

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. December was a busy month at the Alganssee Branch.

Our adult craft seats were full again with additional people who showed up. Linda helped everyone create their own coffee scented candle. They made foaming bath wash for the adult project and it was also filled to capacity.

Sneaky Squirrel Club has been a popular program. We have been seeing twice the attendance we were averaging for Crafts with Linda. The kids enjoy their missions and crafts.



At story time we began our month counting and measuring. After reading about a clever measuring worm, we measured and compared the weights of toys with the Measurements STEAM kit. The following week we counted with Little Blue Truck as he got ready for Christmas. The farm animals from Paula's toy box helped us through the story. At our last story time of the month, we read the Farm version of *T'was the Night Before Christmas* and made reindeer food together.

We explored holiday traditions around the world on Thursdays. They loved playing with the dreidels as we discussed Hanukkah. The next week we baked *lussekatter* rolls in a toaster oven to sample the tradition of St. Lucia's day. Our plan to study Iceland's *Jolabokaflo*d (Book Flood) was overtaken by the gift that Sneaky Squirrel had been guarding all month. They were so excited when they discovered the Wii in the box.

The *Muppet Christmas Carol* movie night drew in several families. Lego Club has been the usual fun. They are still determined to finish one of the kits they have been working on for the past two months. Family Game Night was a blast with parents and kids competing against each other in bowling and boxing on the Wii. It got pretty competitive.



Our biggest and most successful program this month was cookies with Santa. We had 113 people come to meet Santa at the Library. And a huge thank you goes to Linda, who jumped out of bed and drove an hour to keep the program going after I got into an accident on the way in. She is amazing and saved the day.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Bronson

Looking at the white board in the office it is very satisfying to see that out of the 10 items on the list 8 were completed in 2023. Both restrooms leaking toilets were fixed. The railing was placed along the ramp and extended out to the parking lot on the steps. The locks on the inside library door and township restroom were repaired. We added the Quiet Pod to our media center. We had a new water bottle filling station added to our drinking fountain. New people counter at the parking lot entrance. Duct work was cleaned and windows washed. Now moving into 2024 I'm making a new wish list.

During Winter break we had pop-up programs for anyone wanting to attend. Bingo, coloring, puzzles, shrinky dinks, Perler beads, electronics, games and a movie. We had a total of 126 children join us for programs over winter break.

Adults are enjoying the Winter Reading Challenge and later this month we will start our Book Buddies program. Children checking out 5 books a week will receive a little keychain stuffed animal. We awarded our first pizza coupon for the Tween/Teen Coffee House participation prize and that got a lot of attention on the library social media sites. Hopefully it will also draw more kids to attend.



We are off to a great start for 2024 and look forward to what the new year brings.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

Happy New Year! The Coldwater Branch has several renovation projects planned for 2024 and we have been taking bids for new carpeting. The remainder of December was spent celebrating with some fun filled programs. The Teen held a Cardboard Construction Zone, Cookie Decorating and Ninja Turtle Night. The Kids Place had a Holiday Party with a special visitor, Dove the comfort dog. Lastly, the adults crafted a perfect holiday centerpiece out of yarn and pom poms.



Our bulletin boards are showcasing National Hobby Month which gives us a chance to highlight some of our great items available in the Library of Things.



The Teen Space community coloring page has finally been finished, see what a lot of artistic talent can create!

The Coldwater Branch and Coldwater Kiwanis Club will be hosting a Cardboard Sled building workshop on Saturday, January 13, this program is to prepare for the sled races at Winter Fest. We have also registered with the Love Local event on February 3rd, this also happens to be Take Your Child to the Library Day! We will have two Valentine's window displays, crafts and candy for anyone that visits the library between 10 am and 3 pm.

Some upcoming programs for Kids Place include: Story time on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Get Craftin' and movie night. The Teen's continue to have a monthly book club on the third Monday of the month at four o'clock. Teen's include: "Shelvie" Scavenger Hunt, Watercolor Pet Mosaics, Cocoa and Karaoke and Anime Night. Adult upcoming programs include: Morning Book Club, Romance Book Club and a showing of the classic film "Rear Window."

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

Here is a summary of the fun things happening at the Quincy Branch -

- Quincy got new chairs for the adult area and they look wonderful! We've had many compliments in the short time that we have had them out. Thank you Quincy Advisory Board for making this purchase for the Quincy library!
- We got all our Spring activities planned & are looking forward to more fun programs to get planned out. Please be on the lookout for our upcoming events and try to attend one!
- We had the annual Quincy Lights in downtown Quincy on December 15th. We had 279 people come through the library in 2 hours to do many crafts, get snowman soup, and write a letter to Santa. It was so busy and so many smiling faces when they left the library. This is one of my favorite events to do - I'm looking forward to it this next year (yes - already! 😊)
- With all of the holidays, our programs and attendance were down a little bit but we kicked the 2024 year off right & it's been really busy in here so far. So much fun and great conversations!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season & are staying safe and warm this winter so far!

