



Algansee

We came to the Library June 9th to wipe down and clean everything before we opened for patrons. John installed plexiglass in front of the front desk area, provided us with masks, and some available for patrons.

On June 16th we started curbside pick-up. Patrons would call or order materials online. We would get materials ready, call patrons, set up a time then put on our mask, put materials in a bag and take them out to the vehicle

June 30th we opened the Library with strict conditions to keep patrons and us safe from viruses

All programs are going virtual for now.

I am glad to be back to get our Library going strong again. Any questions, please let us know.

Janice Clark,
Algansee Branch Manager

Bronson

We're back!

Stage 3 – Staff worked to get the library ready for curbside delivery and reopening by marking the floors for social distancing, removing chairs, tables and toys. During that week we were able to read through the new Employment Handbook and the Reopening Plan & Policy. It was good to see co-workers again and catch up on what's been happening since we closed. Our week ended a little earlier than other branches when Bronson was hit by a small tornado on Wednesday. Steve and I were in the building and watched that wind come across the parking lot and heard the roar up in the sky. Luckily right around the library nothing was damaged but every block around us had damage and so many trees down. We had power for a few hours but did lose power as did most of the town. The library was without electricity from Wednesday – Saturday. I didn't sit idly by during the closed days, my husband and I grabbed chainsaws and went to help patrons, neighbors, friends, anyone we could help, clean up their yards and clear the way for Consumers. Saw many people I knew but also met so many people I've never seen before in my years here at Bronson. Made me realize we have a lot of people who have never set foot inside our building. Future challenge.

Stage 4 – Curbside went smoothly and pretty much according to plan. It was good to see our patrons again but difficult to not stand and visit with them. We just had to tell them, soon we will be able to visit again.

During both of these stages library staff were able to view several webinars archived at the Library of Michigan.

Webinars attended: Maximizing & Measuring Virtual Programs, Stepping Gently Outside Your Comfort Zone, DIY Puppets & Props to Support Your Story, Childhood Trauma in a Time of Crisis, Let It Go: Weeding Your Library Collection

Jessica Hantz recorded a craft project and a story for a BDL Virtual Story time. She has several others she is working on for future programs.

We were able to do our spring weeding project and straighten and tidy the shelves.

Stage 5 – Our first patron in the door was a 17 year old girl and we greeted her with clapping and cheering. She was thrilled to be able to come in and get her books again. We have been steady with business but of course much less than last year.

I attended the Bronson Township Meeting and was able to give them an update on what was happening in the library. I've been attending the weekly manager's Zoom meetings and we all attended the Staff Zoom meeting.

We are working on letting everyone know about our Summer Reading Program and have handed out BINGO sheets to 3 out of the 4 age groups. (Ages 0-2 no one so far).

New book and dvd orders have been placed and we continue to create future orders.

Let's see what July brings! (July, that is not a challenge!)

Coldwater

The Coldwater Branch has seen a lot of activity this month. We're adjusting to the cleaning procedures and protective equipment that have become commonplace in almost every public place. In addition, we did some rearranging the last couple of weeks, adding shelves to the young adult and audiobook collections. It has been quite a project so far, and I've had a lot of help from other staff members, especially Lindsay Villa and Angie Clark, who did a lot of moving and trips back and forth from the storage unit, as well as Ben Lyon, who did the bulk of the work assembling the shelves and moving books around.

In other collection news, we are excited to be adding several new Binge Boxes to our collection this summer. Binge Boxes are sets containing four to six movies sharing a theme (like a common actor or genre). Binge Boxes have been quite popular and are available to be sent via interbranch delivery to patrons of all our branches.

Our staff has also been busy producing virtual programming, including Cheryl Lawrence's Crochet-a-Long series and Tuesday Trivia, which I am currently hosting weekly. Kids' Place staff especially have hosted many amazing virtual programs and have even more on the way. Children's Services Coordinator Linda Dull reports that virtual programming is much more time consuming than she expected – there are so many logistics involved in planning this kind of programming that aren't immediately obvious when you watch the finished video!

Linda Dull and Angie Richards have been hard at work creating several Tween Clubs for the 10- to 12-year-old crowd. In addition, they've put together take-home kits containing the materials needed to duplicate the crafts from their programs. They are currently working on the next Tween

Club plus several Once Upon a Time Story times for youngsters. The first of these story times was filmed with help from Bronson Branch Manager Lynnell Eash, and we're all looking forward to seeing it.

Cheryl Graham-Machida and Linda Dull have also filmed the latest edition of Traveling Tales, sponsored by Coldwater Kiwanis. This program is about the Japanese festival *Tanabata*, which celebrates the legend of *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi*, a tale that goes well with the 2020 Summer Reading Program theme Imagine Your Story. The program aired on July 11th and includes a limited number of take-home kits for patrons following along at home. The kits were made possible by the support of the Kiwanis.

Traveling Tales and many of our other virtual programs would not be possible without the filming and editing skills of our Director, John Rucker, and IT wiz Curtis Odom. Curtis has gone above and beyond filming programs both at the library and offsite while still keeping our public computers up and printing. We really couldn't do it without him!

