Library services still available

Attendance for online programs is ‘really high’

By Hannah Ball

Genesee District Libraries (GDL) are not allowing the public inside the locations, however librarians are busy organizing orders and online programming.

Katie Badgley, who became branch librarian at the Linden Library this past summer, is handling online and call-in orders.

“Door Side Pick Up is going well, but I miss having people come in and browse the collection,” she said. “The number of orders I handle in a week is definitely much smaller than the number of transactions pre-pandemic.”

The COVID-19 pandemic and not being able to allow people inside has changed the way patrons choose what books to read and what movies to watch.

“Instead of being able to look at our displays of new books, movies, music, and magazines, they either order things online or call me and ask me to pick things out for them. I just picked out 10 new movies for a family that wanted five new kids movies and five new adult movies,” she said. “And a father and son just asked for a bunch of historical fiction, presidential biographies and books on World War II. I like helping people find good books to read, so that is always fun.”

The staff of two is working on other projects, like taking inventory and rearranging the space.

“I really look forward to the days when this is all over and I can meet my patrons, especially kids, face-to-face,” she said. “I can’t wait to have families come back again for story times and craft programs. I think we all will appreciate the library as a community gathering place more than ever when this is all over. In the meantime, we will continue to make connections with the community and get people materials as safely as we can.”

Kelly Flynn, community relations manager at the GDL, said under normal circumstances, all branches offer in-person programs, but due to COVID-19, all programs are virtual. All programming will be virtual until June 1.

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LIBRARY SERVICES

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“Attendance is really high, much higher than in-person programs, because we are reaching a whole new audience. We also don’t have space limitations online, so we can serve more people. We offer things for all ages and interests,” she said.

On Jan. 8, they have a virtual Tween/Teen Game Night. On Jan. 15, they have a program called Needle Drop, where librarian and music buff Ivan Smith will play vinyl records and talk about New Wave pop and rock music. On Jan. 16, magician Joel Tacey will perform magic and stunts. On Jan. 21, they have a trivia program called, Are You Smarter Than a Librarian?

On Jan. 26, Rosie Chapman will put on an educational and entertaining program about Maya Angelou. On Jan. 28, Terrance Shulman will present a program called Bought Out and Spent: Recovery from Compulsive Shopping and Spending.

Go to thegdl.org to see the entire lineup of programs.

“Attendance depends on the program. Flynn said Marissa’s Marvelous Story Time attracts an average of 100-300 viewers per session. They’re running virtual escape rooms, and the most recent had 108 participants. An Appalachian Trail Talk with Bethany Griffin had 514 viewers.

Flynn said while they’re sad to see many things closed, she doesn’t anticipate a negative effect on regular library users and the community.

“Our patrons can access thousands of digital items 24/7, including ebooks, movies, television, music, magazines and comics. They can place holds online, or call their local branch to place a hold, and pick items up at their branch. They can ask a librarian to choose books for them,” she said.

Users can browse the catalogue and librarian recommendations at the gdl.org, and they can call and set up a tech tutoring session on using Zoom, FaceTime, or any technology.

“We’re still here for the community in a wide variety of ways,” she said. “We have had nothing but positive feedback from parents about our programs and story times. Parents who are teaching kids at home are happy to have library resources available, as are school teachers who are teaching remotely. Our Children’s Librarian, Marissa Boisclair, is doing an amazing job of providing fun, educational programs and information for families.”
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W L S S E M S E L O D N T C I B H N T M
F I T T M C U G H Z I V U O U G E S P I
N O C Y O V V R V M A O N R S B D A E C
H A U U I D E A A T A T C R O I W N S R
B D I E K R C T K E L S S S S B Y I O
S O I L E D N E L C E B I C T H T T O
O F M B S O P D O O C P N H R K C I N R
A M N R C I H N F A H F D I K I M Z A G
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Y O D C D A R R K C G S C R I V K R P N
Z H I H C D U N T O H E E L Z F S N B I
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Z Y M B W N B N W D K B N S I I K U S
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Answers in this Sunday’s edition of the Tri-County Times

Answers in this edition of the Tri-County Times
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**Weekend Scrambler**

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MaryAnn Dunham 1932 - 2020

MaryAnn Dunham - age 88 of Linden, formerly of Southfield, passed away Wednesday, December 23, 2020. A committal service will be held at a later date at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Arrangements by Sharp Funeral Homes Linden Chapel, 209 E. Broad St., Linden. Memorial contributions in MaryAnn’s memory would be appreciated to Ascension Hospice.

