Library continued: We’re also excited (and proud) to announce that our Library Director, John Martin, is a recipient of the 2021 Visionary Award from the City of Grand Haven Human Relations Commission. The Human Relations Commission, an all-volunteer commission of Grand Haven residents whose members are appointed by the mayor for 3-year terms, created this annual award to honor and celebrate individuals who demonstrate courage in the face of resistance to change by affirming diversity and advocating for justice in the civic and social arenas of the community. Check out the video announcement (click the image) as it details why both award recipients are visionaries in our community! – Chelsea McCoy

MADL continues to update and remodel its branches. Since the Summer of 2020, the Muskegon Heights, North Muskegon, and Norton Shores branches have been completely remodeled and transformed. In January 2021, the brand-new Muskegon Township Branch opened its doors at a new location in a highly visible area in one of Muskegon’s busiest retail corridors. Renovations are now underway at the Holton and Montague Branches. The Holton branch will be expanding its library area after an internal wall is removed to provide more space for collections, computers, and people. And, we will be replacing all of the carpeting at the Montague branch. The Egelston branch is also being renovated with new carpeting, paint, and furniture. Our library upgrades are now providing our community with better space utilization, enhanced technology areas, and an overall better user experience for all to enjoy. – Karen Blackledge

Saugatuck-Douglas District Library: The Saugatuck-Douglas District Library offered a take and make program for adults/families: Paint Along with Bob Ross. We provided painting kits and used Zoom to watch a Bob Ross video on YouTube and paint along together. This picture was sent in by a mother who participated with her teen daughter. It was a lot of fun! – Hannah Mason

Ionia Community Library: The library staff created a fun video to show how easy it is to use the curbside service. Click the images for a link to the Facebook video. – Dale Parus
OTHER EVENTS

April
School Library Month

April 4-10
National Library Week

April 8
FOML - Annual Membership Meeting

April 10-17
Money Smart Week

April 12
Drop Everything and Read Day

April 16
ALA - Annual Conference Early Registration Deadline

April 20
Michigan Library Advocacy Day

April 25 - May 1
Preservation Week

April 30
Día-Children’s Day/Book Day

May 3-9
Children’s Book Week

May 5
MCLS - Melcat Basics

May 19
MCLS - Melcat Processing, Policies, and Procedures

June 1 - July 31
MILibraryQuest: Summer 2021

National Library Week 2021
April 4-10, 2021

Celebrate your library, library workers and more! The theme is “Welcome to Your Library.” It "promotes the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building - and that everyone is welcome to use their services. During the pandemic libraries have been going above and beyond to adapt to our changing world by expanding their resources and continuing to meet the needs of their users. Whether people visit in person or virtually, libraries offer opportunities for everyone to explore new worlds and become their best selves through access to technology, multimedia content, and educational programs.” There is also a day-by-day guide available when you click the image to view more.

Library Journal’s Day of Dialog
May 6, 2021

This is free to attend and virtual! If limits are reached, recordings will be made available, so don’t hesitate to register for this event. Talk with authors and do some networking. Click the image for more details.

ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition - Virtual
June 23-29, 2021

Early registration discount is April 16th! This event will include featured speakers Stanley Tucci and Areli Morales, with more to be announced soon. Take a look at some of the event highlights by clicking the image above.
CHILDREN’S BOOK WEEK
MAY 3-9

The theme is “Reading is a Superpower.” Click the image to sign up, receive materials and more. “Children’s Book Week, established in 1919, is not only a celebration of books, but of connection. It is a vehicle to unite kids and adults with books, authors, and illustrators in order to foster a love of reading.”

MONEY SMART WEEK
APRIL 10-17, 2021

Money Smart Week has gone virtual! Events are open to the public and libraries are encouraged to create their own programs. Click the image to see a tentative list of programs and find resources.

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ
APRIL 12 AND ALL MONTH LONG!

Inspired by Beverly Cleary’s Ramona Quimby, everyone is encouraged to “drop everything and read.” Visit the site for reading lists and activities. What a beautiful way to honor Mrs. Cleary this year (and always).

DÍA-CHILDREN’S DAY/BOOK DAY
APRIL 30, 2021

Día is celebrating 25 years! “El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day), commonly known as Día, is a celebration every day of children, families, and reading that culminates yearly on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.”

“There are many little ways to enlarge a child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.”

– Jacqueline Kennedy