



Algansee

Since MeLCat opened we have had a lot of requests for our books and our patrons have ordered from MeLCat which is great.

Our summer reading program was a Bingo Card that patrons picked up at Branch District Libraries or on line. We had 4 Adults sign up, 5 Young Adults, 4 children. The names have been picked and the Adult prize was a \$50 gift card to Meijer, and the 2nd prize was a big bag of new books. The YA first prize was a 32" TV and the 2nd prize was \$50 card for Amazon. The children received a lot of nice prizes. Although we could not have a Summer Reading end party, everybody enjoyed gifts.

We are still cleaning every hour and all wearing masks. If a patron does not have a mask we provide them. The books and videos that are returned have to be put in the back room for 7 days before we put them away or sent back to other Libraries.

If the weather is nice we plan on having our first Friends meeting outside since the reopening of the Libraries, not allowed to have more than 3 people in Algansee library at one time so outside we go!

Any questions or suggestions please let us know.

Thank You,

Janice Clark,
Algansee Branch Manager

Bronson

Parking lot story time finished up for the summer but I hope to do a few more weeks weather permitting. It was great to see the kids and their caregivers again.

We have been working on the Grab-and-Go kit bags and have them planned through December. The first week we handed out 39 kits to children, teens and adults. I think the interest will continue to grow as word gets out about the kits.

We are also working on virtual programming. Steve will be reading classic stories, Jessie will be doing a story and an adult craft and I'll be doing a couple puppet programs.

I attended the Midwest Tape Training virtual meeting to learn more about their website.

I attended the Bronson Township meeting and gave a report of the current library situation during Covid-19. The Township made temporary repairs to the entrance sidewalks. The sidewalks had sunk down and made a nasty trip hazard. The man they hired turned around and volunteered his time and that was very much appreciated.

Our Bronson Friends group was in danger of being board-less but at the September a number of new faces showed up and by the end of the meeting they had a full board in place again. So grateful to

them for being interested and wanting to help. Thankful too for those who served on the board the past couple of years. I think our Friends group will continue to do great things. The best news is the Nuts will be sold again this year!

First of September we had an impromptu tornado drill! It was a day when storms were all around us and then in the afternoon suddenly the tornado siren went off. I told Jessie to grab the key and head down to the basement. I went to the Media Center and we had one teenager in there and I told him to head to the basement (amazingly he never argued or questioned me, he went!) I locked the inside library doors and went down to the basement also. I had my phone and shortly after we got down there someone posted on Facebook that they were working at the fire station and had pushed the wrong button. We could all laugh then and head back upstairs. I guess it's good to have a practice drill once in a while and glad it wasn't the real thing.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

Here at the Coldwater Branch, we've seen a dramatic (relatively speaking) increase in foot traffic over the last few weeks. A lot of our patrons have come in needing computers, internet access, and printing services. We've also seen many regulars return now that MeLCat is back up and running.

Like the other branches, Coldwater is concentrating on creating virtual programming and take-home program kits. Recently, we featured Blackout Poetry kits for adults. This craft is an easy way to exercise your creativity and make good use of old and damaged books, magazines, and newspapers. Next month, we'll be giving out all-in-one crochet kits, complete with crochet hooks, that will teach patrons how to make their own reusable produce shopping bag. These kits were put together by crochet queen and public services clerk Cheryl Lawrence. In addition, we have several upcoming virtual craft programs left to us by the recently retired Loretta Sherfield.

Children's Services Coordinator Linda Dull has worked hard to line up kids' kits and programs for the remainder of the year. We have a series of "Once Upon a Time" fairy-tale-themed program kits beginning with Chicken Little and the Three Little Pigs. These kits invite families to retell classic stories in their own way using a variety of modes of storytelling, and the crafts are equally unique. They've proven to be quite popular and have been claimed quickly! We're encouraging patrons to share their versions of the fairy tales with us via email. Long-time library fan Julie Littlely starred in a special program for Talk Like a Pirate Day. "Pirate 101" will be available on September 19th as will pirate stash kits with gold, jewels, and an eye patch. Other kits our staff have put together include suncatchers and a sensory streamer kit for ages 18 months to 3 years that accompanies our "Movin' and Groovin'" virtual program. Finally, the Kiwanis Club of Coldwater has graciously supported our annual Christmas book giveaway again this year despite the unusual circumstances.

