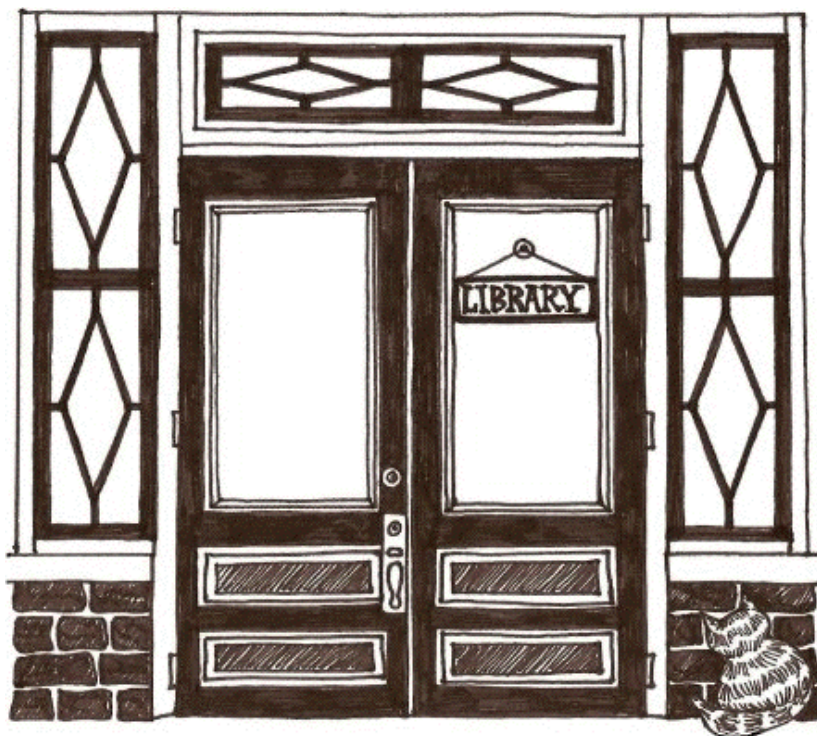


Benzonia Public  
Library  
FY 2019  
Annual Report



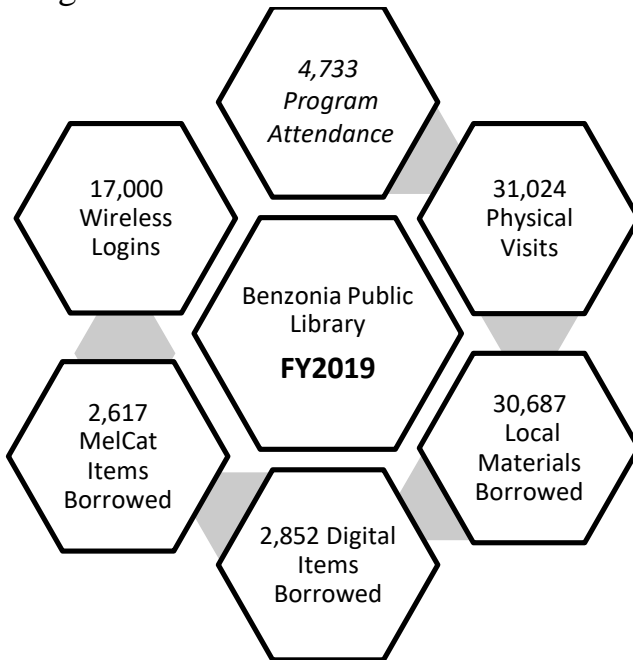
# Benzonia Public Library FY 2019 Annual Report

July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019

## **Mission Statement:**

**Preserving yesterday, enriching today, inspiring tomorrow in our community**

This annual report covers the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019, and thus gives a static picture of the Library. Please visit the Benzonia Public Library to see what is happening now.



**As usual, Benzonia Public Library had a busy year serving our community.**

## **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, the 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).



**RBdigital** audio books to download to personal devices and **Transparent Language** Online learning materials.



## **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.

## Services to Children



The 2019 Summer Reading Program had prizes donated by local businesses and Friends of Benzonia Public Library.

This year BPL followed the national theme of A Universe of Stories. Guest presenters and the always-hilarious puppet lab excited children's interest at 5 Summer Reading Programs with space and astronomy themes.

For Reading Awareness Month, Benzonia Public Library teamed up with Betsie Valley District Library and Benzie Central athletes for a **Kids Fund Day** program that encouraged reading. Thank you to Mills Community House for donating space for the big event.

Programs serving our community's children included: Pre-School Story Time with Désirée Olson, Marvelous Art with Mrs. McLaren, Craft of the Month, Money Smart Kids (with Frankfort Community Credit Union), LEGO programs, Costume Creation Lab (with U of Michigan graduate students), 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**

### **Prime-Time Family Reading Time grant**

With grants from the Michigan Humanities Council and the Community Chest of Benzie County, BPL held a series of sessions for at-risk elementary age children. Each week a storyteller (Désirée Olson) read up to three books, followed by facilitated discussion with a humanities scholar (Jimmy McLaren) who engaged participants with questions that promote critical thinking skills. At the end of each session, families kept the books that were read to create home libraries.



**Craft programs:** The Repurposeful Librarians held a felted hearts class.

Volunteer Anna led classes in container gardening, block printing, and dessert demos.

**Presentations:**

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

Guest speakers included Suzanne Dalton (A Year Lost, A Life Gained), Heather Shumaker (Saving Arcadia), Jeff Smith (Becoming Amish), Mike Fornes (Edmund Fitzgerald), Ron Rademacher (Michigan Rediscovered), Maureen Esther (Titanic Remembered), and Michael Hodges (Building the Modern World). Some presenters offered their services at no charge. Funding sources for the other presentation included the Library of Michigan Foundation and the Friends of Benzonia Public Library.

**Other Programs:** Board Game Night, Smart Phone Photos, Medical Wishes workshop (with Munson), and Break the Chain (with Zonta).

## **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 FY2018 was \$16,438 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)(I) 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 2018, the Friends provided over \$17,000 in funding for such diverse needs as Summer Reading supplies and rewards, Imagination Station STEM products, books and DVDs, staff training, newsletter printing, craft supplies, OverDrive, public printer, 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](http://www.benzonialibrary.org). The website is maintained by volunteers to keep you updated and entertained. Daily log-ons totaled 30,536 in FY2018.

## **Library Board**

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



Benzonia Public Library

is open

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.**

Facebook page: Benzonia Public Library

Web page: [www.benzonialibrary.org](http://www.benzonialibrary.org)