



Change defined 2007

The 2007 calendar year was full of fresh changes for the Benzonia Public Library. Some changes have been quite noticeable, while others were less visible. Observant patrons asked some questions that will be answered in this synopsis of our year of change.

The Building –

The Mills Community House Association has begun renovations that benefit their main tenant – the Library. Old, drafty front doors that either slammed or did not shut were replaced with new doors with the identical design as the old ones. These doors will be stained. The only difference users will notice is in the placement of the door handle. Tall folks no longer need to stoop to grip the handle. The staff appreciates the tighter fit that is helping to keep the room temperatures more pleasant.

The outside of the building was spruced up also. Exterior surfaces were improved with paint and pointing of mortar. A new railing was installed on the porch, columns were painted and a handrail added to the front stairs.

Library patrons have heard thunderous noises coming from above. The renovation crew has been readying the

upper level of the Mills Community House for use. This exciting project included adding limited heating and electricity, patching a few spots in the floor and making sure that emergency exits are in working order.

The Library thanks the Mills Community House Association for its dedication to maintaining this historic building while keeping the Library’s rent stable.

The Programs & Services –

- MelCat- INTERLIBRARY LOAN-**One year ago, the Benzonia Public Library joined MelCat. MelCat is a statewide library catalog managed by the Michigan Library Consortium. The catalog includes 7.8 million bibliographic records from 237 public and academic libraries throughout Michigan. While our staff is always willing to assist, users can search for books, movies, and music from any internet connection. Once a desired item is found, it can be borrowed and delivered to the user's home library. There is no charge for this service. The Benzonia Public Library has experienced an exciting increase in interlibrary loans during 2007. Supplemental large print titles, audio books, series titles and research materials have been arriving at the library twice a week. Our patrons love being able to find what they are looking for whenever they have time to browse.

The success of this system has led many other Michigan libraries to sign up and join MeLCat. There are 120 libraries scheduled to join MeLCat in 2008. Because of the technology and training involved, the Michigan Library Consortium adds only 40 libraries at a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Winter 2008 Vol. 3 Issue 1	
Meet Barbara McBride.....	2
Mills House Update	2
Winter Fun/Altered Books.....	3
Mills House Activities	4
Join the Friends!	4

<p>Library Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11am - 5 pm Tuesday, Thursday 11am-7pm Saturday 11am-3pm</p>

Meet Barbara McBride

The Benzonía Public Library has appointed Barbara McBride as the new part-time Youth Services Librarian.

Barbara has a master's degree in Social Service Administration and a background in child and family social work. Her previous experience includes work in early childhood development; learning differences; alternative education; and helping families find ways to be together beyond television and chores.

Barbara previously served on the board of the Susan Caust Farrell Memorial Library in Belfast, Maine. As a volunteer, Barbara led the fall After School Drama Group collaboration for the Benzonía Public Library and the Darcy Library of Beulah. She continues to volunteer in order to offer a variety of youth programming beyond the scope of the current budget.

Barbara enjoys finding ways for families and youth of all abilities and interests to connect with all that libraries have to offer, and has developed a number of new youth programs.

Please refer to the calendar insert for dates and times of specific programs. Be sure to watch the bulletin board in the Children's Room for new events and excitement.



Barbara McBride settles comfortably in the Children's Room

ACT I at the Mills Community House

ACT I, Scene 1 takes place in the "new" theatre/auditorium at the Mills: The Benzie County Players are now auditioning and scheduling rehearsals for a production opening in early April. Meanwhile, late winter and early spring events will include small chamber groups, musical ensembles and eventually bands and orchestras. More information about these events will be published in local newspapers and broadcast in radio announcements. Also, watch for flyers posted at the Library. You need not miss a thing! In addition to these events already in progress, The Mills Community House Association is receiving inquiries from other groups interested in using this exceptional space.

Benzonia was founded 150 years ago, the first real settlement in Benzie County. Our new "interim" theatre will host activities to commemorate that event. Call the Mills, 882-0591, if you wish to get

involved with the celebration of our heritage and future.

A bit about recent work on the Mills: Regular patrons at the Library this summer sometimes walked around contractors who were working on the exterior of our almost 99 year old building: pointing, painting, installing new railings, and more. All this activity is intended to maintain and greatly enhanced our "National Register of Historic Places" building.

This fall Library patrons heard what might have been ominous noises from over head! The upper level, originally the girls' dormitory, then auditorium/gymnasium, and later storage space, has been brought up to code for use during ACT I of the renovations planned for the Mills.

Recent renovations were wonderously expedited by Crystal Mountain's very generous loan to the Mills of their Project Manager to manage both phases of the work. We have said and continue to say a very big THANK YOU Crystal Mountain!

-Mills Community House Association

Winter Fun!

