



## **Algansee**

Attended the Algansee Township board meeting with John and met the board members. Attended the Algansee Friends meeting and was introduced to their members. First day working in Algansee, Linda and I were able to sit down and go over the work schedule and make some plans for the summer programs. Story time will be held on the lawn one day a week and it will be interesting to see the children of the children I knew when I was there 15 years ago!

We are working on ideas to bring people into the library again and keep everyone happy with new or different items.

Linda hopes to have the RFID tagging finished by May 21.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## **Bronson**

Steve and Jessie have been working diligently on the RFID tagging and if things continue we hope to have it completed by May 21.

Plans continue for outdoor summer programs. We have the option of using the Farmer's Market Pavilion behind the city offices or setting up more canopies and holding programs in the parking lot. Either way, I'm really looking forward to doing in person programs again.

Took part in a community interview with the EPA regarding the North Bronson Industrial Area and Subareas. They are gathering information about the community and answering some questions about the superfund sites here in Bronson.

The Friends are holding their annual quilt raffle with a beautiful bookcase quilt made by Fran Fletcher. The Friends gathered on a Saturday to clean the flowerbeds and put down mulch. A couple families even showed up to help and they got a lot of work done.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash



## **Coldwater**

May at the Coldwater Branch has fluctuated as much as the weather with a mix of busy and quiet days.

In April, we gave out our usual selection of great take-home kits. For adults, we had a spring wreath craft kit with grape vine wreaths and artificial flowers. Two kits, blackout poetry and watercolor Mother's Day cards, were available for teens. Kids received a wide variety of kits, including several different options over spring break plus two more for Earth Day, a butterfly life cycle kit for younger children and a planet glow light craft for tweens. Tweens were also treated to a DIY Nerf gun target kit. On top of all of those, we also handed out tiny trees ready to plant through the Neighborhood Trees program.

The annual adult poetry contest wrapped up at the end of April. We received four entries and the winner is being notified later this week.

Our staff have so many fun programs and kits planned for this summer that we're excited to share with the community!

We will be having weekly programs for children in Heritage Park from mid-June to mid-July plus multiple kits every week that tie into the Tales and Tails summer reading program theme. Some June highlights include fan favorite Mr. Jim the magician, a visit from a K-9 unit, and yoga for all. Jonny Hawkins will also be visiting us at the library.

Teen Coordinator Lindsay Villa will be leading biweekly writing clubs for teens all summer, a special request from the district-wide Teen Advisory Council. Lindsay will also be taking teens to the park for a casual nature hike in June and July. Other staff members are preparing to revive the Messy Science and Messy Art series, which have been popular with teens in the past.

We have several cultural programs coming up that will feature members of our Coldwater community. Patrons will be able to learn *dabke*, a group dance popular around the Middle East at weddings and other events, as well as dabble in henna art. Our branch will also be featuring several local musicians for an outdoor show on June 3rd. In addition, we are looking forward to the emergence of the 17-year periodical cicadas, an uncommon and remarkable event that will inspire both a program and kit this June.

Submitted by Keeley Briggs

## **Quincy**

We had just a couple curbside service requests in the last month and still mostly parents coming in to choose or pick up books for the family.

Our Friends group met for the first time this year. They are planning an indoor/outdoor book sale June 4 & 5, which will help clear out the Township storage room where the books have greatly overtaken the space.

Summer Reading planning is still underway. Great effort will be taken to get the word out regarding the program and special events. Jennings Elementary is good about passing along information to families.

I attended several webinars including Best Storytime Practices on Pre-Writing, Booklist and Novelist provided great upcoming titles and information on adult fiction, middle grade titles and gentle reads. Macmillan Publishing featured "Outdoor School" and the U.S. Census Data for Librarians was a very informative presentation on the magnitude of sources within the census site. Even though we do get Zoom and online fatigue, it does seem that much more information is available through virtual conferences and the like in a one hour sitting vs. when we normally would have travel time to plan, expense, etc. if attended in person.

Clear View came to our building and provided an interior and exterior estimate on window washing. This has been difficult to find since our roof work several years ago. This company is even able to do the second story exterior windows.

Our Pet Rock Grab 'n Go bag for teens was a big hit. The fun purple bag included rocks (which Joe Duke our delivery man MUST have wondered what he was delivering!), paints, brushes, googly eyes, markers and glue. Kids won't remember the 70s pet rocks, but we look forward to possibly seeing some photos.

During Children's Book Week, we offered free books, an author Character Drawing packet and goodies to all who visited our branch. We are hearing that young parents are using the app for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten!

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

## **Sherwood**

Greetings from Sherwood!

We are gearing up for Summer Reading 2021 - we've got some great craft projects in the works and are eagerly looking forward to getting it out into the community.

The Sherwood parade committee has designated the library to be the pick up spot for bike decoration materials for our Memorial Day Parade. I'll be getting the ribbons and streamers tonight when I attend the meeting.

Maria and I have both been attending virtual conferences. We'd much rather be attending in person, but for now virtual is what it is!

The VOX books I added to the Sherwood collection are circulating. Kids think they're pretty awesome and we do too!

Maria has got the Grab & Go kits ready through the month of November - She's on it!

Next Monday is the start of our week-long book sale. We're hoping to send a lot of weeded materials home with happy readers.

Lastly, the picnic table John purchased for our Branch has been great. I can't wait to get out there with the kids and do some glitter crafts!

Until next month,

best regards!

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

## **Union Twp.**

April was a very quiet month for the Union Township Branch and we took advantage of the opportunity to work on planning future programs, projects and activities. We have also been working hard on promoting the book sale and sharing our various kits.

A \$mart Money Lit Kit was prepared for the month of April which included donations from Marshall Community Credit Union along with a book from the Michigan \$mart Money group and treats from Union Twp branch. Other Lit Kits available were a travel one called "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" where the children received a book and the materials to make a scrapbook in the shape of a suitcase, Time 4 Kids with a set of magazines similar to the Weekly Readers of yore, and a third Horse Lit Kit. The Spice Club offering was Cloves.

Our monthly craft kits were again appreciated by many families and children. The kits included a Tic-Tac-Toe game for the children (4/5), Creating STEAM was Seed Art (4/12), the Old Time Crafts was Hand Piecing (4/19) and a Yahtze game was prepared for the Teens. We have some of the district-wide Teen craft kits being distributed here as well.

I attended the virtual Penguin Random House Author Fair on 4/6 and it was a full day of presentations, networking and interactions. On 4/7, I attended a Library Journal webcast called "Think Music and Beyond: Interdisciplinary Research in the Age of Full Text." It was concerning a database of musical resources including the maintenance of an extensive sheet music collection from around the world. We also attended the monthly Library of Michigan Early Literacy webinar with Jenifer Strauss about writing exercises to incorporate into story time. We contributed a few pictures of Spine Poetry for Poetry Month that were displayed on Facebook.

We have taken the RFID challenge head-on and are steadily working through the collections. We are at least halfway through and confident that we will make the June 1 deadline.

I attended the Union Township meeting on 4/13 and shared information concerning the branch and happenings since the end of 2020.

I have appreciated the Shamulas Trust Fund and purchased a couple of book sets that promote diversity and cultural awareness. These collections are picture books and include nonfiction as well as fiction titles.

Thank you for supporting our ideas and work!

Julia Baratta, Branch Manager

Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Branch



Several books from the Citizen Kids collection and the Lantana Global collection purchased with monies from the Shamulas Trust Fund! So appreciated!