

Bronson Branch Report

- April was filled with programs, school visits and work on summer events.
- We attended the Head Start parent/teacher conferences to sign children up for library cards and hand out information about the District.
- I attended the Loleta Fyan Small and Rural Libraries Conference in Traverse City. Good conference, lots of interesting breakout sessions. Came home with fun ideas.
- Attended the Bronson Township board meeting to give a quarterly library report.
- Teachers are calling to sign their classes up for tours of the library and so far, we have twelve on the schedule.
- Summer events are on the calendar. Working with the other Managers, Kimberly and Jessica T. to get everything for our "Libraries Rock!" Summer Reading Program ready for the start date.
- Shout-out to Jessica Clark for being a real trooper and taking care of those "patron restroom disasters" without complaint. Also, for keeping the library bulletin board at the High School Media Center filled with interesting displays.
- Can't thank Steve Watson enough for being willing to jump right in to cover programs and for coming up with ideas to keep the tweens coming back to the library.

Ready or not, here comes summer!

Coldwater Branch Report

During the month, we are highlighting the Great American Reads by PBS. This is a list of the most-loved 100 books in the United States. Starting on May 22, PBS will narrow the list down to the number one all-time favorite of the people! At the Coldwater Branch we have the list placed next to several of the books available for check out. Also, this month we are working with CHC Hospice to sell tickets for the Great Duck Race. Every year we try to sell the most tickets to win the staff an ice cream party, so if you need a ticket, stop at the Coldwater Branch.

We also had a KCC Service Learning Student, Xeidler Trayling, who spent the semester volunteering at the library. He is a passionate youth who wants to encourage others to read by hooking them on comic books/graphic novels/manga. He worked closely with the library to create and implement a comic book exchange that was held on Saturday, May 5. He was a great volunteer and we wish him the best!

Adults:

At the end of April, we concluded our Adult Poetry Contest. It is always amazing to see how talented our library users are! Poems are on display on the first floor of the Coldwater Branch. The winners for the contest were:

- 1st place – Joe Scott Jr. Poem Titled: Touching the Fathers Heart
- 2nd place – BJ Mallen Poem Titled: No Poem's on Sunday
- 3rd place – Kathryn Barnes Poem Titled: The Wind/Lilacs in Spring

Also, during the last month BDL offered the following programs to the adults:

- Movie Matinee- This was a tie in movie to our One Book One County read
- Cruising the Danube –Dolores Tichenor shared her experiences during her trip to these countries through photos, videos, and stories.

- Life, Love, and Laughter- Singer Steve Barber shared his stories and songs covering some of his favorite things.
- Felt Wreath Class – Taught by Staff Member Loretta Sherfield
- Author Visit, Donut Dolly – Author JoAnn Puffer Kotcher shared her personal account as a Donut Dolly during the Vietnam War.

Kids' Place:

A highlight this last month was our Traveling Tales Program to Holland. A huge shout-out of thanks for the local Kiwanis Club and Johanna Hordik for helping us provide the children with a taste of the Netherlands on Saturday, May 5. She and Robyn Owens of Coldwater provided some Dutch treats for tasting, including black licorice, hagelslag or bread and butter with chocolate sprinkles and milk, and Gouda cheese. The winner of the Holland Michigan Windmill Village packet was Madilynn Persails of Coldwater. She received a pass for 4 adults and 4 children that was donated from the Holland Area Visitors Bureau. All the children were delighted with the pretty Delft shoes that the Visitors Bureau also provided. They clomped around in authentic wooden shoes as part of the morning's fun. Our next trip will be in July when we explore the country of Peru.



Kids Place hosted 3 events as a part of Money Smart Week. Held for a week in April, Kids' Place partnered with a local credit union, Honor Credit Union. Tweens learned about Coin Collecting from Eric Richards and then used coins to make batteries and other coin related experiments. There was also a preschool money themed story time. All story time attendees, and families throughout the month, received a free book, "Lots and Lots of Coins", by Margaret Reed, along with a Honor bag.

Wrapping up this week is the Homeschool Adventures for the school year. They have explored the culture, history, art and food of the nation's Native American tribes. During the year, many great projects and presentations occurred and most important learning and fun coincided.

Final preparations are occurring for the 2018 Summer Reading Program including our very busy programming schedule. Look for some great family friendly entertainment to truly make the Library Rock this Summer!