Winter is a wonderful time to visit the Children's Room and the Young Adult Corner at the library. *Wander Through a Winter Wonderland*, a winter reading program for school age youth began January 14th and continues through March 14th. Stop in the library to pick up the guidelines. Children in the after school drama group will perform a children's adaptation of the Scottish tale *Tam Lin* on Friday, February 29th. Participants in the group delve into historical fiction and nonfiction resources to deepen their experience in this collaborative effort with the Darcy Library of Beulah.

In response to patron requests, a Girls' Book Club and a Teen Poetry Group will begin this winter (See calendar insert). The groups will choose their own names and monthly themes. Several families asked for Saturday programming. Family Saturdays began January 19th and is offered the third Saturday of each month through spring. Check the bulletin board in the Children's Room for monthly themes. Teens should continue to give their input via e-mail to benzonia-library@att.net or the pinwheel box in the Young Adult corner of the Fiction Room.

For the youngest patrons, *Baby Bears Storytime* meets Wednesdays at 11am in the Children's Room. Babies and young children with their parents or caregivers share a simple story, usually with puppets, finger plays and other early literacy fun. *Baby Bears* travels monthly to a local daycare too. Sharing the joys of literacy very early in life develops a

lifelong passion for discovery, and it's lots of fun!

The video collection has grown dramatically in recent months thanks to generous donors. For audio fans, the master storyteller Odds Bodkin version of *The Odyssey* gets rave reviews from reluctant readers. Two new periodicals will be available soon: the popular *Muse* magazine for 9 -14 year olds and *Baby Bug* for 0-3 year olds. Remember new Young Adult titles are located with new Adult materials and new Juvenile titles are on the display in the Children's Room. As always, if we don't have what you're looking for, we can request it through the MelCat interlibrary loan. It's free and fast.



Altered Books

Library Assistant, Kathy Johnson has put together instructions for converting Reader's Digest Condensed Books into works of art. The instructions, along with the books themselves, are available at no cost. Stop in the library to learn a new craft. If you just want the books to decorate your bookshelves feel free to pick out a few!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

time, three times per year. Benzonia Public Library is pleased to be able to offer this service now. Happy Anniversary!

- **Faster DSL** - Internet connections can be tricky. This year, the Benzonia Public Library switched to the faster AT&T Business Advantage DSL. In addition, we purchased a new wireless router that works better with newer laptops. Our “downtime” has been minimal. The speeds are great even during our busiest summer months. The wireless is available 24/7 and we frequently see users on the porch or in their vehicles even though the library is closed.
- **New computers** – The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has once again assisted libraries in maintaining up-to-date computers for public use. During 2007, we added one desktop and one laptop computer. All of the library's computers now use the same operating system and remain operational with software designed to maintain proper settings.
- **Tuesday Book Chat** – Our book group began meeting in January, 2007. The group continues to grow.
- **Puzzle Sale** – In October, The Friends of Benzonia Public Library held its first jigsaw puzzle sale. About 700 new and used puzzles were donated. The Friends made \$369.75 for the library and the community loved the idea of recycling family fun.

New Staff–

Last spring, Maria Wolowiec, our Children’s Librarian, decided that she needed to spend more time with her family. Once Maria resigned, Kathy Johnson, formerly a substitute Library Assistant,

The Mills Community House Children's Hour

The last Saturday of each month, The Mills Community House Children's Program Committee hosts a wonderful hour for children between 4 and 12 years old. From 10 am to 11 am the boys and girls meet in the lower level Meeting Space of the Mills for reading, music, art, and games. All are welcome.

Teens who would like to assist with the younger group are encouraged to drop in and see what is happening or contact Kay Bos at 325-5120 to learn more.

began working regularly scheduled hours. In addition, the library hired high school students as library pages during the very busy summer months. Barbara McBride has now joined the staff as Youth Services Librarian. Everyone is very excited about Barbara’s plans. Kathy, Barbara and I all look forward to the busy months ahead!

Cooperation–

The Benzie County libraries continue to work together to provide all of our residents with great programming. Last year, we completed our third combined Summer Reading Program, kicking off with a performance by Gordon the Magician. The libraries are giving newborns in the county the “I am a Bunny” Board Book. Benzonia Public Library and Darcy Library of Beulah formed an after school drama group that began to meet last fall. This January, we are starting our first combined Winter Reading Program.

2007 was a great year! Although we did experience a few glitches (like our server crashing), we are a dynamic library, always ready to find new ways to meet the needs of the community. --Marjorie Porter, Director

Support Your Library by Joining the Friends.

Please make checks payable to

Friends of Benzonia Public Library

P.O. Box 445

Benzonia, Michigan 49616

2008 Membership Dues

Individual	\$5.00	_____	Patron	\$25.00	_____	Business/Professional	\$35.00	_____
Family	\$10.00	_____	Contributing	\$50.00	_____			
				or more				

NAME _____ e-mail _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ I WOULD LIKE TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER. PLEASE CALL ME. _____

All Membership Dues and Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.