



Algansee

The Adult program and YA program were both filled with pumpkin crafts. All had a good time.

We handed out candy for Halloween and of course who doesn't like candy!

On October 14th all Branches of Branch District Library were closed for staff Training, lots of different subjects, very interesting.

I am still ordering new books and videos for Adults, Young Adults and children.

Our children's table is full of books to read and lots of Fall, Thanksgiving and Christmas pictures to color and display!

Adults that could not get here for Saturday crafts, come in when they can and crafts are ready to go. All materials are provided.

Respectfully Submitted

Algansee Manager

Janice Clark

Bronson

October programs were a big hit with everyone. Kids who didn't attend the Frankentoy program were very jealous and wanted their own Frankentoy so that might have to be a repeat program. Our Fall Celebration Party was a blast with pumpkin bowling, hanging doughnuts, pin the tail on the black cat and a ghoulie finger puppet to take home.

We had a Scooby Doo style challenge for everyone, Find The Disney Villains. Find a villain and bring it to the desk for a piece of candy. One villain per day and over 150 kids and teens participated during October. I think we were tired of it long before they were!

I attended Ryan Elementary School for their Leadership Night. I was happy to see so many kids already having library cards. Seems like our work at Anderson, when they are starting kindergarten, is starting to pay off. We had three teachers contact us and ask for help finding books for their students to use in their classrooms. Hoping we get many more of those requests.

Bronson's Trunk or Treat was held in the parking lot behind the library and this was the first year we had trick or treaters come in. I think some were coming in to warm up but no matter we got to count them.

The Friends had a successful Make A Difference Day project. Modern Woodmen of America matched the money raised that day and they recognized our Friend, Fran Fletcher, with a Hometown Hero award. I don't know the total raised yet but the Friends should announce it after

their November meeting. They still have a few nuts for sale. Most of the chocolates went quickly this year but there are still lots of good nuts to pick from.

Hope everyone enjoyed the week of autumn we had and are ready for winter. Yipee.

Lynnell Eash
Bronson Branch Manager

Coldwater

A highlight of our month here at Coldwater was the long-awaited re-stripping of our patron parking lot. In addition to refreshing the lines, we were able to add a new van-accessible parking space. We are very pleased with the work, which was done by local company LT Paving.

Kids and teens at the Coldwater Branch were trick-or-treated to several seasonally-appropriate crafts and activities over the last few weeks. Teens created glow-in-the-dark pumpkins for Halloween as well as *ofrendas*, a collection of objects intended to honor a deceased loved one during the Mexican celebration of *Día de los Muertos*. Children meanwhile created tissue paper Halloween banners, decorated pumpkins, painted spooky watercolor scenes on coffee filters, and made glowing alien jars. Despite the weather on October 31st, we saw several dozen handed out candy to trick-or-treaters at our main desk, Teen Space, Kids' Place, and the Holbrook Heritage Room.

Kids' Place also held a month-long October reading challenge, encouraging children to fill in Bingo cards by reading a variety of books. We saw 68 participants, 36 of whom completed the challenge. Completing a Bingo gave participants an entry into a drawing for an Amazon card, and our top readers in each age group also won a prize.

Patrons of all ages had a blast at Family Fright Night, an after-hours event with two parts. The late afternoon had a spooky-fun atmosphere and kid-friendly activities like pumpkin bowling, a mummy-wrapping game, a googly-eye sensory bottle, and masks to color. In the evening, we transformed the library to a scary venue for patrons aged 13 and up. We hosted Omni Paranormal Services, local ghost-hunting enthusiasts, and Teen Services Coordinator Lindsay Villa created a very atmospheric zombie maze in our basement. The final door count for the evening was 440 people.

Continuing our celebration of the fall season, staff member Cheryl Graham-Machida led a program and taught us all about the Japanese festival of the harvest moon, *Jugoya*. Cheryl's Japanese cultural programming has proved popular among a subset of our patrons, and we plan to have a similar program in January about Japanese New Year traditions.

We also had many programs that were not connected to the season or its holidays. Public Services Clerk Cheryl Lawrence brought back her PokeRole Pokemon-themed tabletop roleplaying game for adults this October. For teens, we had a Bad Art Night competition, encouraging them to express their creativity in the most visually unappealing way they could. Our worst artists were awarded with candy. Tweens, meanwhile, participated in a Lego Mad Lib

Challenge, and the story our tweens built is on display outside Coldwater Kids' Place. Our weekly children's events are still in full swing, and we've seen growth in our Stories and Beyond program for ages 3 to 4 with an average of 11 children this October.

