



Comments:

Zon Shumway

12-10-19

Sir -

Enclosed you will find a copy of the letter I sent to the Library Director three months ago. Now unless my faith in the US Postal Service is misplaced, I have to assume it was received. It requires no special genius to infer the obvious: that the directorship has no intention of responding to my concerns. After three months what other conclusion could one draw? But I'll let you decide whether I have a right to feel angry. Or perhaps you too believe I am wasting the time of some very busy people with such trivial issues and that my expectation of a timely answer is both silly and unreasonable.

One final thought - I am a taxpayer! And
a voter!

Zon Shumway



Branch District
Library

www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org

ALGANSEE BRANCH
580-B S. Ray-Quincy Rd.
Quincy MI 49082
(517) 639-9830

BRONSON BRANCH
207 N. Matteson St.
Bronson MI 49028
(517) 369-3785

COLDWATER BRANCH
10 E. Chicago St.
Coldwater MI 49036
(517) 278-2341

QUINCY BRANCH
11 N. Main St.
Quincy MI 49082
(517) 639-4001

SHERWOOD BRANCH
118 Sherman St.
Sherwood MI 49089
(517) 741-7976

LUCILLE E. DEARTH
UNION TWP. BRANCH
195 N. Broadway St.
Union City MI 49094
(517) 741-5061

Fax (517) 278-2342

December 18, 2019

Zon Shumway
324 Marshall St. Apt 17
Coldwater, MI 49036

Mr. Shumway,

We received your letter and apologize for the delay in returning a response. We have noted your opinion of our labeling practices and how we process donations and would like to address your concerns.

Libraries take a variety of approaches in organizing their collections. The American Library Association provides guidance on labeling and rating systems which can be found at <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/labelingrating>. The American Library Association affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about resources they choose to read, view, or listen to. We strive to give open access to all materials and value the opinions of our readers to select their own items.

The removal of the genre stickers, such as christian fiction and mystery, from our books was not a decision we made lightly. In the past, we heard from our patrons that authors' works being split between genres made finding books difficult. These divisions are also based on publishers' assessments and are a very commercial approach. In addition, genre labeling becomes complicated when the materials don't fit into clearly defined categories or when they contain elements of multiple genres. Library policies are always evolving, and we strive to balance the needs of all of our patrons.

Our library has a donation (https://branchdistrictlibrary.org/pdf/policies/gifts_and_donations_policy.pdf) and a materials selection policy (https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/pdf/policies/materials_selection_policy.pdf) that drives our collection decisions. Donations are often shared across our six locations to enhance the collections across the county or used in our Library Friends book sales. These decisions are made at the discretion of our designated staff.

We hope this letter can address some of your concerns.

Kimberly Feltner
Assistant Director

Comments and/or Suggestions: Coldwater 12/30/2019.
Let us know what you think? _____

I would like to have access to a mobile internet "hotspot" that can be checked out like a book. Jackson Library has a program of these mobile hotspots available for anyone w/ a library card, they are available for about a 3 week period, then returned like a checked out book - you take it home, activate it and have 3 weeks of internet service.

Publicity:

Coldwater, *The Daily Reporter*, December 17, 2019 page A1

Pancake art



Pancake art was a recent "tween" activity at the Kids' Place at Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library system. Students were divided into teams and each team was given ideas of what they could make using pancake batter. After creating the art projects, the participants ate their work with syrup, said Linda Dull, Kids' Place director. [SUBMITTED]

Union City, *Hometown Gazette*, December 18, 2019, page 11

UC Library holds Christmas Swag craft time

Laughs were heard ringing throughout the Lucille Dearth Union Township Library on Thursday as a group of crafters joined together to make Christmas Swags. Each swag was designed by the makers and great fun was had by all. (Photos by Andrea Tennyson and Julia Baratta)



Branch District Library Branches to hold many activities in December and January

The Branch District Library Union Township and Sherwood Branches will hold many activities for all ages in December and January.

Union Township Library Branch

Kids Activities

Story time is held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. with sto-

ries, music, movement, plan and fun offered; Creating STEAM activities are available Wednesdays starting in January at 3:30 p.m. STEAM activities and a snack will be provided.

Teen Activities

Pokemon Stress Ball activity- Dec. 18 at 3:30 p.m.; Jingle Bell Christmas Ornament-Dec. 19 at

3:30 p.m.; Bullet Journaling-Jan. 7 at 3:30 p.m.; Kool-Aid Lip Balm-Jan. 14 at 3:30 p.m.; DIY Scrunchies-Jan. 21 at 3:30 p.m.; Marble Tea Light Craft-Jan. 23 at 3:30 p.m.

Adult Events

Seekers Book Club Dec. 20, Jan. 17, and Feb 21 at 3 p.m.; Sewing 101 Jan. 9 from 11 a.m. to

1 p.m. (bring your own machine)

Family Events

Holiday Book Challenge Dec. 1-25; Tale Spinners First Fridays of the month at 3 p.m.; Showing of the Polar Express-Dec. 27 at 1 p.m.

Sherwood Library Branch

Kids & Tween Events

Wii Fun Day-Fridays at 3:30

p.m.; Holiday Bingo-Dec. 20 at 1 p.m.; Tween Craft Day- Dec 23 from 2-4 p.m.; Puzzle Day- Dec. 26 at 1 p.m.; Game Day-Jan. 2 at 1 p.m.; Snowflake Creations- Jan. 7 at 3:30 p.m.; Bingo Day-Jan. 20 at 1 p.m.; Tween Puzzle Day-Jan. 30 at 4 p.m.

