



Alganssee

While Branch Manager Jan Clark takes some personal time this month, clerk Linda Pickford and subs from around the district are filling in and keeping things running smoothly. Linda's take-home kits and video for a St. Patrick's day craft are very much appreciated! Also appreciated are the recent changes to our state-mandated occupancy limits, which now allow up to 5 people at a time in the library.

Submitted by John Rucker

Bronson

Even though the repair work is not yet completed at the Bronson Branch, we are open to the public again for limited business as of March 8. Our patrons are very happy to see the whole gang here at the same time, a first since October.

With most of our books and shelving still in storage, we are offering computers, faxing, copies/prints, movies, new books, books from other BDL branches, and MeLCat delivery.

The beam in the basement to shore up the floor above has passed inspection, and the painting is finished. The basement will be put back together soon, and then we are just waiting on the carpeting, delayed due to the pandemic.



Submitted by John Rucker

Coldwater

At the Coldwater branch, our grab-and-go kits and virtual programs continue to be popular with patrons. For teens and adults, we gave away DIY crewmate plush kits with instructions for turning fuzzy socks into characters from the hit game Among Us. Our next adult-focused craft will be decoupage tea light holders.

Teen Services Coordinator Lindsay Villa provided two district-wide kits for teens hosted here at the Coldwater branch: cocoa bombs and tie-and-give scarves. Lindsay's latest kit is a display holder for collectable pins, and later this month we will be giving away kits for making seed bombs. Lindsay and Public Services Clerk Cheryl Lawrence are also collaborating on an upcoming series of virtual Dungeons and Dragons games for teens and adults.

Kids' Place staff members Linda Dull and Angie Richards put together a series of kits for children of all ages. For younger kids, we have the latest in our seasonally-themed Movin' and Groovin' series of videos and kits while tweens were treated to candy sushi. Stories and Beyond continued with one of Aesop's fables, and we celebrated Valentine's Day with an "I Love You to Pieces" craft. Next month, Movin' and Groovin' and Stories and Beyond will have a St. Patrick's Day theme, and tweens will be able to make a clay version of The Child with a Mandalorian-themed kit. Angie has also created a highly educational new series Unidentified Math Objects, which premieres this month.

Like everyone at BDL, we are looking forward to summer reading and possibly getting outside for in-person programming!

We have continued to rearrange and update the collection. The beginning of the World Languages section is now in place with signage featuring art from Public Services Clerk Ben Lyon. More signs and flyers are forthcoming and will be multilingual thanks to translations by staff members Lindsay Villa and Yasmen Alsuraimi.

The seed exchange officially opened in mid-February and is shaping up to be a success this year. In addition to our usual selection of donated and purchased seeds, the Coldwater and Union Township branches are also participating in the One Seed, One State program, an initiative from the Michigan Seed Libraries that distributes one kind of seed to libraries across the state.

This week we put out a request for proposals regarding the project to paint the exterior of the building. The deadline for proposals will be the end of April.

At the end of the month, we are bidding farewell to Children's Services Coordinator Linda Dull, who is retiring after more than 20 years at BDL. Her contributions to the library and our community are immeasurable and will continue to be felt for years to come.

Keeley Briggs
Coldwater Branch Manager

Quincy

All is well at the Quincy Branch. Attendance and circulation both continue to climb as our patrons are feeling more comfortable to come to the library. Fax and copies/prints are way up right now, month over month and year over year, and we added 4 new patrons in February.

Submitted by John Rucker

Sherwood

Greetings and Happy (almost) Spring!

Things have been steady at the Sherwood Branch. Maria and I have been keeping up on webinars and have gotten a lot of other things done, as well.

We're about to start the RFID project and are looking forward to both implementing the new technology (which will certainly make our lives easier) and finishing the project as quickly as possible. Kimberly will be here with us to get the ball rolling so I know we are in very good capable hands!

Book and DVD orders are being submitted and I got our order for VOX Books turned in as well, this month. I'm super excited to be able to offer our Sherwood patrons a new type of material that even though we borrow often, don't yet own. So thanks again to the generous donors of the Shamulus trust that has enabled us to offer more than we would otherwise be able to. My gratitude is immense!

We watched a webinar about our new Summer Reading online program for 2021. It looks like it's going to be a lot of fun! Our Grab & Go kits are a continued success. We very rarely have any left over. So, yay!

Currently we are working on June and July programs and kits and are looking to devise a plan for the possibility of showing a couple of outdoor evening movies in July and August. (Thank you, Swank!)

Our book sale for this year has been added to the calendar of events. It will take place the week of May 17th and will run all week during our normal scheduled business hours. There will be a few tables of books outside so please, if you are in need of books, we can help you out! We'll have a little bit of everything out there.

Until next month,

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

We are getting back into the swing of things here at the Union Township Branch! Our patrons are slowly coming back and we are thrilled!

We offered four Grab 'n Go kits for the month of February including Children- Snowman Measuring Stick (2/1), Creating STEAM-Friendship Bracelets (2/8), Old Time Crafts- Basket Weaving (2/15), and Teen-Pom Pom Mug Mat (2/22). The Lit Kits have been well-received with four offerings to kick off the program: 2020 Take Your Child to the Library Day (leftover bags), 2021 Take Your Child to the Library Day (based on The Mitten by Jan Brett), Clark the Shark: Tooth Trouble Lit Kit and Horsey Lit Kit #1.



The Lit Kits will be providing BDL with some numbers under one of the new state statistics for Early Literacy because they fulfill the required aspects of Talking, Singing, Writing, Reading and Playing within the activities.

Summer Reading has been moving up on the priority list and the Branch Managers met (2/1) to decide on various aspects. Plans for outdoor programming are in the works along with prizes and kit availability. We have prepared kit ideas for several months and feel they are an important part of our summer programming at Union Township.

Our virtual offerings included 2020 Award Winning Books (2/3), a focus on VOX Books (2/12), the opening of the Seed Libraries (2/15), and the sharing of Old Time Craft kits (2/24).

Judy and I attended the monthly state children's programming workshop Early Childhood Literacy Begins at Birth and Starts at Home presented by Jenifer Strauss (2/23) as well as the SRP Planning meeting at the state level (2/2). The handouts included five different story time kits for us to appreciate. Actually, I included one in my presentation at Spring Institute!

The WNIT St. Joseph River documentary plans are continuing with August 28 being the celebration of the river with a public showing of the video. I have attended meetings with WNIT staff and those in Union City who are organizing activities for the community during that weekend.

While the children's book sale continues, we had a couple of book sellers come to visit. I took advantage of the Shamulus Trust money and purchased some collections for the picture book shelves. A new A-Z board book series will be added!

The Folkmanis puppets have arrived and we had A LOT of fun unpacking the box! Pictures coming soon!

Thank you for reading my report and supporting our work!

Julia Baratta

Union Township Branch Manager

