



Algansee

Jan Clark's last day as Branch Manager was Friday, April 9. We miss her already, but wish her well in her retirement!

We haven't yet posted for this position, since we are still working out some details of the announcement. In the meantime Algansee clerk, Linda Pickford, is keeping service operations running, along with help from district sub staff. The BDL Management Team is splitting up the branch manager duties until the position is filled.

Attendance at the Algansee Branch in March was 160, with 1 new cardholder registered. We had 196 checkouts and answered 48 reference questions: 25 in person, 21 by phone, and 2 via email. 10 take-home kits went out. There were 7 computer uses.

Submitted by John Rucker



Bronson

The books are back and the library looks amazing!

Our repair project has finally come to an end. Our patrons are happy to have everything back in the building and have us open regular hours again. The beam in the basement has done wonders for the south floor upstairs and adding all the bookcases and books back in hasn't caused any problems. That floor is solid. The walls and ceiling look fresh since all the cracks and holes have been repaired and painted. Twelve hours (3 people) of dusting light fixtures, ceiling fans, blinds (which were actually white not tan!) and woodwork really brightened the room up. Carpet arrived and looks great. Mulder's spent one day bringing back and setting up all the shelving and the next day bringing back all the books. Staff spent one more day interfiling the books we had returned over the past 3 months and just tidying up the place. We celebrated our reopening with balloons and smiles but you couldn't see the smiles due to the masks but they were there.



Kimberly came over and did the RFID training with us so that we could start tagging this week.

Zoom storytime continues and our Grab and Go Craft Kits are still popular.

Working on plans for our summer programs. It will be different but we will be able to offer something.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

Like everyone across the district, here at the Coldwater Branch, we ended our March with an in-service day. We made a lot of progress with the RFID tagging project, painted the meeting room, and did general spring cleaning. Since then, we've completely tagged the beginning reader books, board books, children's graphic novels, large print, audiobooks, and world languages, as well as the new books in all three locations.

The newly minted world languages collection, which currently contains books in Spanish and Arabic as well as bilingual books, has started to gain some attention. Currently, we're looking to add more children's books to this section and expand into nonfiction life skills books. In the future, we would like to see this section include a broad range of materials for all ages in Spanish, Arabic, and possibly other languages spoken in our community – we've already gotten requests for books in French and Mandarin. We are developing this collection with help from members of the community as well as our multilingual staff, including Lindsay Villa, Yasmin Alsuraimi, and Cheryl Graham.

This April we are releasing a variety of take-home activity kits. Public Services Clerk Angie Richards, with help from other circulation staff, put together three different kits for kids to stay busy over spring break, including a spring-themed jewel sun catcher, an egg wreath, and a flower pot craft. Younger children are also invited to participate in this month's red light/green light edition of Movin' and Groovin'. Later in the month, tweens will be making planet glow lights, tying into Earth Day. In addition, the Stories and Beyond series continues with an activity about the life cycle of a butterfly. Meanwhile, Teen Services Coordinator Lindsay Villa has teens across the district celebrating poetry month with blackout poetry kits. Later in the month, we'll have watercolor card kits for teens to create Mothers' Day gifts. Finally, adults will be able to pick up a spring wreath kit, complete with small grapevine wreaths and artificial flowers, starting Monday, April 26th.

Our annual poetry contest for adults is currently underway! The winning poet will receive a \$25 gift card. Entries will be accepted until April 30th and the winner will be announced May 15th.

Submitted by Keeley Briggs

Quincy

We are still not seeing many children or families in the library, just a few here and there. No curbside service has taken place for the last couple weeks. A few parents are consistently making holds online so their selections are ready.

Our Friends group provided ten of the One Book, One County book selection as giveaways. The books were put into goodie bags for adults to keep with bookmarks, BDL pen, chocolate, etc. All the bags went quickly, so we hope they enjoyed the virtual discussions.

Summer Reading planning continues with many kits, programs and ideas underway. Several plans will still be up in the air as we await guidelines.

I attended the two-day Michigan Library Association Spring Institute for Youth Services 2021. Over the years, these have been pleasant to attend and offered great information. The committee did a good job of putting together a variety of breakout sessions covering many topics, age groups, and pandemic-related suggestions for libraries continuing to face issues.

