



Coldwater

It's been a quiet winter so far at the Coldwater Branch. We have continued to provide curbside service plus over-the-phone reference and recommendation services. Outreach and delivery services are still popular among patrons who otherwise have difficulty using our services, and we have seen an increase in calls about books and online resources to support home schooling and virtual classes.

Our grab-and-go program kits have continued to perform well. This month's most well-received kits included air dry clay ornaments for kids and DIY bath bombs for adults. In the coming weeks, we will have two new craft kits for adults: an illuminated snow scene jar and a create-your-own crewmate plush from the popular multiplayer game Among Us. For children, our Kids' Place staff have put together a variety of programs including a shadow box storytime edition of one of the fable The Fox and the Crow, candy sushi for teens, and a Valentine's-Day-themed Movin' and Groovin'.

As part of the Cardinal Christmas event here in Coldwater, staff member Ben Lyon painted one of the library's windows in a parody Black Friday ad reading "Almost Everything Free!" In addition, Children's Services Coordinator Linda Dull has planned a few outdoor activities for Winter Fest. Patrons will receive a kit with library information, hot cocoa, and the supplies for both frozen bubbles and snow volcano experiments.

In other news, we've done a little rearranging in the Coldwater Branch. The magazines have a new home in a spinning rack on the first floor. We've mixed up our magazine subscriptions for 2021, and we hope that patrons will enjoy our selection once we reopen to the public. We have also set aside some space that we're excited to develop into a multilingual collection later this year.

Quincy

Curbside patrons have been very compliant. We still have the occasional few that come to the door, "so as not to bother us". We have very polite patrons at Quincy.

Renee and I each completed the Tutor.com training. It looks to be a very useful tool for patrons.

Interestingly, our adult December Stress Relief kits were quite a hit. They contained a mini adult coloring book, mini box of colored pencils, chocolate and a piece of bubble wrap with instructions to "Pop stress relieving capsules every 4-6 hours or as needed, if symptoms persist, eat chocolate".

Since March, I have continued to try to catch each Friday's "Library in Recovery" discussion, which has been renamed "Library in Response". Based in Sausalito, California, the Gigabit Libraries Network has provided a wide gamut of speakers, covering many topics in the 32 part series thus far and is a very well run, professional discussion to listen in on.

Looking forward to what the new year will bring for our library. Patrons are very anxious to get in the door, but have been very appreciative of all the help we've given over these curbside closure weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood;

We've gotten a lot done this past month! We're continuously weeding our shelves, making space for the new materials that'll be rolling in. It'll also make the RFID project go a little quicker.

Also, this year we find ourselves incredibly grateful for the generous donation from the Shamulus Trust for Children's Materials. That gift will enable us to expand our collection to include talking books! I'd love to expand on other children's' collections, but we just don't have the space available to accommodate such fanciful dreams. Ah well, I'll keep playing the lottery!

Our Grab & Go kits are done and ready to go up until Mother's Day (not including our Nat'l Pie Day January 23rd) - I don't think anyone wants to eat a pie that's been sitting in our library for three weeks! So we'll pick them up this weekend.

I've done a couple of "Ready To Read Michigan", webinars. They're very informative and offer different ideas on how to get books into the hands of our littlest patrons, and once we accomplish that, what we can do to build upon that foundation! "Talk - Sing - Read - Write - Play!"

I was also able to attend a webinar by Ryan Dowd. The webinar was how stress and crisis can actually change your brain chemistry. Why some people handle situations the way they do and why others don't. How negative experiences impact people differently, therefore creating sometimes unpredictable reactions. In the end, kindness is what matters the most and there's no shortage of that in our building!

Until next month,

wishing all of you a safe and healthy new year -

Best regards,

Traci Counterman, Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

The month of December was fairly quiet with Union Township Branch working on plans for 2021 and the various projects that will be offered. We continue to look at ways of offering quality services for our patrons while sharing the love of literacy and libraries.

Our Grab 'n Go kits have been appreciated as we offered Melted Crayon Christmas Cards (Creating STEAM-12/7), Paint Sample Calendars (Teen- 12/14), and Counted Cross Stitch (Old Time Crafts- 12/21).

Our virtual offerings included Storytimes- 12/3 Not a Box, 12/10 When Mama Comes Home Tonight, and 12/18 If You Give a Mouse a Cookie and BDL Explores- 12/11 Making Paperback Book Trees, 12/18 Making Paper Snowflakes (where I sang Suzy Snowflake!) and 12/23 Making Paper Chains.

Judy and I participated in the three-part webinar from Library of Michigan concerning the Ready to Read program. Previously, the state-wide program was primarily the promotion of a picture book title with distribution of the book along with encouragement in programming and sharing with children. The program for 2021 is a lot different with no book distribution. Instead we have been trained to share the five aspects of early literacy being Talk, Sing, Read, Write, and Play. We will be able to conduct workshops for parents, caregivers, and child care providers with ideas for incorporating the various aspects into the children's daily life. Along with the workshops, Union will be offering "Lit Kits" which will include a free book for families as well as activity bags for each of the children. These bags will include ways for the children to experience the story. The Union City Friends of the Library will be providing the funds for the books. We are looking forward to starting this program in 2021!

I also watched the Mathical Book Awards Author Reading event, where the honored books were shared and discussed via a webinar. The titles are all math-themed ranging from picture books to Young Adult. We have all the titles in the collection and are looking forward to promoting them.

On December 4, Mulder's came and replaced the flat shelves with angled ones for the VOX book collection. They also added two magazine shelves bringing our total to eight.

With the year ending, I was required to fill out a final report for the LSTA grant and that has been turned in. It was very exciting to receive the grant and I am anticipating the use of the musical items for years to come!

Thanks for supporting the branches and the work we do!

Sincerely,

Julia Baratta, Union Township Branch Manager