Quincy

The two week curbside only service at Quincy went smoothly with three parking spots available to the public and there seemed to be no complaints. The patrons were happy to begin getting books. Since opening June 29, we have seen much fewer patrons than before the shutdown, but faxes and copies are a large part of patron visits. Very few families/children are visiting at this point.

I submitted three story times to the Marketing Department for their use.

Without the public in the building for much of June, I was able to view

A 9- hour SLJ Day of Dialog virtual event by School Library Journal

WebJunction offered a "Getting Started with Virtual Story times" webinar

NNLM (National Network of Libraries of Medicine) offered the class "Providing Library Senior Services in a COVID-19 World"

The Small, Rural and Independent Library conference that only takes place every two years was offered as a 3-hour virtual event

A Library of Michigan Webinar offered panel discussion on "Friends of the Library and the Future of Book Sales"

The ALA conference was also offered virtually over a three day period

Renee made great strides during the two curbside only weeks, by weeding, shelf reading and organizing the children's room.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood:

Things have been incredibly quiet over here. We miss people! In saying that, because we have been slow, we've gotten a lot of things accomplished that we otherwise would have been struggling to get done. The floor has been painted, the carpets have been shampooed, and I even took the carpet protectors home and scrubbed them down with bleach cleaner. Currently, we're reorganizing some things. The adult movies are getting a new home with the other adult materials, and the juvenile movies have made their way across the room to be with the rest of our juvenile materials. We have a few more shelves of movies to transfer over, but after that, our projects will be done ... for a minute! We still need to paint the restroom floors and the sink area, but since the biggest part of the job is finished, I'm not dreading the rest, too much. (Ok, I am dreading it but mostly I'm looking forward to getting it done)!

Weeding! We've also weeded our shelves to make room for all the latest and greatest novels to be added to our collections. If only there was a way to grow our buildings to house our growing collections ... A new building is on my Christmas list in case any of you were wondering what to get us this year :)

We have been keeping a table of "free books" outside, day and night. We just want to make sure we're doing everything we can to help our community get through this rough patch. I mean, who doesn't like free books?!

Webinars: I've got webinars scheduled for the next three weeks, and I keep finding new ones to attend, all the time.

In closing, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support during this crisis. Speaking not only for myself, but I know of many "thank-you's" to go around for the fact that none of us had to jump through hoops to collect a paycheck and/or eat ramen noodles for three months. We have an amazing BDL family - I'm so grateful to be part of it!

Until next month,

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Library

Union Twp.

June came in like a lamb and kind of left like a lion! It has been a very interesting month...

On June 4, Mulder's Moving and Storage came to the Union Township Branch to install new shelves within the audio/visual area as well as a new place for the magazines. Two shelves per section were added providing nine shelves (including the base) for the audio books and the DVDs. The reason for the increased number of shelves was a request from a patron to move the audio books higher for easier viewing. I found that with the added shelves, the DVD collection

could be moved over one section allowing for the A/V to be shelved on the left. The response to the changes in the A/V section have been positive.



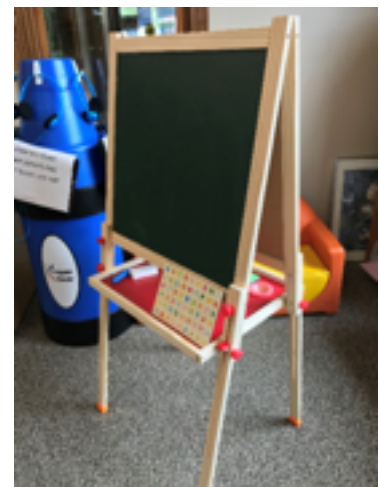
Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the shelves intended for the new magazine area. The shelves are too wide for the unit so they are being moved across the aisle. The new area will be more open with additional space for the periodicals and newspapers. We were able to use the shelves anyways so am looking forward to setting that area up.

The week of June 8th was spent cleaning the facility and planning ahead for curbside service. Judy and I shelved quarantine books, prepped the work space for curbside and planned for the two weeks of being open without the public.

The next two weeks were busy with providing the curbside service and beginning a branch-wide weeding/ inventory of the collections. It was decided to weed out materials that hadn't been checked out since 2016. It has been a large undertaking with a plan to have a large book sale with the remainder of items being offered to the new Baker & Taylor recycling program where we would receive credit for some of the materials. Currently, the Adult, Young Adult and Children's fiction collections are done as well as the Beginning Readers. We will continue to work through the other collections in the coming weeks. The alarm system was checked and approved on June 16.

I continued to attend numerous webinars including the MiYouth series through the Library of Michigan, Branch Manager meetings with BDL administration, and additional learning experiences. Michigan Library Association held "Big Challenges Can Lead to Big Opportunities" where the discussion revolved around libraries reinventing themselves and becoming more important during these difficult times. Other topics covered in webinars were virtual story time, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's newest offerings, stars with the Air Zoo presenting, and the MI Library Quest program which is a state-wide initiative for teens this summer. I did my part by providing a video about the Seed Library for virtual content on BDL's Facebook page.

Some of the items purchased with the LSTA/Library of Michigan grant for “Music with Munchkins”!



Thanks for reading my report and supporting our work!

Julia Baratta

Branch Manager, Union Township Branch