The Library of Michigan provides a multitude of webinars, but I've attended some of the 'Best Storytime Practices' which provide fresh new ideas relating to kits, virtual options, and giving families a fun experience when they're not coming in the library.

We've given out some 'colorful' grab 'n go kits at Quincy as we think about spring....Kits going out recently are: "Create a Critter" for 12 and under using plastic eggs, felt and pipecleaners; "Color, Color, Snack!" which gives teens a mini colorbook, mini colored pencils and of course, mini candy bars; and adults were offered a nice color-by-number of hummingbirds with a set of colored pencils.

Last week was National Library Week with a table of goodies offered to the public. This week we have Smart Money Michigan Kids bags including free books and chocolate 'coins' for kids. The books were provided by Michigan Credit Unions.

The Quincy Advisory Board met in person for the first time since their one late 2020 meeting in October.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood!

The month of March was literally here and gone in the blink of an eye. We spent a majority of that time RFID tagging - it took us 2.5 weeks, but we came, we saw, and we conquered! Dramatic, yes - but that is one project we're really thankful to be done with! We also got some things moved to our storage unit.

We're getting ready for a book sale next month so a lot of our energy will be focused on transporting books from the storage unit back to the library. Hopefully we'll sell everything so we don't have to haul anything back! The sale will be the week of May 17th and run through the following Tuesday - it'll be open during normal library hours.

I've been working on book/DVD orders. Our craft kits are ready to go through July! Yay!

Until next month - stay safe and healthy!

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

We are continuing to offer Grab 'n Go kits and enjoy the planning for future projects to share with our patrons. For March, we prepared Creating STEAM- Newspaper Seed Pots (3/8), Old Time Crafts- Plastic Canvas Bookmarks (3/15), Teen- Beaded Wind Chimes (3/22), and Children- Easter Bunny Basket (3/29). Three Lit kits were also given out with The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss as our book offering, a second horse-themed kit, and a new one called Time for Kids. This newest one was developed from a misunderstanding that the Time for Kids subscription I ordered was going to be a traditional magazine. It is more like the Weekly Readers of days gone by so needed to share. There are four age groups ranging from K-6th grade.

Our Spice Club has finally made an appearance! The first installment is Cinnamon and each kit contains a condiment cup of ground cinnamon and a bagged cinnamon stick. An information sheet was included sharing recipes, the history of the spice, trivia, and craft ideas. I also promoted the cookbook collection by highlighting some of the titles that had recipes using the featured spice. Michigan State University Extension provided a couple more recipes to appreciate the spice.

The weekly Branch Manager meetings are the beginning of every week and summer reading planning is continuing. Judy and I attended the presentation on Beanstack, the new virtual tracking system we will be using for the summer. On March 9, I virtually attended "Middle Grade Magic," a conference offered by the Library Journal and School Library Journal. It was a very enjoyable day with lots of great presentations, free stuff to appreciate at the library, and many ideas to use in future programs. We also attended "Best Storytime Practices" relating to building vocabulary skills (3/23). The same day I caught a seed saving presentation and I ended the month with a "Citizen Science" webinar (3/30).

While I did attend some virtual programs this month, I was also on the other side of the screen as I presented for the Michigan Library Association's Spring Institute. My presentation was titled "A is for Ag in the STEAM equation" and I shared how agriculture relates to each of the five aspects of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). STEAM has become a very popular activity base in libraries and so I offered many examples of projects they could incorporate into their programming. I have presented before and in front of large audiences so this was a very different experience. It was deemed successful and I look forward to possibly sharing more ideas with the library world as a whole. I had one offering for BDL's Facebook page and that was the opening of a box of Advance Reader's Copies that I received from attending a webinar during the ALA Midwinter meetings in January.

There is interest building in the Roots and Shoots Seed Library and we are distributing seeds several times a week. The patrons can now pick up copies of Michigan Gardener magazine to appreciate and learn from. We have split a subscription with the Coldwater branch and they have been found by patrons and are being picked up. I also added a new picture over the seed library

from a local source. Loren King of Burr Oak does drone imaging and took a fantastic shot of a combine in the field. With some computer design and magic, he made it look like the combine is plowing a flag into the field so it is very appropriate for Union City with their annual Farm to Fork celebration and the philosophy behind the seed library.

Thank you for your work and service on the BDL board!

Julia Baratta, Branch Manager, Lucille E. Dearth Union Twp Branch