Later this November, we're having our first Quiet Cocoa Club, an adult reading group inspired by "socialization for introverts" programs being held by other libraries. We're also having a snowball wreath craft. It's been some time since we had an adult craft class here at the Coldwater Branch, so there's been a lot of excitement from our craft-loving regulars. Kids' Place patrons will be building bird feeders with Gene Wasserman of the Michigan Bluebird Society, decorating Thanksgiving table runners, and racing in the next Lego Challenge. In our Teen Space, November will see the revival of the ever-popular Anime Club as well as our first ever Chocolate Olympics competition.

Quincy

Each Saturday in October we offered "Saturday's, Sweaters & Sweets" in recognition of the new Mr. Rogers movie coming out. Patrons wearing a cozy sweater were given a small 4-piece box of candy.

Local author Roxanne Kaufman had 35 in attendance on a sunny Saturday morning, Oct. 19. She brought her donkey Christy, which is the star of her children's book.

Branch Managers recently met to discuss 2020 Summer Reading Program planning.

The Friends book sale and NIKA bake sale had decent attendance for a rainy weekend.



Weather cancellation -- Author Kim Osterholzer was scheduled to speak on her book *A Midwife in Amish Country* on Nov. 11, but thankfully contacted me when she arrived in Battle Creek after driving from Lansing and I told her to stay put. Author and Mayor of Southfield Kenson Siver is scheduled to present on his book *An Uncommon Criminal* on Nov. 14.

Submitted by Lisa Wood



Sherwood

Greetings from the frozen lands of Sherwood!

The Sherwood Branch held many successful programs throughout this past month. Of course, our favorite being Halloween! Maria and I stayed open an extra two hours on Halloween. We dressed in our costumes, (gave one last shout out to Summer Reading 2019 as we dressed in our Star Trek/ Star Wars duds) and greeted and treated the community of Trick or Treaters. It was a blast! We had roughly 150-200 people of all ages come through the door within those two hours! Not only did we pass out multiple pounds of candy, Dr. Michael Wetters DDS, of Athens donated 150 tubes of toothpaste to pass out, as well! (Dentists are awesome) "Thank you Dr. Wetters!!"



Also, back in the month of October we had our annual staff training day. One of the requirements for the Branch managers was to do a presentation about our Branch; share pictures, give a description and tell our fellow coworkers why we love and think our Branches are awesome. So I did! Obviously we know why we love our library - but the week before training we laid out random pieces of paper asking our patrons to write down some reasons why they too, love their library. The responses we got were overwhelming! Patrons from all age groups wrote something and I felt that some of them were definitely worth sharing. There were way too many comments to attach each one individually so I chose just a couple to share. *[They are in the patron comments report. -John]*

We are definitely making a positive difference in our communities, one day at a time!

Finally, the Sherwood Garden Club was presented with the Charger Shield this year. It's on display here at the library until the first home varsity basketball game in Union City. It's a well deserved honor. Our ladies work hard to make things beautiful in our community.

Check out our calendar of events for upcoming crafts and programs! Everyone is welcome, as always, to attend!

Until next month,

Sincerely

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



Union Twp.

It has been a busy (and learning!) time here at Union Township Library! October was full of autumnal programs, changing the thermostat, and getting ready for colder weather.

We had seven programs with four of them serving the teen population, two story times, and the monthly Senior Meal Voucher distribution. 39 teens participated in making *Papel Picado*, a jar pumpkin, a glow-in-the-dark pumpkin, and monster pencils. The story times were attended by 22 children who read about harvest one day and decorated cookies the other. Almost 80 senior citizens received meal vouchers from Community Action.

Over 1980 people appreciated the library during the month of October during the 188 hours we were open. The free fax is a popular service as well as the MelCat interlibrary loan program.

We are anticipating the start of the Creating STEAM programs in November where all ages will be invited to experience science, technology, engineering, art, and math with projects and activities. We are hoping to encourage the use of the STEM kits available at the library.

Thank you for supporting our library by reading my report!

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Baratta

