



BENZONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

“News from the Top of the Hill”

Volume 9 Issue 1, WINTER 2014

Benzonia Library Welcomes New Director

Maggie Bacon, Library Director, joins the staff of Benzonia Public Library on Feb 3, 2014. (See the biographical sketch page 2.)

Staff members **Kathy Johnson** (Assistant Librarian), **Michelle Leines**, and **Sandra Straubel** ably kept the Library open and running well following the resignation of previous Director Sara Petrovich-Boven in mid-September.

Advertising for the vacant Youth Services Librarian position will begin soon.

Mills Community House Construction

The Library's landlord, Mills Community House, has started some Building and Grounds improvements and the library is, of course, affected and excited. The contractor has begun constructing a tower on the back of the building (NE corner) which will contain an enclosed stairway. This will provide an entrance to the third floor and a safer fire escape exit for all floors.

This spring the parking area will be enlarged, with a new entrance off Walker Street behind the building. There will still be an entrance off US-31. The circle drive in front of the building will be eliminated, and the property will be landscaped.

Library Interior Renovation Planned

Later this winter The Mills Community House will be repairing the badly crumbling walls in the Fiction and Non Fiction Rooms. At that time the Library will be replacing shelving in those rooms. Your Library Board of Trustees has been anticipating the Mills House renovations for several years and has been saving monetary gifts from patrons to pay for improved shelving and furnishings.

The Board is consulting with Library Design Associates, Inc, to find the best use of our space and our resources, and there may be some changes made in the organization of the Library. We await their recommendations.

Further donations to this project, monetary or physical, will be gratefully accepted.

Great Michigan Read

Annie's Ghosts by Steve Luxenberg was named the Great Michigan Read by the Michigan Humanities Council. The Library has extra copies and plans a book discussion Mar 20 at 11 a.m. The book is “part memoir, part detective story, and part history.” Luxenberg will be a participant in the Traverse City National Writers series in April.

Youth Services News

Upcoming program: “**Smart Money Week for Kids**” for ages 4-10 will be presented Saturday April 12 at 11 a.m. with the cooperation of Frankfort Community Credit Union. Learning to use money sensibly - to save and plan ahead - is the theme of the program. Donated copies of **The Berenstain Bears’ Trouble with Money** will be given to families participating.



Maggie Bacon - brief biography

Maggie Bacon has worked as a Library Director and an Executive Director of a non-profit association. She has a particular passion for educational technology and its uses in both libraries and educational institutions. Her love of reading and libraries was instilled at an early age when her mother began working in a library not much larger than that of the Benzonia Public Library. She has a bachelor’s degree from Oakland University and a MLS from Wayne State University.

Benzonia Public Library Patrons Support Mrs. Mullen’s Closet

This year the Benzonia Public Library has served as a collection point for Mrs. Mullen’s Closet. The project provides needed clothing and accessories for elementary age school children who would otherwise be without warm coats, snow pants, hats, gloves, etc. The donations are then distributed by the Benzie Central and Frankfort Elberta Area Schools.

Benzonia Library patrons were very generous! You donated 4 warm jackets, 4 pair of water resistant snow pants, 9 pairs of gloves, 8 pairs of mittens, 2 warm hats, and a respectable number of socks, underwear, scarves etc.

The Library Board and staff want to thank you for your generosity. If we don’t help, who will?

Benzonia Public Library Board of Trustees

Roxane Miner, President
Paula Lake, Vice President
Helen Dewey, Secretary
Mary Peters, Treasurer
Genny Bowman, Trustee
Paul Sadows, Trustee

Friends of Benzonia Public Library

Ruth Catton, President
(vacant), Vice President
Michelle Leines, Secretary
Judi Sadows, Treasurer

PLEASE JOIN!

Benzonia Public Library
891 Michigan Avenue (US-31)
P.O. Box 445, Benzonia, MI 49616
Phone 231-882.4111

LIBRARY HOURS:
Monday & Wednesday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Website: www.benzonia.lib.mi.us