

Algansee

[To be delivered orally at the meeting.]

Bronson

I was able to attend the Head Start and St. Mary's Open Houses. Steve attended Bronson Jr.Sr. High School's Open House and we set up a table at Anderson and Ryan Schools. We handed out information about all the services Branch District Library offers county wide. People were surprised and pleased to find out their children could get library cards even if they don't live in Branch County but attend school here and were excited to hear about Tutor.com and CreativeBug.

We had our 30th anniversary open house to celebrate being a District Library. The food from Tasteful Creations was enjoyed. We had a nice small group and got to answer questions and talk with everyone who attended.

Fall programs have begun with Friday Tales, Homeschool Escapades and BDL Teens having happened already. The homeschoolers especially are happy to be back and seeing Mr. Steve again. He had 11 his first week and 21 the second week. October we will be adding Toddler Time and Craft hour for adults, teens, and children.

The Friends are raising money to place hand rails along both sides of the outside ramp and extend the handrail on the outside steps all the way out to the parking lot. Not sure this project will be completed this fall yet but hopeful. The nuts have been ordered and should arrive towards the end of October.

Lynnell Eash
Bronson Branch Manager

Coldwater

- The highlight of September here at the Coldwater Branch is the return of our storytime programming! Staff member Angela Richards has taken the lead on reviving Toddler Time on Tuesday mornings and implementing the new Family Storytime on Thursdays. We also began several all-ages series of programs including Board Game Night with Cheryl Lawrence, Art Club with Ben Lyon, and a monthly family movie. Notably, we now have a group of teen regulars who are Uno enthusiasts.

- Upcoming events include the returning Anime Club for teens as well as yoga classes for both adults and families. Yoga will be a recurring event hosted by local instructor Kristin Steckbauer and will be held in Heritage Park, near the Recreation Center.
- Grab-and-go kits this month have included an Apple Plate Craft for younger children, an Apple Keychain for somewhat older kids, a Fairy Jar Craft for adults, and DIY Locker Magnets for teens. The take-home kits continue to be popular with patrons, usually “selling out” well before the week is over.
- Coldwater’s annual Apple Fest is back on Saturday, September 18th! Here at the library, we are hosting the Friends of the Library’s book sale as well as their Chair-ity Auction event. On top of that, we will be holding the second Local Author Fair! Following up the virtual version from 2020, the Local Author Fair this year will be an in-person event featuring nine authors from Branch County and the surrounding area. Authors will be available to talk with patrons about their work and the publishing process.
- The library is hosting a display for Constitution Week, curated by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- We’ve done some more rearranging in the last few weeks. We now have separate computer labs for adults, teens, and children. This change will give children an opportunity to enjoy the library without disturbing adult patrons. A huge thank you to the I.T. department and circulation staff for making this transition go smoothly!

Quincy

About 23 people stopped by the 30th Anniversary event at our branch August 24. The four-sided photo/timeline display was enjoyed by those attending.

Our handicap access door and elevator have each been repaired and serviced following the power outages Quincy had in early August. The damaged control panel for the door may have likely been the result of a lightning strike near it. The Township will take care of that expense.

The Friends group handled PR for the library at the Main Street Festival in the Quincy Park on a very hot August 28. One especially dedicated Friend offers and sets up her canopy each year for shade.



A Story Walk has been installed on the south lawn of the library. A Fall/Winter themed story is planned for November.

Mulder's Movers will be returning to reinforce wall brackets on a south wall shelving unit. It was attached to the wall correctly when they returned all our shelving after our new carpet installation a few years ago, but the shelf unit has pulled away from the old plaster wall.

The RFID wand/shelf management tool is now being used weekly to clean up our collection and find any lingering issues, which have not been many.

A September 11 poster exhibition curated by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum was on display in the south room of the library for the past couple weeks. This series of 14 posters presented the events and aftermath of the attacks. We offered small flags and a book sale to the public that day, as well as showing the 9/11 Museum's presentation of the webinar 'Anniversary in the Schools' for the public to view.



Story Hour begins this week and Grab 'n Go kits are all set for the rest of the year. Teen events are scheduled for two Wednesday's each month, one facilitated by Lindsay and one by me.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Wood

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood:

We had a great turn out for our 30 year BDL anniversary last month. The company and the cupcakes were all amazing.

There are some wonderful new books rolling into our building and onto the "new book" shelf.

We've started in person programming again, yay! It's starting out a bit slow, but we're hoping that it catches on again and kids will be hustling back through our doors!

We're still collecting recipes for the month of September - if you haven't yet submitted one, it's not too late. Email it to: Sherwood@branchdistrictlibrary.org.

Until next month,
Respectfully,
Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

With SRP behind us and school looming before, we had intended to have a quiet month of prepping and planning. Well, it wasn't quite like that...

Due to the fact that we were involved with the "Celebrate the St. Joseph River" Day in Union City, there were Grab 'n Go kits that went along with the river theme as well as our monthly Lit Kit. Story Stones that were made with river rocks, Bubble Snakes with recycled bottles, and Wet Felted Soaps were prepared for the celebration. The Lit Kit featured "The Celebrated Jumping Frog" and other stories by Mark Twain and a river diorama for families to make. During the Saturday event, I brought in my walking wheel (large spinning wheel) and demonstrated the art of making yarn. A Storywalk was also set up on the north side of Heritage Cultural Park where several activities happened through the day. The day ended with the premiere of "Then, Now and Always...The St. Joe River Story", a documentary created by WNIT, a PBS channel out of South Bend. The movie was shown at the Rick Mears Amphitheater that evening. For those who missed the showing, I understand that there will be copy given to the library to be shared with the public.



Judy and I both spent time at BDL's booth during the Branch County Fair.

I attended meetings of several local municipalities to update them on what was happening at the library and personally invite the members to the open house at the Union Township Branch in honor of the 30th anniversary of BDL. Our open house was held on August 27 and the St Joseph River Day was August 28 so a busy but enjoyable weekend!

Judy and I divided and conquered the UC school open houses with Judy covering the middle school and I set up at the high school. The elementary was not open to having us

come over for either the open house or their "Charge into Kindergarten" evening. Hopefully next year will be different!



Looking to future events, Union City will be having their annual "Farm to Fork" event with a few adjustments. We will be primarily participating with a spotlight on our "Roots and Shoots Seed Library" and monthly Spice Club. The Friends group will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the new building from 3 to 5 pm before the dinner is served on September 25. Historical information will be shared along with pictures from the last ten years. Everyone is invited to come over and enjoy the festivities and help us celebrate the building's birthday!

Another future activity to add to the calendar is Fire Safety Day in Union City on October 9 from 9 to 3. UCFD will have trucks set up on High St, the county Smoke Trailer will be available for people to experience and the library will have games, crafts, and a Storywalk all relating to fire safety. Sherwood Fire Department is also planning to come over and the Sherwood Branch- BDL will be participating! A lot of fun activities are planned to enforce how important fire safety is! Hoping to see you there!

Thank you for reading my report! Julia Baratta, Union Township Branch Manager