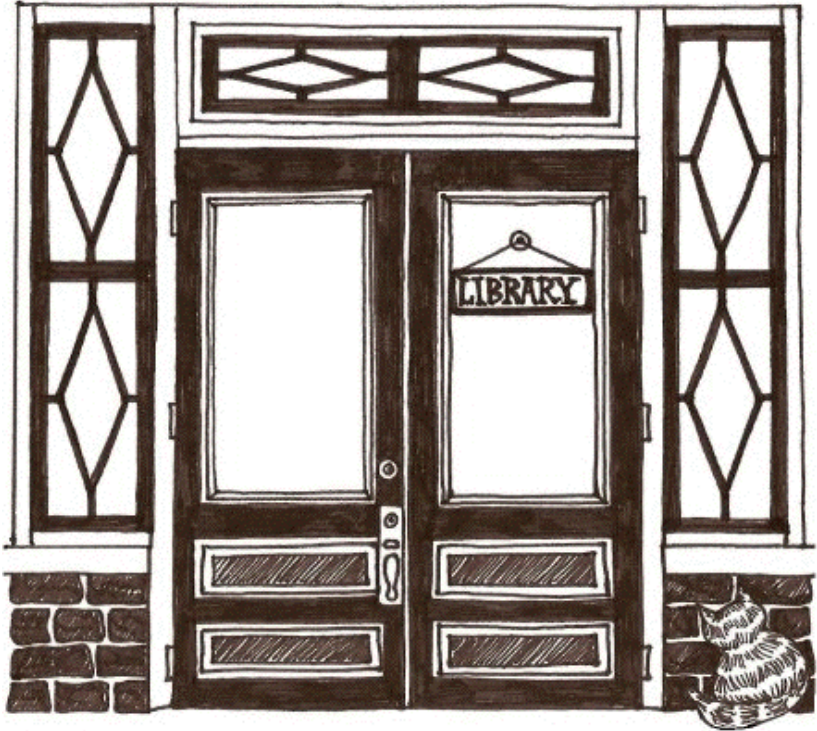


Benzonia Public
Library
FY 2020
Annual Report



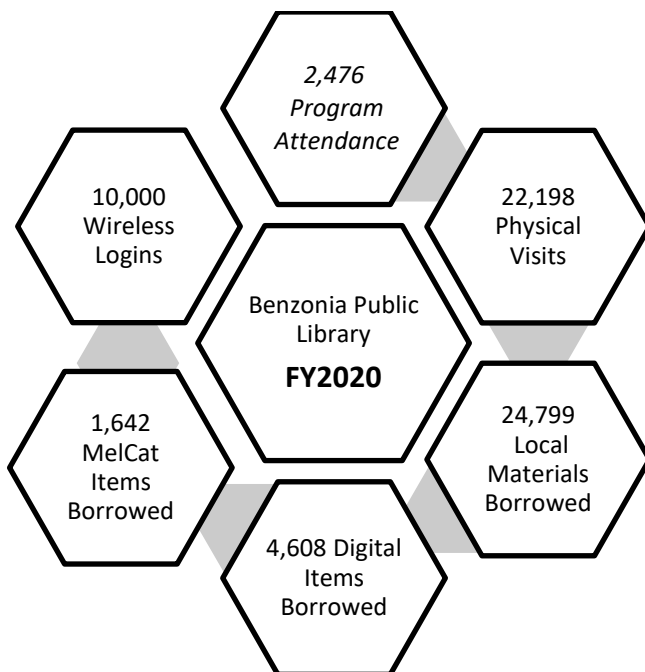
Benzonia Public Library FY 2020 Annual Report

July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020

Mission Statement:

Preserving yesterday, enriching today, inspiring tomorrow in our community

This annual report covers the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020 and includes a 16-week period the library was closed due to the pandemic. Please visit the BPL website to see what is happening now, especially the videos from the **Remembering Benzie** oral history project.



In-house Services

Books: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Large Print, Classics, Michigan Non-Fiction, Young Adult, and Children's.

Audio Books: Adult and Children's, Fiction and Non-Fiction.

DVDs: Movies, TV Series, Family films, Young Children's films, and Non-Fiction.

Six Computers and one Printer for public use.

Two newspaper subscriptions and several magazines.

Volunteer-provided computer help.

Staff-provided Readers' Advisory.

Meeting Room used by local tutors, a knitting group, Benzie Area Genealogy Society, people seeking quiet space to work, and others.

Digital and Online Services

OverDrive eBooks and audiobooks to download to personal devices (funded by Friends of Benzonia Public Library).



