



Algansee

All is going good here at Algansee. Patrons are very understanding about the Curbside Pickup. We had 3 pickups in November and now that the word got out about our service, so far this month we have had 34 pickups.

Our Grab & Go bags have been a big hit, our supply is always gone by the time to start new bags. The theme for January is a bag of hand care. The clerk here is Linda Pickford, she is so good with the ideas for the bags and getting them ready to go.

I am just finishing up new books coming in for all ages.

We are still cleaning every hour and keeping books and all materials coming in under quarantine for 7 days.

I wish you all a very Happy Holiday and Take Care.

Janice Clark, Algansee Branch Manager

Bronson

People are getting used to our curbside delivery and each week the number of people using it grows. Not only have patrons checked out items we have sent faxes, made copies, sent craft kits and had our laptop requested a couple times. Getting a little easier to climb those stairs! We had what was our busiest day of the month but then broke that record the next week. The reading incentive is going strong and we have handed out 18 coffee mugs so far. People are very excited to receive them.

We installed a wireless doorbell at the parking lot entrance so that those without cell phones can let us know they are here. It gets used nearly every day.

We moved some furniture around to make curbside delivery speedier. That just means we can now exit from behind the desk from either side.

Live Zoom story time ended for 2020 but will start again on Fridays in 2021. We have been working out the little problems as we go and it gets easier each week. So good to be able to see the kids again. Grab and Go craft kits continue to be a hot item. We usually hand them all out in a week's time. Steve, Jessie and I continue with recording our virtual programs.

The Reading Buddy craft was a super big hit. The Buddies were gone before noon. Very popular.

We have been working towards the construction renovation project by staying in contact with Brussee/Brady, Mulder's Moving & Storage, the Township, the Friends and the District Library. Hoping the project can get underway sometime in January.

Friend's still have nuts for sale. A few are sold out but there are still some good ones.

Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

Here at the Coldwater Branch, we're keeping busy with programming and curbside service. Our DIY holiday bath bomb kits for adults were all quickly spoken for, and we expect the illuminated snow scene kits in January to be equally popular. For teens, we gave out two seasonal program kits: DIY holiday cards and "surroundings ornaments," a craft about using whatever you have on hand to create a unique ornament that reflects your current circumstances. We're also producing a series of how-to videos for various snowflake-making techniques starring Coldwater staff members.

Kids' Place staff made up many cool winter- and holiday-themed crafts this month, including a snowy day paper hat craft and air dry clay ornaments. (The ornaments were so popular that they were all claimed by Tuesday afternoon.) For tweens, we offered a guided painting experience with a kit and video. Patrons are encouraged to share their crafts with us via email or social media.

Starting this week, we are distributing free books for Christmas, an annual program funded by Coldwater Kiwanis. While Santa wasn't able to safely visit the library this year, Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be appearing in a video program available through the library's social media and website. January will see the third of our ongoing monthly early literacy practice sheets, a free resource for parents and guardians.

In addition to video programming and take-home kits, Coldwater staff have put together several book bundles for patrons of all ages. Our holiday-themed bundles have been especially well-received. Staff have also been hard at work preparing for the upcoming RFID tagging project, and we have ramped up our delivery and outreach services, which have gained popularity this year. Finally, a group of Coldwater staff have volunteered to form a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Committee. The DEI Committee will be contributing to programming and collection development at the Coldwater Branch starting in 2021.

Quincy

Curbside service is going well. Some days we are very busy, often with multiple cars at the curb. Offering faxing, copying and printing is very appreciated by the public, opposed to our curbside weeks back in June. The public is very glad we are still open and able to serve them. I had one regular patron come to the door and very happily 'shopped' with me over the phone as I held up book covers and inside flyleaves for her to read at the front door windows. We aim to please.

Weeding is still taking place before the RFID project commences. A few story time videos have been submitted to Marketing for their use.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

Union Twp.

With the constant changes due to the COVID pandemic concerns, Union Township Branch was looking to be flexible and offering resources to assist in the ongoing educational battle along with helping local residents during this difficult time. The second week of November was Children's Book Week and we celebrated the occasion by decorating our Plexiglas with our collection of children's literature bookmarks, offering an additional Grab 'n Go kit (Munchy the Lunch Bag puppet from the Dogman series, a popular one!), and having our children's book sale. The next week the library system returned to curbside service and we have promoted the limited services available.

Throughout the month, we have developed various Grab 'n Go kits such as Paper Bag Luminaries (11/2), Foam Bookmarks (11/9), Old Time Crafts-Drop Spindle Spinning (11/16), Thanksgiving Bracelet (11/16), and a Christmas Tree Luminary (11/30). We are continuing to plan for the future and look to have the 2021 schedule ready soon.

Continued support of the BDL Facebook page has resulted in Union Twp Branch providing content for story times and BDL Explores. Story times included Waiting (10/29), Duck for President (11/3), Big Red Barn (11/13), and Firefighters from A to Z (11/19). I also presented a video on Fire Safety (11/2) and a demonstration on hand spinning fiber into yarn (11/16).

Webinars are becoming the new educational resource giving us numerous opportunities to gain knowledge and meet new people. Many conferences are now offering free presentations and we are taking advantage of them while the library is closed to the public. I was very excited to attend Kalamazoo Public Library's Youth Literature Seminar which is always an excellent opportunity to network, meet authors and get excited about children's and YA literature! In addition, I watched Dancing Hands (11/5), National Book Festival's Ann Patchett and Kate DiCamillo visit (11/17), and the Global Seed Summit with information about seed libraries and the current need for them (11/18 & 11/19).

I am also involved in the WNIT's work on a documentary on the St. Joseph River and have been attending planning meetings with other librarians whose systems are located on the St. Joseph River. The One Seed, One State program is also looking to the future and I am assisting by serving on their fundraising committee. Lastly, I was chosen to be on the Children's Manual Review Committee for the Collaborative Summer Library Program which will begin around the middle of December.

There is always something to do here at Union Township Branch! Thanks for your support!!

Sincerely,

Julia Baratta, Union Township Branch Manager