Happy New Year!

Submitted by Sarah Strong



Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood!

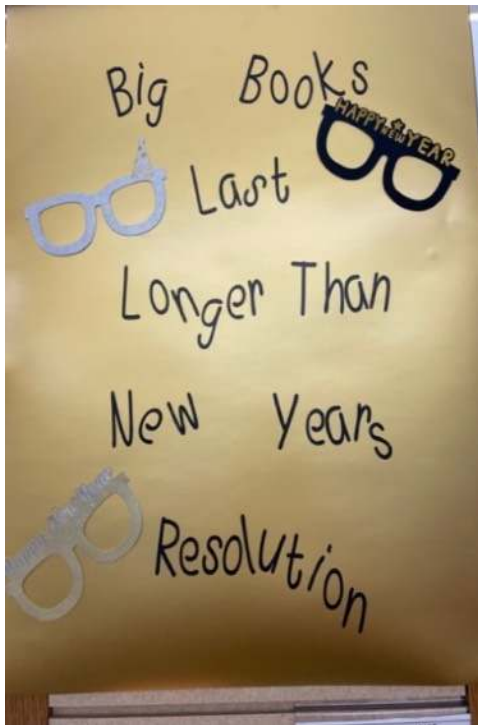
I don't have a lot to report this month. We're starting the new year off with some heavy weeding of the old materials. Programs are going well. Materials ordering is back underway!

We've got some cool programs coming up - check out our calendar of events!

Have a wonderful and Happy New Year!

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.



Happy New Year!

Union has been very busy with the kids still on break. We have had several passive programs for the kids and families to do while on break. Andrea and I will be working on moving a few things around this month such as the Large Print, YA, and the Historical section. Put in my first Book/AV order for the year and have torn down all the Holiday decorations and set up Snow theme in the kids' area and in the adult area Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.





Ugly Sweater Day



Storytime Fun

Upcoming Programs and Crafts include Storytime every Wednesday's, Scam Prevention 101 for Adults on January 16th by Southern Michigan Bank and Trust, Paper Bag Snowman Craft, Magazine Collage and DIY Snowflakes. Planning ahead for Summer Reading and working on prepping for our Roots and Shoots Celebration in March. Notary has increased to at least one a week for the last couple weeks.

If you are looking for something interesting to do in March mark your calendar for Author, Shipwreck Hunter, Ross Richardson on March 6th at 6pm for Michigan Mysteries 2024. A one-hour program which looks at fascinating stories of missing persons, aircraft, and ships in the Michigan Region. The latest Great Lake shipwreck discoveries are reviewed as well.

Here's to another great and exciting New Year!!

Submitted by Maria Piper

Outreach

With the end of 2023, we received our first official bookmobile pictures! We still do not yet have a delivery timeline, but I am hopeful that it will before we know it. In the meantime, the regular pop-up locations continue to be slow. I am optimistic that these may steadily pick up as 2024 continues on, especially once we have our bookmobile.

In preparation for stocking the bookmobile, 2 grant applications were submitted just before the new year: the Coldwater Solar Community grant and the Penguin Random House Grants for Small & Rural Libraries. If awarded, my goal is to put a good chunk, if not all, of these towards adult large print titles.

Bookmobile magazine subscriptions have started arriving. Since the vehicle is not here yet, they will not be added to the catalog. Instead, 5 envelopes labeled as Misc. 14-day checkout have been cataloged. These magazines will be brought with me to my pop-up stops and be checked out using the envelopes as a way to still allow them to circulate without wasting barcodes on materials that are more temporary.

Winterfest will be on the 27th at Heritage Park. Last year, BDL hosted a game room in the recreation center's community room with activities for all age ranges, and there was a decent amount of interaction despite being directly across from a couple of bounce houses. This year, I will be hosting a similar game room in the same location.

I had the pleasure of helping to onboard a new digital service for BDL: ComicsPlus by Library Pass. This service allows patrons free access (with a library card, of course) to thousands of graphic novels, comics, and manga. I, personally, am excited about



COMICSPLUS
POWERED BY LIBRARY PASS

this one, and I have also informed the owner of Crescent Comics and Games about the service. ComicsPlus is ready for use by patrons.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence