

North narrative report for May 2020

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." (Arthur Ashe)

May brought weeks 8 through 12 of the COVID pandemic Stay Safe Stay Home campaign. Staff continued working at home to prepare for the challenges of reopening. Staff connected with each other to collaborate, met frequently in a variety of ways to plan ahead, continued to take advantage of staff development opportunities, worked on projects such as policy development and summer planning, attended local and regional meetings with other librarians, communicated with patrons and vendors, and conducted research. COVID, and a future with COVID ramifications featured prominently in everything we discussed. We had weekly North Branch staff meetings for those who were able to connect. Staff continued to monitor the daily updates of the Mayor and Governor. Bina Williams attended meetings for her regional and national committee work.

Bina continues to post to our Facebook page, and uses her Zoom account to continue weekly Little Bears Storytime and host other meetings. Monika Anton has been posting as well. She is also communicating and planning with several of our regular programmers to determine ways to conduct these virtually. Collaborating with Junior Librarian Cynthia Hilliard, there are several programming options in the works. Dana Hernandez' help was indispensable in revising circulation policies and Sherri Us continued researching North Branch history for our online 25th Anniversary celebration in the fall.

Paula carried out many administrative tasks including meeting recaps, contact with staff, colleagues, programmers, and patrons as possible. We are looking forward to staff returning to the library in early June, developing ways to make the transition through reopening stages and phases as safe as possible.

Paula Keegan