

BRANCH REPORTS

October 14, 2021

Algansee

The carpet project is done and it looks amazing! Mulder's did a fantastic job again emptying the library and then returning everything and getting it set back up correctly. It's alway fun to watch them work. If you could get a birds-eye view they would look like ants scurrying around. A big thank you to Joy and Jeff Wood for the new carpet. Big thank you to the District for hiring Mulder's to move everything and a big thank you to John and Curtis for keeping the wifi connected during the time we were closed.



Before



Before



After!



After!

Story time continues and I am having lots of fun with the kids. Last week each child got an ear of Indian Corn (courtesy of Swift's Pumpkin) and we took turns husking them. It was great to see their faces when they saw the colorful corn they got.

We have moved our Craft Hours, Adults, Teens and Children, to 5:00 hoping more people will be able to attend at the later time. Linda has nice attendance at her adult craft hour and always has a high demand for her Grab and Go kits. We are working on ways to increase attendance at the Teen and Children's craft hours. We'll get there.

We finally got one of the teachers from a one room school house to come in and check out books for the school. Very excited to see that happen. He said he likes to have books for the children to read after they get their work done. He'd rather they read than cause mischief. After talking with him about books the children might be interested in I placed orders on some older sets, *Black Stallion*, Enid Blyton's *Famous Five* and *Secret Seven*, and Thornton Burgess books. I told him if the children ask for certain books please let us know and we will see if we can find those titles.

It was a productive month!

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Bronson

The Nuts Have Arrived! That always brings more people into the library which we are glad to see. The Friends will be opening an online store through Terri Lynn Co and people from all over will be able to order and have nuts and candies sent right to their door. Last year they had several out of state people wanting to buy but the cost to ship them just didn't work. They hope this will be an answer to that problem. (\$30 order gets you free shipping!)

The past month we have seen more people coming and needing computer help to write resumes and fill out forms online. It's been awhile since that has happened but they are always very grateful for our assistance. Steve and Jessie do a wonderful job with the computers.

Programs continue and we have been handing out all of our Grab and Go kits very quickly. Maybe people are saving those kits for the cold winter months. No matter we are glad to see all of them distributed. Toddler time has started again with 1 and 2 year olds attending. We have 15 minutes of stories and songs and 15 minutes of play time sitting on the rug. I have found this saying to be true, "Never get down on the floor unless you have a plan in mind on how you are going to get back up."

Steve presented a program on book binding to the local Girl Scouts. He showed them older books with the great stitch binding and newer books that are glued. He had supplies so that each person could practice making their own book using the stitch method.

Steve, Jessie and I had our RFID Wand training and were able to scan the entire library looking for missing and lost items. We also attended the Staff Training and had a great time learning what colors we are. Gold, green and blue seem to get along pretty well. Thank you Jessica Tefft for an interesting day.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

The Coldwater Branch now has a whole suite of recurring programming. As part of our effort to bring more all-ages programming to Branch County, we now host a biweekly board game night and yoga class as well as monthly family movies and an unstructured art club. In addition, Kids' Place superstar Angie Richards has brought in-person storytimes back to the branch with a weekly Toddler Time as well as Family Storytime, and public services clerk Cheryl Lawrence hosts an anime club for teens that offers cultural tidbits, snacks, and creative activities. Grab-and-go kits have remained popular with spooky-themed bleach shirts for adults and two different, age-appropriate create-a-monster kits for kids.

In the next few weeks, we will be offering several new programs. In addition to regular craft kits for kids - a turkey suncatcher for younger children and a scarecrow craft for the older ones - we will have a family-oriented Thankfulness Tree activities kit similar to our past Thanksgiving-themed family crafts. We are also partnering with community organizations to bring more educational programming to our branch. In early November, we are hosting two workshops from Michigan Works! about interviewing and resume building. Later in the month, representatives of the MSU extension will give a one-day version of their Cooking Matters class about healthy eating on a budget.

At the Coldwater Branch, we are gearing up for the big district-wide event this weekend. The spiritual successor to Family Fright Night, the Great Pumpkin Party will be outside in the Coldwater Branch parking lot. Coldwater staff and our coworkers from across the district have been planning for months. The event will feature crafts and games for children of all ages as well as trick-or-treat stations and photo opportunities.

Interviews for a new Coldwater public service clerk as well as the children's and teen services coordinators continue!

Submitted by Keeley Briggs

Quincy

The Administration team planned an enjoyable October 11 in-person Staff Day at the Eby Klein Center in Coldwater for all the branches. The entire staff had not met in person since February 2020 so it was good to see everyone, albeit their eyes only.

