

## September 2021 Narrative Monthly Report for North Branch



...and so we were forever changed.

September was another busy month. The solemnity of the twentieth anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks was honored with a large poster and book display Bina arranged. The memorial outside was refreshed with the help of many hands, including David O, Monika, and Bina. David also replaced the flag snaps on the large pole.

September is also Library Card Sign Up Month every year. Last year's drive was only virtual, so it was inspiring to see many new patrons come in person to get a card. Several teachers have a renewed sense of purpose about relaying the importance of the library to their students, so many teachers are asking about getting cards for their students without one.

Covid testing remained inside for the month of September, and the number of visits grew as people realized how easily accessible our site is. The long-awaited outside trailers arrived at the end of the month and testing will now take place behind the building. This has impacted the parking lot greatly, but has also brought in some new faces.

Chess under the Mayor's Summer Youth Initiative Grant continued virtually until the culminating party one Saturday afternoon, when several teens and mentors gathered for a tournament and pizza. We welcomed the gift of two square tables and four chairs from the Bethel Library, perfectly sized for chess playing and other games.

Displays included Hispanic Heritage Month materials as well as continuing the popular table of materials related to A Plant Based Life. Other library work, meetings and planning continued as usual, but we continue to be short-staffed 3 full-timers and 3 part-timers. The staff has been stretching to make it all work. As we get busier, we look forward to replacements soon.

Paula Keegan