

Alganssee

The service desk has been cut down to make it a sitting desk instead of a standing desk and it is working much better. We purchased a new supply cupboard and we have been working on organizing all our craft supplies so that anyone can look in the cupboard and find what they need. The little room off the adult fiction area has been used for storage and had a couch in it. The Wood family removed the couch so that we could make a little work area to prepare for programs and the second person working now has a small table where they can use the laptop to do work also. Programs continue and out numbers improve each month.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Bronson

Spring break and National Library week fell on the same week this year which always leads to more children coming to programs. We had several pop-up programs and had really good attendance. The children had a great time making and flying the simplest little kites and it was fun watching them running and laughing.

We had a volunteer who cleaned up the parking lot flower bed, dusted all the shelves in the library, polished the melodion and did several other projects that we just haven't had time to do.

We have more and more requests for certain titles which is great because it means more people are using the libraries.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

Spring is in the air! and so is National Poetry month; Coldwater is hosting a poetry contest for April. We are welcoming the change is season with a new clerk Brandon and myself, Christina, as Branch Manager.



The first week in April was spring break for Coldwater Community Schools. Library guests had a blast at the Staycation Beach Party; events included: dancing, limbo, bean bag toss, hula hooping, creating beachy photo frames, and drinking lemonade.

Recapping March; we had a total of 4,919 books checked out and 37 entries in the March is Reading Month challenge. At the staff in-service day, the staff completed a lot of spring cleaning projects including; changing lightbulbs, cleaning emergency exits, dusting stacks, and ceiling fans. The branch received a new copy machine on March 30th replacing our 6-year old machine that passed on.

The staff is also gearing up for Summer Reading Program kick off will be at the beautiful Heritage Park on June 2nd.

Some things to watch for; new magazine holders for the adult section and finally, the painting of the exterior of the library is scheduled start in mid-May.

Upcoming Programs for April:

- Grab and Go Kits!
- Children: Story times, Toddler time
- Teens/ Tweens: Art Club, Anime Club, Poetry writing workshop
- Teen/Adult/Senior: A Smashing Good Time
- Adults/Senior: Shake it out Yoga
- Family Friendly: Game night, Children's Celebration Day

Quincy

The past month has been a time of change at the Quincy branch. The community and library staff joined together in an all-day celebration of Lisa Wood's retirement. The Quincy Advisory Board graciously provided refreshments and decorations, and there was a steady stream of well-wishers all day long.

On March 26, the Quincy Branch had their One Book, One County



discussion of *Written in Bone*. Jeanne Berg facilitated the discussion and themed treats were provided by Jeanne and Bonnie Frick, as well.

There were two teen programs this past month and coming up next week is another teen event and part 2 of an adult program on the Sauk Trail/US 12 Road by Professor John Geisler.

After looking at our hourly attendance and circulation, and consulting with the Quincy Advisory Board, the Quincy Branch Hours will be tweaked somewhat effective June 1. The Advisory board felt that being open M-F, a consistent start time, and opening a little later would be beneficial. We settled on opening each morning at 10am, and closing at 5:30pm most days. Our later close at 6pm will be moved from Mondays, when it wasn't very busy, to Wednesdays, which has had the busiest last hour of the day. And Saturdays will be 10-1. This is a net increase of 2 hours open to the public, but there won't be any added expense to the budget due to how we'll schedule staff.

Finally, I am excited to announce that Sarah Strong will be joining the library on May 2 as our new Quincy Branch Manager. Looking forward to what Sarah will bring to the library!

Submitted by John Rucker

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood;

Happy Spring!

We're having consistent attendance for most of our kids and teen programs. Our numbers aren't as high as we'd like to see them, but we're working on it. We have an adult program coming up later this month.

We started Toddler Story Time last week and had two kids attend! I'm excited to have gotten the program off the ground and am looking forward to it every week.

We've done some spring cleaning and have been weeding books.

I'll be working on orders for SRP prizes later this week. Book and movie orders are going well.

I've been attending Rotary meetings every Tuesday and have been sending out my networking feelers! Hopefully we'll make some connections.



Until next time - Have a great month.

Respectfully,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

We kicked off the month with another scavenger hunt; this time with an Irish theme honoring St. Patrick's Day. In addition to the various images relating to the holiday, we had a handful of larger leprechauns hidden and if the children found them, they received a new book! A lot of fun was had by the almost 50 participants!



Many Grab 'n Go kits were appreciated throughout the month including In Like a Lion... for the children (3/7), Creating STEAM's Leprechaun Dust (3/14), Old Time Craft's Decorated Easter Egg (3/21), and a Rice Sock Heating Pad for the Teens (3/28). An Easter Lit Kit was offered and the Spice Club selection was dry mustard as would be appreciated in the traditional Corned Beef meal.

The Dolls' Party was a rousing success with several young ladies bringing their dolls. We enjoyed hot chocolate, received goodie bags, made paper roses, and did the scavenger hunt! The "slow" doll fashion show was inspiring and encouraging. The show was a display of handmade doll clothes made from patterns in some of the books in the collection. There is interest in a doll club so I will be looking into that beginning in the fall.



I was invited to attend and present at the Union City Elementary School's Community Engagement program (3/8) for the 3rd graders. I shared information about BDL, the branches, activities and summer reading. Over 100 attended the evening activity and it was great to connect with the community!

Wednesday, March 9th was amazing! I had story time with a number of families coming by along with BDL's Children's Services Coordinator Val Albright. This was the largest group I have had since the pandemic started and it was great! We also had a few teens participate in the March Madness program with Teen Services Coordinator Sandi Podolan with one of them winning a prize!

The Roots and Shoots Seed Library opened on March 19 with several families and individuals stopping by. Fortunate Farms in Union City donated over 80 packets of seeds to give away and two lovely baskets for the door prizes. I also had a Spice Club Sampler pack and a pair of hose sprayers to give out for the door prizes. Wally Wallenburg came by to answer questions about trees and landscaping and Barbara Brott and Sara Brewer from the Green Thumb Garden Club of Union City helped with seed distribution and making paper pots! Seed packets have been flying out of the branch since then!



Other programs included Jeanne Berg coming by to moderate the OBOC book discussion (3/15) and local author Brandy Bennett Baker had a book signing (3/26).

Virtual activities for the month were few but very beneficial. MI Youth Quest had an update meeting (3/16) as we wrapped up the Winter 2022 Quest. The MI Youth informational meeting (3/9) was about summer reading ideas. An all-day "conference" (3/10), Middle Grade Magic, was interesting with new books, author interviews, and networking opportunities.

Lastly, Miss Judy has decided to retire effective April 29, so you all are invited to stop by and wish her well on that day. The Friends group is offering refreshments and we are hoping the community will come out on Judy's last day. She began in October 2008 so she will end a 13 ½ year service to BDL and Branch County. Happy Retirement, Judy!

Thank you for supporting literacy and those who promote it!

Julia Baratta

Union Township Branch Manager