

Algansee

Storytime continues with the fall theme each week. The Kids Craft this month was a plush turkey workshop where each child stuffed their very own cuddly turkey to take home. This was an in-house program to draw people into the building so that they would see what the library has to offer. Most of the families did check out books to take home with them. Our Grab and Go kits have been very popular and it's nice to see all of them gone at the end of the week.

Working on weeding out books from the juvenile area that haven't been checked out in the past 5 years. This opens up space on the shelves for us to display books and those always seem to go out when people can see the covers of the books. Continuing to work on getting word out about the library to people who aren't already our patrons. Attended the Algansee Township meeting to give a report on the library.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Bronson

Programs continue along with the Grab and Go kits. Adult craft hour is picking up as word gets out about it. This month they painted gourds to look like chickens! We have a passive program going right now for anyone coming in the library, they just have to find one of a dozen fall related pictures and bring it to the desk to get a piece of candy.

It's been nice to hear patrons complain that we have so many good new books they don't know which one to check out. Those are the complaints I like to hear.

I will be attending the Bronson Township meeting this month to give a report about the library.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

The Coldwater Branch has partnered with Michigan Works! to bring our services together. In addition to having a booth at last month's job fair at the Michigan Works! office, we hosted workshops on interviewing skills and resume building here at the library. We're looking forward to offering additional opportunities together in the future.

A representative from the MSU Extension is holding a workshop about healthy holiday cooking later this month. We are planning to feature even more community partners in our programming in the coming months, so stay tuned!

We've established several popular recurring programs. Angie Richards will be leading two more Family Storytimes, while her Toddler Time will continue until mid December before a break for the holidays. For teens, we are having weekly National Novel Writing Month workshops plus another edition of our monthly Anime Club led by Cheryl Lawrence. The all-ages programs Art Club and Game Night have been extended into the winter while our weekly yoga program has moved online to avoid the chilly weather.

Our first in-person history program of the year was a success with 15 attendees. The presenter, Larry Martin, spoke about his experiences collecting the stories of WWII veterans and shared a recorded interview with an eye witness to the Pearl Harbor attack as well as various artifacts from the era.



In addition to our regular grab-and-go kits, we will be holding several drop-in crafts in our Kids' Place area in December. Crafts will include custom buttons, snowflake ornaments, and New Years party hats. On top of that, we are excited for the latest iteration of our annual holiday book giveaway! This year's selection is *Red and Lulu* by Matt Tavares -- it features our school mascot, the cardinal.



Public services clerk Ben Lyon created our entry for the annual Scarecrow Contest here in Coldwater. Our theme was "classic librarian," and it was spookily lifelike.

We're very grateful to local business Crescent Comics and Games for their generous donation of a charging station for our branch. The charging station is equipped with a variety of attachments to allow patrons to charge their phones and other devices while they use our services.

Last but not least, a new employee joined us at the Coldwater Branch this week! We're delighted to welcome Haila to our team as a public services clerk.

Quincy

Several virtual sessions in the Association for Rural and Small Libraries were very interesting including small libraries that have implemented Telehealth kiosks, libraries working with their local horseback communities and schools for deliveries, Promoting Your Library's Collection; and Mental Health & Libraries.

I also attended an interesting webinar this month was: "Relighting Your Programming Fire: Combatting Job-Related Burnout and Guilt to Make Programming Fun Again" by the Niche Academy.



Most branches were represented at the Annual Friends of the Library gathering at our branch last month. Our Friends group was appreciative of those that attended. Our group ran their November 5 & 6 book sale and have planned the upcoming Letters to Santa event during the Village wide Quincy Lights evening December

3. October was their last meeting of the year and they will meet again on April 26.

A new story walk is up at Quincy featuring a seasonal story "Stick Man". Check it out or 'check it' out from our collection.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood ~

Materials ordering and programming planning has been completed through the end of the year - boy, where did this year go!

Last week we did a Sand Art program and had ten kids show up. Those are pre-covid numbers and I'm so glad the community participation seems to be increasing little by little!

We've got some great things coming up in the near future. On Thursday of this week we'll be doing an after hours canvas painting program with Bobbie Mathis. It looks like the spots have all been filled, so yay!

We recently purchased a Nintendo Switch along with some extra controllers for the library. The kids are very excited about this. We haven't had a chance to get anything set up yet, but we're hoping within the next couple of weeks we'll find the time to get to it. (My clerk has been subbing in Coldwater for several weeks, multiple days a week so it's hard to get things done sometimes when we're only together 1.5 days a week).

We've been constantly weeding to make room for the newer materials coming in.

Until December,

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

With October being Fire Safety Month, all the months of planning and preparing finally came into being as Union City had a Fire Safety Day on October 9. The library branch was actively involved in the organizing of the day along with the Union City Fire Department.



Our part was planning and implementing crafts and games with several art

projects offered thanks to Miss Judy! The Friends decided to get involved by providing the



refreshments courtesy of Kim Mathiak of Burlington...the doughnuts were a hit! Four departments provided vehicles with UCFD, Athens, Sherwood, and Burlington on scene. A fantastic house front was built for the water hose challenge and an opportunity to sign up for free smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors was available during the event. Approximately 326 people participated in the Fire Safety Day, making it a success! There are plans for next year as it was decided it will be an annual event.

In addition, we put together several Grab 'n Go kits including Paper Plate Scarecrows (10/4) for the community Scarecrow Contest, 5 Little Pumpkins (10/11) with the song incorporated in the craft, Paper Cup Witch (10/18) with a battery tea light nose, Creating STEAM's Origami Masks (10/25) and Old Time Crafts' Soap Carving (10/25). The Lit Kit was Let It Fall by Maryann Cocca-Leffler with a leaf craft and the Spice Club feature was Pumpkin Pie Spice.

On the virtual side of the month's activities, the week before Fire Safety Day was full as I attended the Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy conference for three days. I was honored to present "A is for Ag in the STEAM Equation" to folks from around the nation and it was well received! I also attended "Preschool Makerspaces" (10/6), "Joyous Way to Learn" (10/7), "Little Hands Signing" workshop (10/13), and will be watching a recording of "Relighting Your Programming Fire" (10/13).

Judy and I attended the Staff Training Day and I presented at the Union Township meeting. I was also invited to a special in-person meeting with Greg Giczi from WNIT. We had worked together on the "Celebrate the St. Joseph River" Day festivities but only via Zoom. He made a trip around the area to several of the towns on the St. Joseph River and Union City was one of the stops. It certainly was nice to meet him in person and talk about some future projects the station is looking to pursue.

Thank you for supporting our efforts in the local communities!

Julia Baratta

Union Township
Branch Manager