MaryAnn was born November 27, 1932 in Flint, the daughter of Henry and Anna (Salwasser) Maser. She married David S. Dunham in Farmington, May 31, 1952. MaryAnn graduated from Pickney High School. She was a loving wife and mother, who enjoyed traveling, cooking, and was an avid reader. MaryAnn is survived by her husband of 68 years, David; children, Mary Brandreth, Kathy Gladkowski, and Steven Dunham; grandchildren, John (Ginger) Gladkowski, David (Candace) Brandreth, Kasey (Michael) Calvert, and Carly (Matthew) Davis; great-grandchildren, Morgan, Ivy, Jorja, Zoey, Finnley, and Grace. She was preceded in death by her parents; and siblings. Online tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Roger Edward Renwick 1938 - 2020

Roger Edward Renwick - age 82. On Monday, December 28, 2020, Roger joined his parents in Heaven. A private service of remembrance was held for immediate family at the Dryer Funeral Home in Holly at 11 AM Thursday, December 31, 2020. Visitation was Wednesday, December 30 from 2 - 6 PM and Thursday from 10-11 AM before the service. The family is planning a celebration of life for the summer of 2021. He was born in Flint to Edward Lawson Renwick and Margaret Ethel (Currit) Renwick on September 28, 1938. He lived in Fenton his entire life and loved the town he called home. As an only child, he learned early to make friends quickly and enjoyed the company of others. His quick-wit and jovial nature endeared him to his family, friends, customers and his community. He was an ambitious young man who obtained his driving permit at age 14 so he could work on a farm. His love of farming crops stemmed from that young age and he continued to farm crops in the area with his son and grandsons until his death. He continued to work for the farm, his family’s R&B Taxi service and his dad’s accounting firm while in high school and college. After graduating from Fenton High School in 1956, he obtained his degree in accounting from Baker Business College (now known as Baker College) in Flint. He met his wife, Ferne Pearl Parker, while in high school and married in Holly on September 16, 1961. He and Ferne were blessed with three children, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Roger had a special bond with his children and grandchildren and loved being an active part of their lives. Having coffee at the homes of his kids was a weekly highlight for him. Roger owned and operated two local accounting firms for 60 years, R-W Accounting and Business Accounting. He counted his customers as his friends and enjoyed sharing stories with them annually at tax time. In 1970, Roger and Ferne bought a small farm in Fenton which brought joy to them both every day. Animals of every kind and crops were raised on the farm and sparked an interest in 4-H when the kids were young. Roger was on the Genesee County Fair Board and was a Fair Superintendent for over 20 years. He also gave back to his community as a volunteer driver, Director and Board Member for Holly Volunteer Ambulance for over 25 years. He and Ferne travelled all around the world with family and friends and couldn’t wait to go on their next adventure. Their kids share this love of travel as a result. During quiet times, he loved to play solitaire on his tablet, do jigsaw puzzles, and watch black and white western TV shows and John Wayne movies. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ferne; children, Edward S. (Nancy) Renwick, Julie M. Hungerford (Greg), and Angela I. Renwick; grandchildren, Nicole (Alan) Renwick Easton, Mackenzie Renwick, Jonathan (Sarah) Hungerford, and Nicholas Hungerford; great-grandchildren, Jackson Easton, Maverick Easton, Emma Casemore, and Olivia Hungerford; and special family member, Dan Eder. He was predeceased by his parents; and grandson, Jacob Renwick. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Roger’s name to the Genesee County Agricultural Society or Adopt-A-Pet Fenton. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com

Michael Ford


Robbie Tucker


Sally Royal


Shirley Henson

Beverly Gale Walroth  
1941 – 2020

Beverly Gale Walroth—age 79. It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Beverly Gale Walroth of Linden, on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Gale died at home surrounded by her children. She was born in Union City, TN on March 15, 1941 to Raymond and Helen Deason. Gale grew up in Plainwell, active in school and sports. Following graduation from Plainwell High School, Gale worked for the Kalamazoo court system until her marriage to James G Walroth June 16, 1961. Gale was a stay at home mom for her four children until she returned to the workforce in 1998 and began working in the public school system assisting children with disabilities. Gale was thrilled when she became a grandmother to Shane and Brady and loved nothing more than being a grandmother. Gale was preceded in death by her parents, James and Helen Deason; brother, John Deason; and niece, Martha Hurley; as well as beloved cousin, Deanna Pifer.