A good group has been coming to Story Hour, including new families. It's a young group between 2-4 year olds but the one five year old feels very proud that he is the ONLY five year old.

This week I will be listening in on several days of sessions in the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, which is being held in Reno, Nevada as well as virtual.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, October 19 at 6:30pm is the Annual Friends of the Library gathering here at our branch. Each branch has taken turns hosting since Carol Maddox began the gathering in 2003. No meeting was held last year of course, but our Friends group is planning a nice evening of refreshments and giveaways. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood:

It's been a busy month. We've been doing in person programming again and we're starting to see an increase in our participation numbers. Our grab & go kits are flying out the door every month and the kids are again making this library the place to be after school!

On the 9th of October, our library was invited to participate with Union City for "Fire Safety Day." I attended and had a great time! Our numbers were roughly around 300-325 people we had the pleasure to engage with. Several local communities brought their fire trucks, the smoke trailer was there as was the Union City Friends group with hundreds of the best donuts I've ever tasted! I didn't see anyone there who wasn't having a great time. So, thank you to the Union City branch for sharing the fun with us, as well!

Next week we have our "Chocolate tasting from around the world" program. It's an in-person program and I'm hoping to see many chocolate lovers that day. I heard we had a little hang up in Customs with our chocolate from Japan getting through. It has since made it here to the branch so no worries!

We've added more programs to the calendar for the month of December!

Kimberly will be here on the 19th of this month to do the RFID wand training with us.

We've had a couple of new library card sign ups this month - yay!

This years' staff training day was great! Getting to see my coworkers in person after a year and a half was total soul food! Great job to Jess, Kimberly and John for making it such a great day for staff! (we appreciate them)

I'll be representing the Sherwood branch at the Great Pumpkin Party on the 16th of this month. I'm super excited to be back at the Coldwater branch for a program.

We'll be doing some weeding within the next couple of weeks. New books are rolling in and our shelves are full.

Until next month,

Respectfully,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

September seemed a lot like March as it came in like a lamb but left like a LION...

We continue to prepare Grab 'n Go kits for all ages with Puzzles for Creating STEAM (9/13), Apple Pie Craft for Children (9/13), Old Time Crafts was Paper Beads (9/20), and Watercolor Notebooks for Teens (9/27). The Lit Kit was Let It Fall by Maryann Cocca-Leffler and the children were encouraged to make a natural leaf collage. The Spice Club selection was Hot Peppers and included samples of hot pepper flakes and cayenne pepper powder.



We are trying in-person programs with the Watercolor Notebooks for Teens (9/9) and the District Teen program of "Mindfulness for Teens" (9/15). We are continuing to have Music with Munchkins except the day is now Wednesdays at 11 am.

Virtually we appreciated several presentations throughout the month. I attended the MI Youth Meeting (9/8) which have resumed to a quarterly schedule. These meetings connect library staff from around the state to share ideas and discuss topics concerning serving the youth of our communities. I have been collecting information about incorporating math

themes into my collection and programs so I am following the National Math Festival website and Facebook page. I attended an excellent presentation by Eddie Woo, an educator with a passion for sharing math in various ways and applications. I also attended a member meet-up with Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy (CLEL) and the discussion was about play spaces in libraries and ideas for implementing them. Food insecurity is a regular topic around communities and our area is no exception! I sat in on a panel discussion through Slow Food USA called "Slow Food for Children" where they talked about ways to work with your community resources and share the needed food with families.

Along the same lines as the food insecurity, I have been very interested in food literacy and using those ideas in the programming. We participated in the Farm to Fork event in Union City by featuring our monthly Spice Club and the Roots and Shoots Seed Library. Everyone was encouraged to sign up for a chance at a door prize with books and a bottle of Union City Rotary maple syrup in a special bag from the Union Township Branch. We also worked with the Friends of the Union Township Branch as they had an open house celebrating the building's 10th anniversary! They gave away cookies and backpacks with crayons and coloring books.

While I wrapped up the "Celebrate the St. Joseph" event with a virtual meeting and planning session for possible future events, I began to work with the MI Youth Quest for the Winter Edition. We are planning a mystery where the teens will try to figure out where a thief hid a first edition copy of the Nick Adams Stories by Ernest Hemingway. We are looking at all natural hiding places for the teens to virtually explore and find the book. This is a statewide initiative and the fourth one created. I am pleased to help out and look forward to February when it is started!

Thank you for supporting the work we do! Julia Baratta, Union Township Branch Manager