Along with the other branches, we're looking forward to helping new voters as part of National Voter Registration Day on September 22nd. We also have a new passive program, "Binge Out on Binge Boxes." Binge Boxes are a relatively new addition to our collection, and each Binge Box contains four to six movies that share a theme. The "Binge Out on Binge Boxes" program lets patrons check out one surprise Binge Box with bonus popcorn and candy and is limited to one per household.

Quincy

- Grab 'n Go kits are all compiled and scheduled through January, so we are hopeful families will take advantage and enjoy them. We will offer kits for 12 and under, teens and adults.
- Five more stories for fall virtual programming were submitted to Marketing for their use.
- A recent MiYouth session covered the topic of "Your Surge Capacity is Depleted" These sessions are headed by Cathy Lancaster, Youth Services Coordinator at the Library of Michigan. Hundreds log into these Zoom meetings, which were weekly during the shutdown and are still taking place at least monthly. Speakers cover pertinent topics and information for youth and teen services. Librarians state-wide have the same mentality of working through all we need to in library-land during this time.
- This week I will be attending the re-scheduled Adaptive Umbrella event. This was to be held at the Bloomfield Township Public Library at the end of April. This day-long virtual workshop will cover topics of the Intersection of Race, Disability and Gender, Sensory-friendly programming, dementia-friendly programming and services, a tip sharing interactive discussion session and will also have a disability advocacy panel of caregivers.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa L. Wood

Sherwood

Autumn Greetings from Sherwood!

"The Sherwood Branch is a fun place to visit!"

This week our branch is doing a "DIY design your own jigsaw puzzles." The few kits we handed out yesterday were a hit! The kids were excited to personalize them with their own creative twists. Our next Grab & Go kits will include a glue stick and everything you need to create a "Frankenstein" paper bag puppet. Tis' the season for all things spooky!

I've watched many webinars and training videos this past month and will be sharing things I've learned with my coworkers!

[In the comments report,] I've included a photo of a "Thank You" card we recently received from one of our patrons. It was a great reminder that during these "abnormal" times that we are still capable of doing amazing things for our communities - and we will continue to do so!

Until next month, stay safe!

Yours truly,

Traci Counterman
Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

August was a little quieter for the Union Township branch as summer reading was complete and school plans had yet to be determined. We have prepared for the future by being flexible and looking outside the box as far as services offered to the public.

I have been continuing with training as I attended webinars on Digital Inclusion (8/6), MI Youth (8/12), Midwest Tape Introductory Zoom Meeting (8/17) and two listening sessions with the Collaborative Summer Library Program (8/20 & 8/25). Branch Manager Zoom meetings have been a consistent part of my Monday morning routine.

During the summer, a special teen program was created in order to interest the young people in libraries and the various offerings they have. This statewide initiative was called the MI Library Quest and encouraged the teens to explore various libraries' websites from around the state looking for "clues". Prizes were given out to those participants who logged clues from 23 libraries. The program is continuing with a winter edition and a summer edition. I am currently assisting with the planning of future Quests and attend brainstorming meetings with library personnel from across the state including our own Lindsay Villa. I also participated on a committee (8/7 meeting) that was creating ideas for sharing with families and small groups. Our work was presented at the MI Youth meeting.

We are continuing to offer Music with Munchkins on Thursdays and are determining future plans for the programs during the cold weather months. We are able to appreciate the Zoom meeting platform and will look into ways to encourage participation that way.

Union is presenting three "Grab & Go" craft kits currently with one for children, a Creating STEAM one leaning more toward the teenage population and an Old Time Craft Workshop one focusing on needlework and fiber arts. The Old Time Craft Workshops were a popular program I conducted at Colon Township Library for six years and am trying to present it again within a craft bag format. The intention is to reintroduce the programs at Union when we are allowed to have in-person programming again.

Collection development is continuing with an addition of several audio books, a full "NEW" shelf of adult fiction, a section featuring new children's materials and the newest VOX books. Speaking of the VOX books, I am including a request to the BDL board and Southern Michigan Bank & Trust for shelving that will be more conducive for displaying the VOX collection. The newest shelves will have a lip at the back of the shelf and a slight angle to the shelf. I have tested a few of the titles and believe that these new shelves will contain the books better than the current shelving arrangement. In addition, I would like two (2) more magazine display shelves for the magazine area.

Union's contribution to the Facebook content for August included a story time and a walk through my flower garden with library resources to appreciate included.

Thank you for your work!

Julia Baratta
Branch Manager