



Coldwater

Like everyone else at BDL, we are looking forward to reopening at the Coldwater Branch. In the meantime, many of the creative and helpful Coldwater staff have worked hard to contribute to the library.

Linda Dull has shared some excellent educational materials to help our patrons with children at home. Cheryl Lawrence created a well-received origami box tutorial and has plans for future craft programs. Cheryl Graham starred in a video story time and has been working on adapting her Japanese cultural programs to a digital format. Meanwhile, I've been mixing things up with the occasional science experiment.

All of the above employees, as well as Julie Smith and Brandi Killian, volunteered their time keeping the drop box emptied before the governor's initial stay-at-home order. This was a huge help during the initial influx of item returns. In more recent weeks, to minimize the need for employees to come to the library, I've taken care of the drop box myself.

We are also continuing to run our annual adult poetry contest through a submission form on the BDL website, and I'm coordinating with administration and the marketing team to re-envision our Spring Local Author Fair as a virtual program.

I hope everyone is staying safe in this trying time.

Submitted by Keeley Briggs

Quincy

Just before the library closure date, I was able to get some needed weeding done in our Large Print area and have placed orders for that section. This time to be away from the library has been greatly useful in working on Collection Development actually.

I have been able to work on projects from home, namely our Biographical file, Summer Reading Program, Quincy Township Annual Report and I offered three video Story Times to the Marketing Department.

Going to the library twice a week has been sufficient to empty the (quite full) book drop box at Quincy, collect the mail and grab anything needed for projects at home.

The Quincy Friends of the Library was to host the April Annual Friends gathering this year, but will likely hold it the third Tuesday of October (20th), as that will coincide nicely with the National Friends of the Library Week, this October 18-24, 2020. Future Friends groups can then decide if October will always work best for them.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Wood

Union Twp.

March came in like a lion at the Union Township Branch as we were informed that out of almost 90 applicants for the 2020 Michigan Notable Book Author Tour, we were one of 50 libraries to get the funding for an author visit. At the beginning of 2020, the Library of Michigan announced their choices for notable books about Michigan as well as Michigan authors being honored for their work. Libraries around the state are encouraged to apply to have one of the authors come to their library and give a presentation. I applied for Abra Berens who wrote *Ruffage*, a cookbook/garden guide. Her presentation is currently scheduled for June 13 but will probably be postponed. We are excited to have been selected none the less!

The district's first Coronavirus (COVID-19) branch manager's conference call was held on March 3 with discussion on the virus and the district's response.

I had my first school visit on March 4 at the Union City Middle School where I shared information about future events including summer reading and new offerings at the branch.

On March 5, I, along with several other BDL staff members, attended the Woodland's Youth Services 101 workshop in Albion. A lot of information was shared ranging from grants and extracurricular library involvement to story times and teen activities. We were also encouraged to apply for the LSTA grants through Library of Michigan so I did! I spent most of Friday, March 6, on the application as it was due by 5 pm. The process of determining who receives the grant monies is on hold currently with the expectation that an announcement will be forthcoming at some point.

We also had Midwest Fire Protection come for a visit to test our fire extinguishers on March 6.

The teens enjoyed a game of Dystopia Fandom Jeopardy on March 3 and making sock sachets on March 10. Creating STEAM programming revolved around assisting in the preparation of the grand opening of the Roots and Shoots Seed Library with young people helping package seeds for distribution. The Crazy Quilting class with Fran Fletcher was on March 12 with five participants.

The Roots and Shoots Seed Library opened on March 14 with over 1500 packages of seeds to share along with starter trays donated by the Coldwater Garden Club, journals and pens, refreshments, and information about gardening. Over 250 packets were given away during the day long distribution.

During the shutdown, I have attended a webinar titled "Feeding Teens" concerning programming for young people beyond feeding them. I have contributed a video to the BDL Facebook page on titles relating to Women's History Month which was posted on April 2.

Thank you for your dedication to the Branch District Library and the employees!

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Baratta
Union Township Branch Manager