Teens:

Wow! We are coming up on the one-year anniversary of the Teen Space being moved to the basement in the Coldwater Branch. Reflecting upon this, I am proud

to say that BDL has gave often an overlooked population a great space to be teens! With that said, we are still hearing positive feedback from the teens and also the community about their "library home". The space has been so well used that additional staff have been hired to keep it staffed during open hours. This has only enriched our Teen Services Department and they are doing great things not only at Coldwater but across the district!

This month was the last of the regularly scheduled Spring program including teen favorites; STEAM Power, Writing Club, Wild at Art, and Book to Movie. With the Summer and the end of school fast approaching, new Teen Programs are being rolled out. The calendar includes a Craft and How-To Series. The big summer kick off is a Teen Lock Out on June 2nd after hours. BDL and teens will be taking over the courthouse parking lot to throw a Summer bash and only 80 teens from across the district will get to join in the fun!

Submitted:
Kimberly Fetner
Coldwater Branch Manager

Quincy Branch Report

- I attended the Loleta Small and Rural Library Conference in Traverse City April 30-May 2; This biennial conference is put together well, as they have more time to do so between conferences. Sessions attended were on further Mel database information, Summer Reading Wandoo Training, a WWI genealogy session that was very informative, author Johnathan Rand is always very entertaining, and a Social Media session was very informative with suggestions to engage patrons more.
- I also attended a one-day seminar in Perrysburg, Ohio on Young Adult Literature. This is one conference topic I have not yet attended. This was THE best seminar I have ever attended in my 20 years with the library. I will seek out the presenter again.
- Michigan Week was celebrated with Michigan trivia and treats available to the public.
- Summer Reading Program is set to go, thanks to all prep work by Kimberly and many others.

Sherwood Branch Report

Happy Spring!

Sherwood is gearing up for Summer Reading and we have lots of exciting things coming up!

As of right now, for the month of June, we have Paleo Joe coming, lots of Teen programs and ... A three band "free concert" that will be held at the park in Sherwood - (Thursday June 21st @ 6:00pm) "BDL Sherwood Branch Library Rocks Summer Solstice In The Park!" I really really hope all of you will make it over - I promise it will be a great show. You won't be disappointed!

In July we have another line up of programs and performers coming. Including "Caribbean Steel Drums" Joel Tacey will be performing as well.

I apologize for the brief report this month. I will make up for it next month.

Sincerely,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Branch Report

- During Library Week a contest was held for all patrons to guess the number of books in this library. We had a wide range of guesses from 1,000 to 5 billion. The exact number of books as of 4/1 was 13,446 and the closest patron guessed 11,444. Most patrons were overwhelmed that this library has that many books.
- Seven patrons read the One County Book, *A Man Called Ova*. Unfortunately, not one of those seven patrons attended the book discussion.
- Union City's Beginndergarten class visited the library for a fun filled morning. The children toured the library, followed by a book about Winnie the Pooh. Our theme was Winnie the Pooh because the class was going to see a program at Tibbits about Pooh. The children enjoyed making a Pooh mask and a honey pot. Since we had our new Kids iPad installed all the children were able to spend at least 5 minutes each on the iPad.
- I attended the annual Friends meeting in Alganssee and offered to host the next annual Friends meeting in 2019.
- We had 3 teen programs, Crafternoon, Steam Power, and Wild at Art, this month and I attended programs at the preschool and the Community Unlimited after school program.
- I am happy to announce that since the children's iPads were installed we have had over 40 little ones working on them. Thanks to John and to the Board for these wonderful additions to the library.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Gottschalk

Picture from the April 25th of the Hometown Gazette

Beginnergarten Class visit library and Tibbits

On April 12, the Beginnergarten class from Union City Elementary took a trip to the Union Township Library in Union City and Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater. While they were at the library, the wonderful Mrs. Judy Gottschalk, and her helper Miss Camry, gave students a tour, read them a story about The Adventures of Winnie The Pooh, and helped them do an art project (They made Pooh masks and decorated honey pots). Students enjoyed eating their sack lunches at the library and playing in the "kids" section until it was time to board the bus for Tibbits. As they were leaving, Gottschalk and Camry presented each child with a backpack filled with surprises and an invitation to come back for the fun activities, which will take place at the library this summer. At Tibbits, the Beginnergarteners watched an interactive children's theater production entitled: A Pot of Honey: Pooh Stories. The show was followed by a question and answer time, in which students were able to talk to the cast members and ask any questions they had. The students had a great time and many said that this summer they hoped to visit the library for The Summer Reading Program and Tibbits for Popcorn Theater. (Courtesy Photo)

