May is National Mental Health Awareness Month! We all know it’s been a rough few years, and things are still a bit rocky in libraryland. Keep an eye on delivery at the end of May for some resources from the Continuing Ed Committee. In the meantime, you can find Mental Health resources at mhanational.org or text "Help" to 741 741 to talk to a trained crisis counselor.
In March, the Fennville District Library was the proud recipient of a grant in the amount of $5,000 from the TAG Team at the Allegan County Community Foundation. The TAG Team (Teens Aiding Growth) is a Youth Advisory Council for the ACCF with over 200 local student members that was founded in 1995. These students help address the needs of their peers and help to give back to their communities by determining the recipients of many scholarships and grants in Allegan County.

With this generous grant, the Fennville District Library is working to create a comfortable environment for teens to explore, interact, and imagine. Their number one goal is to create an inviting, safe, and supportive space for all teens in their community. This will be a dedicated space to complete homework, do research, participate in programs, and be creative, all for free. Teens will have access to programming that will aid in their life skills and development including: speakers, career workshops, college resources, and skilled labor presentations. Dedicated teen-focused book talks and clubs, coffeehouse events, and creative crafts programming are also in the works.

One unique addition to their dedicated teen space will be a health and hygiene closet. Teens will have free access to supplies such as: soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, mouthwash, deodorant, wet wipes, hand-sanitizer, shampoo, and menstrual products.

It is their sincere hope that teens will find the Fennville District Library a welcome space that encourages a solid community connection, a safe place to share ideas, and provides resources needed for life-long learning. The new space will be available to teens on a daily basis starting Friday, June 10.

Leighton Township Library received an occupancy permit for their 2850 sq. ft. building addition. This includes a makerspace room and study rooms which are already being heavily used. Their two goals have been met - increasing their collection space and their activity space.
Kent District Library is pleased to welcome two new managers: Penni Zurgable as Regional Manager I and Hennie Vaandrager as Programming Manager.

Penni will provide direct and indirect supervision of all branch staff at the Plainfield Twp. and Comstock Park Branches to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of library services. She will ensure the quality of services and procedures delivered and will serve as a liaison in the community. Penni has worked at KDL for many years in many different roles, most recently as a Librarian at the Amy Van Andel Library.

Hennie oversees the centralized programming services and manages a team of three. In addition to coordinating more than 6,000 programs annually and 20 branch locations, the team is responsible for centralized supplies purchasing and running major system-wide programs. Vaandrager was previously a Branch Outreach and Programming Specialist at the Kentwood and Gaines branches.

Welcome Melissa O'Sickey to Spring Lake! Melissa O'Sickey is originally from Hiram, Ohio. Melissa's favorite thing about being a youth librarian is doing storytime and curating experiences that encourage young people to be creative and curious while building community. Spring Lake is also back to doing storytimes, starting with one a week to gauge what the interest level is.
FRUITPORT DISTRICT LIBRARY

To celebrate March Literacy Month and Dr. Seuss’ Birthday, Fruitport District Library ran a reading competition among their youngest patrons for a chance to “Splat Director Matt” with a pie! It was a great success with roughly a dozen patrons joining up. Barrett, aged four and a half, read 54 books!! His mother informed the librarians they read two books to him every night and during the weekends they read four to five a night, plus some throughout the day. Patrons, staff, and the board had a wonderful time as we supplied several types of pies and ice cream.

Pictured is our library director, Matt Lubbers-Moore, taking a pie to the face like the good sport he is!

COOPERSVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

Youth services librarian, Mr. Zach, and a couple of teen volunteers have been working hard on summer reading decorations, including a 14 foot narwhal!

GARY BYKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

OH will be doing a sensory play program this summer that will incorporate the sensory walk and butterfly garden built by boy scout troop 292 in 2021 as part of the program. They look forward to incorporating both passive and active programing with this new addition to the library.
Hackley Public Library is looking for creative submissions for their new **Muskegon County Community Zine Collection**! This new collection (made possible by a grant from the ALA and the National Endowment for the Humanities) is an exciting project aimed at reflecting the people of Muskegon County and showcasing their talents.

If you're not sure what a zine is, that's okay! While there is no formal definition of a zine (as zine content takes many forms: all words, all illustration, poetry, photography, hand-written, etc.) the one thing they all have in common is they are self-published booklets, that are anywhere from three to (about) twenty pages long. Zines have long been a way for marginalized groups to get their voices heard and we want to hear from all voices in our community! Hackley's zine collection will consist entirely of submissions made by Muskegon County residents aged 18 and older, all they have to do is submit their zine at the nearest Muskegon County library or online at zines@hackleylibrary.org.

Hackley Public Library will be offering a class on how to make a zine on June 21st downstairs at their library, and Muskegon Area District Library will be offering two zine classes in July at their North Muskegon and Norton Shores locations. All accepted zines will be scanned and stored online under the Local History tab on Hackley's website, while the physical copies of the zines will be available to borrow from Hackley Library. For more information or to get a zine submission form, visit any library in Muskegon County or go to hackleylibrary.org/local-history-genealogy/zines/.

*The American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.*
HOWARD MILLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thursday, May 19, 2022 from 6:00-7:00 PM at HMPL (Adults, children are welcome)

Due to the success of our indoor plant exchange, we are hosting a spring perennial plant exchange!
In a labeled container, bring a healthy outdoor plant you’ve split. Meet fellow gardeners as you browse the variety of plants brought in for exchange.
Don’t have a plant to exchange? Limited extra plants will be provided if you have none to swap.

IONIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The Ionia Community Library won a 2022 LSTA Public Library Service grant. The successful grant was written by Children's Librarian Mike Golczynski - Congratulations, Mike and ICL!

The $2,000 will be used to provide Virtual Reality experiences during IC's Summer Reading Program in the coming months.

The grant was made possible thanks to the Library of Michigan and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
UPCOMING EVENTS

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

May 12, 2022
Learning for a Better Tomorrow: Let's Talk About Race in Storytimes

May 25, 2022
Dealing with Change: Using Mindfulness to Respond in Difficult Situations with Cari Dubiel

MI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

May 26, 2022
Intellectual Freedom Task Force Advocacy Hour

May 27, 2022
Youth Literary Awards Announcements

OCLC

May 24, 2022
Book Challenges and Intellectual Freedom: Proactive Planning for Public Libraries (With Lakeland's own Amber McLain!)