Teen Events

Teen Bullet Journaling-Jan. 14

at 3:30 p.m.; DIY Scrunchies-Jan. 28 at 3:30 pm.

Family Events

Winter Reading Challenge (all ages)-January 1-31

National Pie Day-January 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information on any of these activities please contact that local branch.

Coldwater, *The Daily Reporter*, December 19, 2019, page A6



Racing Lego cars was a recent activity at Kids' Place at the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

Lego races at Kids' Place

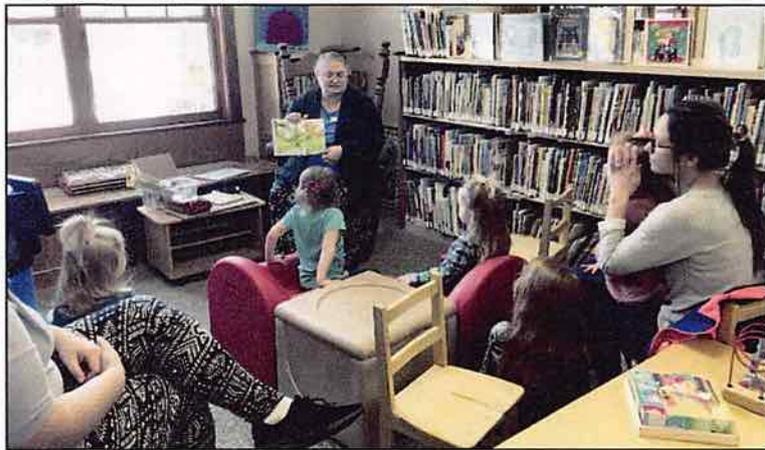
"Off to the Races" a family Lego Challenge, was recently held at Kids' Place of the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library System. James Wallace of Allen helped participants build race cars. After the race they built a zip line apparatus for

their favorite Lego character from his extensive collection."I'm not sure who had more fun, the adults or the youth," said Linda Dull, Kids' Place director. Wallace will be back in January 2020 for a Winter Fest Yeti Build, Lego Style.

Union City, *Hometown Gazette*, January 1, 2020, page 10

Gingerbread Man story time held

A Gingerbread Man story time was held at the Lucille Dearth Union Township Library on Thursday, December 12. Children heard two stories about the Gingerbread Man, crafted bracelets and Gingerbread Men puppets, and enjoyed a gingerbread cookie for snack. Storytimes are held at the library each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend. (Photos by Andrea Tennyson)



Coldwater, *The Daily Reporter*, January 8, 2020, page A3

New You Workshop set at Branch District Library

Aimee Myers, life purpose coach, will host an interactive workshop at the Coldwater Branch on at 5:30 p.m. today. She will provide information on how to set goals for the new decade with an overview of the differences between setting resolutions and goals. Participants will be given visual aids to do a

mini session on how to set goals and define the outcome they desire. Additional materials will be provided to start planning your goals for the future.

All Branch District Library events are free and open to the public and a library card is not required to attend. To register, call (517) 278-2341 ex. 100.

Coldwater, *The Daily Reporter*, January 10, 2020, page A1

Used book sale underway in Bronson



Lynnell Eash, manager of the Bronson Branch of the Branch District Library, with some of the thousands of titles in the Friends of the Library book sale which is underway at 103 E. Chicago St., Bronson, the former Ye Olde Book Shoppe. [ROSALIE CURRIER PHOTO]

By Rosalie Currier
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Ye Olde Book Shoppe, at 103 E. Chicago St., Bronson, is closing, but owners Bill and Michelle McClish still had thousands of used books in stock.

So they donated the rest of the inventory to the Friends of the Bronson Library.

Moving all those books would be a real challenge, but the new owner of the building, Catina Bauman, is letting Friends of the Bronson Library hold the book sale in the downtown

building 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. today and Saturday and Jan. 15-18. It is fill a bag for \$3 and the library provides the bags.

After the first day of the sale, Lynnell Eash, manager of the Bronson Branch, said, "We made \$300 yesterday and it hasn't made a dent."

Next week they will bring more books down from upstairs so book lovers can return to all new stock, she said.

"I think it's pretty awesome of the McClish family to do this," Eash said. "They have always been big supporters of the library."

Coldwater, *The Daily Reporter*, January 10, 2020, page A3

Winter break activities at Kids' Place

By Rosalie Currier
rcurrier@sturgisjournal.com

Santa and Mrs. Claus visited Kids' Place of the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library System on Dec. 21. Local children had a photo opportunity with Santa, shared their letters and had a snack of cookies.

Each participating family also received a book, "A Wish to be A Christmas Tree" by Colleen Monroe. The books were purchased through a donation from Coldwater Kiwanis and Rotary clubs.

"What a wonderful gift for the holiday season," said Linda Dull, Kids' Place director. "The Book Haven of Quincy also donated gift certificates to all the children in attendance."

In the days following Christmas, Kids' Place offered free activities for children of ages. A favorite was a visit by local cartoonist, Jonny Hawkins of Sherwood who returned, this time teaching wintery cartooning fun, Dull said.

The Tween Club had an afternoon of activities



Local cartoonist, Jonny Hawkins of Sherwood, taught cartooning at Kids' Place during Christmas vacation. [PHOTO PROVIDED]



Santa and Mrs. Claus visited Kids' Place of the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library System on Dec. 21.

[PHOTO PROVIDED]

involving slime making, a shaving cream and ping pong ball relay, making

luminary snow glow jars and a snack of cookies and hot chocolate.



Tween Club shaving cream event at Kids' Place during Christmas vacation. [PHOTO PROVIDED]

[PHOTO PROVIDED]

The next Tween Club for ages 10-12 is 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 18.