Transparent Language Online learning materials funded by Mid-Michigan Library League.

MeLCat Inter-Library Loan

This service provided through the Library of Michigan (with Federal funding) allows BPL Library Card holders to borrow books and audio-visual materials from hundreds of libraries throughout the state.



Apollo Catalog and Circulation System

Everything in the collection, including OverDrive eBooks, is shown in the library catalog. Patrons appreciate choosing text, email, or phone notifications when reserved books are ready. They also like the text or email reminders when items are due in 3 days. Their borrowed MeLCat items show in their patron record.

BPL has a Kids' Catalog, too!

Wi-Fi Services



The library provides 24/7 wireless service enabling residents and visitors to access the Internet with their own laptops or smart devices. Wi-Fi is available from the parking lot, porch, grounds, and inside the library.

Services to Children



In support of local businesses, the 2020 Summer Reading Program had prizes purchased from area merchants by Friends of Benzonia Public Library. The program was conducted entirely virtually due to the pandemic.

BPL followed the national theme of “Imagine Your Story.”

Summer Reading Program bags were distributed to Crystal Lake Elementary families that were participating in the food drop via the school busses. Those that were not participating in the food drop had an opportunity to pick up bags curbside at the library. All registration was done online, and families had the opportunity to print challenge sheets online without needing to come to the library.

Dr. Fizz and Boomer, the library’s hilarious puppets, discovered the magic of the library and had adventures in videos presented weekly over YouTube.

Babies 3 and under could participate in **Baby Bingo**.

The 4 libraries of Benzie county participate in the **Born to Read** program. **Prime-Time Family Reading Time** and **Kids Fun Day** programs that encouraged reading had to be cancelled in 2020.

Programs serving our community’s children included: Pre-School Story Time with Désirée Olson, Craft of the Month, LEGO programs, Co-op Preschool Scavenger Hunt, art classes, and, of course, the fantastic Holiday Party for families!

BPL also works in partnership with local elementary schools including facilitating the Crystal Lake Elem. Mentors program.

Programming

Craft programs: The Repurposeful Librarians held a wool felting class and made crafts sold at the Holiday Book and Craft Sale.



Presentations:

Guest speakers included Joseph Heywood (Woods Cop and Luke Bapcat Mysteries), Mike Fornes (101 Things that Happened on the Mackinac Bridge), Maureen Esther (Galileo and His Universe and Abraham Lincoln). Some presenters offered their services at no charge. Funding sources for the other presentations included the Library of Michigan Foundation and the Friends of Benzonia Public Library. Presentation space was provided by Mills Community House Association free of charge.

Other Programs:

Great Benzie Read brought together all 4 Benzie libraries for book discussions.

Local Funding Support

The Property Tax Millage from Benzonia Township is split equally to support Darcy Library of Beulah and Benzonia Public Library. Since the original 2011 millage passed, Benzonia Public Library extended its morning hours, increased programs for children and adults, expanded the young adult collection, and increased collaborative partnerships in the community. Benzonia Public Library's share of court Penal Fines in FY2020 was \$15,151 based on contracts with townships: 1/2 of Benzonia Township, 1/2 of Homestead Township, all of Joyfield Township, and a third of Lake Township.

Homestead, Joyfield, Lake, and Blaine Townships make additional financial contributions for which the library is grateful.

Donations

Individuals also make monetary donations to the Library. Charitable contributions to governmental units such as this Library are tax-deductible if made for a public purpose (section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code).

Friends of Benzonia Public Library

There is an active 501(c)(3) Friends organization which helps to support the library in many ways, including raising funds for special library needs. In FY 2020, the Friends provided over \$18,600 in funding for such diverse needs as Summer Reading supplies and rewards, computers for public use, books and DVDs, intern training lunches, newsletter printing, craft supplies, OverDrive, LED bulbs, and contracted tech support.

The Friends also fund and publish a fun and informative bi-monthly newsletter which is available in the library. Those choosing to join the mailing list receive the newsletters via email.

Website

The website showcases library information and activities. Check it out at www.benzonialibrary.org. The website is maintained by volunteers to keep you updated and entertained. Daily log-ons totaled 18,000 in FY2020.

Library Board

Current Library Board members are: Judy Caris, Helen Dewey, Diana Heller, Paula Lake, Roxane Miner, and Audrey Pittinos.



Benzonia Public Library

Normal operating hours (non-pandemic)
to serve the public:

Monday & Wednesday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

See our webpage for current pandemic hours.

Web page: www.benzonialibrary.org

Facebook page: Benzonia Public Library