Carlton “Wayne” Timmons


Gregory Hull


Heather Bonner


Helen Horcha


Janet Holzwarth


Janette Vallaire


Joyce Harms


Kenneth Hodgson


Lawrence Whitaker


Martha Hurley


Mitchell Scott Graff

Mitchell Scott Graff—age 59, of Harrison, formerly of Byron, died Saturday, December 26, 2020. Private services will be held with interment in Flint Memorial Park. Those desiring may make contributions to the Clare County Humane Society. Mitchell was born October 31, 1961 in Flint. He is survived by his sons, Jonathon and Justin; mother, Patricia; father, John; sisters, Ronda, Brenda, Betsy, and Tiffany; nephews, Zachary, Scott and Miles. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Alberta Frazier and grandfather, Frank B. Frazier. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

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Violet Ruth Baird
1929 – 2020

Violet Ruth Baird - age 91, of Fenton, died Thursday, December 24, 2020. Funeral services were held 2 PM Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Intermment followed at Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation was held 5 - 9 PM Monday, December 28 and 9 AM - 2 PM Tuesday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Fenton First Presbyterian Church or Ascension Hospice. Violet was born February 17, 1929 in Fenton, the daughter of Roy William and Helen Lucille (Jarvis) Thornton. She was a graduate of Fenton High School Class of 1947 and married Harold Bert Baird on May 22, 1948. He preceded her in death on November 6, 2007. Surviving are children, Leslie (Deanna) Baird, Ruth Ann Baird, Roy (Susan) Baird, Jeffrey (Melodie) Baird, Laura (Doug) Hecox, James (Lynn) Baird, and John Whaley; 26 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren; brother, David Thornton; two sisters, Helen Compeau and Vera Thornton; many nieces; and nephews. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Susan Whaley; two sisters, Marjonie, Mary Sue; and two brothers, Charles and Clyde. Online condolences and tributes may be posted on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Ann Marie (Patsie) Waggett
1946 – 2020

Ann Marie (Patsie) Waggett – age 74 died in the hospital on Sunday, December 21, 2020. A private family service was held on Thursday, December 31 at Sharp Funeral Home in Linden. A Funeral Mass and interment of ashes service will be held on Friday, February 19 at St. Catherine of Sienna in DuBois, PA. Condolences may be addressed to Barb Jacques at 16429 East Horseshoe Trail, Linden MI 48451 or bwjacques@gmail.com. Arrangements provided by Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden, Chapel, 209 E. Broad Street, Linden. She is survived by many who loved her deeply including her four daughters, Barbara Jacques, Kathleen Nunnelly, Hope Waggett and Jerri Lynne Smith; as well as twelve grandchildren, Freya, Lance, John Richard, Sydney, Ann Marie, Dale, Duncan, Warrin, Lydia, Rileigh May and Patton who brought her great joy. She is also survived by her three sisters and brother, Geraldine Weilacher, Therese Cofer, Christine Tyler and Joe Weilacher. Her first great-grandchild will arrive in 2021. She was preceded in death by her husband of 47 years John Henry Waggett in 2013; her sister, Dorothy Jean Shaffer; her brother, Paul Weilacher; and her parents, Barbara (Liedl) and Herman Weilacher. She lived most recently at Lockwood of Fenton and previously at the Mount Nittany Residences in State College, PA. She and John enjoyed living in Orange Park, FL from 1987 through his death in 2013. Patsie and John grew up and met in the DuBois, PA area and raised their four girls in Edinboro just south of Erie, PA. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in their memory to Lions Club International - Empowering Service Fund at lionsclub.org/en/donate. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.
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