

Alganssee

February has been a busier month. The copy machine saw heavy use for Valentine cards, our local school houses, and cards for the upcoming wedding season. Book Buddies are still being adopted by our younger readers. We also had participation in the adult Yeti to Read challenge.

There were two adult craft programs this month with full attendance. Linda taught them how to create resin jewelry, which turned out beautifully. Later in the month she instructed the class how to create their own facial cream. They used recycled yogurt jars to store it in.

I used the If You Give a ... books by Laura Numeroff, for story time this month. We learned about moose after reading If You Give a Moose a Muffin. Counted cookies after reading If You Give a Mouse a Cookie. The weather was just too nice to read inside, so I made a last minute change for our last February story time. We read Grumpy Monkey Spring Fever outside at the picnic table and then pretended we were monkeys with spring fever.

Our Squirrels have been busy crafting with Linda and sneaking their gifts to people all month. The kids were very excited to earn acorn charms for their many successful missions.



Chemical Reactions was the STEM night theme this month. It started with a blast, as we dropped Mentos into bottle of Coke. Then we took advantage of the great weather to work as a team, turning a liquid and solid into a gas that made a surprisingly big bang as sandwich bags blew up on the porch. Lava Lamps and Dancing Hearts were also fun programs. For our final experiment, we created a carbon snake.

Our budding engineers are still building with the Legos. We added different candies to our popcorn for movie night. Reese Pieces won as the most popular combination. The Science Fair Challenge night was success.

I completed additional training this month. Linda and I finished our Summer Reading event planning and I've been purchasing the supplies for those programs. I hope the kids get as excited for it as I am. This year's theme is *The Adventure Begins at the Library*. 😊

Submitted by Teresa Shilling

Bronson

March is Reading month and also the start of our Spring Events!

So far we have celebrated President's Day, Dr. Seuss's birthday and Barbie's birthday. Children enjoyed books and crafts during each program. Coming up we will be making Peeps Dioramas and the littles will go on the annual Leprechaun Gold Hunt. We finished up our Book Buddies program with 48 children participating and handed out 90 tiny plush animals to be their buddies. We had a "Find the President" hunt, anyone finding a Presidential card received a piece of candy and now we have a gold hunt going. All ages enjoy these hunts. Steve awarded three teens with participation prizes and as word gets out we have more tweens and teens attending the Coffee House programs. Book Lovers R Us had a great attendance with some interesting discussions. Jessie has full registration for her Adult Craft class.

Our OBAC discussion will be Friday morning March 22.

St. Mary's and Anderson borrowed books to celebrate Reading Month. Wonderful they are using the library again.

I attended our first SRP meeting, fun stuff planned for summer. I attended the Bronson Township meeting. Township had the election and board of review this month but we have been able to work our programs around them.

The new puzzle table has been a big hit especially with teens, there have been 5 puzzles done in less than a month.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

It's that time of year Spring is in the air! We began the month of March by honoring Women's History Month and Ramadan.



March is Reading Month and our Teen and Children's areas are having reading contests. Each child is encouraged to read and record as many books as they can for the month of March.

The kids' and teen service areas will have a party with pizza or ice cream and games in the beginning of April.

Teen Space is packed with a variety of events for March; Adopt-a-Shelf, Egg-Cellent Art, Anime Club, YA Book Club, Teen Trivia, Anime Club and many more. Adopt-a-Shelf gives Teens the opportunity to set up and design a book display with some things they are passionate about. One of our TAC members chose Ramadan for their Adopt a Shelf.

Coldwater added a fourth book club called, "The Classics Book Club." This book club is designed to be less conventional; with crafts, snacks and geared towards all ages. The first book was *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, by Roald Dahl. The club included golden tickets, making a candy necklace, designing your own chocolate bar and discussing elements of the story. The Classics



Book Club will meet the second Monday of each month at 4 PM.



The adults are getting crafty in March; in the spirit of books and Easter with a Bunny Book Tote Bag craft.

This was the first of several adult crafting sessions in March. Our library patrons said they want more crafts and we are having more crafting classes! The second Wednesday of the month at 2 in the afternoon, the adults will have a Crafternoon Class. This class will be hosted by one of our many talented BDL staff members and feature a guided moderately-skilled craft. The third adult craft class is a shaker card craft on March 15. At this class adults will create a greeting card with a "shaker window," the window will have sequins and embellishments that give the card an added effect.



Passive programs this month include our ever popular puzzle table, board games in Teen Space and an Easter egg hunt all over the library.

Lastly, our carpeting project is set to begin on April 1st. This will take approximately thirty working days and the Coldwater Branch will remain open for the majority of the project. We will shift program locations accordingly therefore, we will not need to cancel any programs. Please check out our event guide for some exciting programs for all ages during Spring Break.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

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

- We kicked off March's Reading month by getting to make our own reading buddy. We had over 35 animals that got stuffed on March 2nd. The basement was filled up but all the kiddos really enjoyed getting to make their own stuffy!
- STORYWALK SUPPLIES ARE ORDERED! With working closely with community partners, we raised all of the funds needed to move forward with our StoryWalk project in the Quincy park! It has been so heartwarming to see the community work together to keep this project moving forward. Now it's all finally coming together. Stay tuned for more information about our installation and ribbon cutting!
- Summer Reading program planning is heavily underway - stay tuned to hear all about the fun programs we're going to be doing this summer. Sneak Peak - we're going to have a video game truck here for THREE hours!

I hope you're soaking in all the sunshine you can get!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood. This month has been busy! We've had good attendance at our programs and we've got even more great programs coming up.

I've been working with a cardio drumming coach to get programs on the calendar this summer. We'll be doing cardio drumming every Monday afternoon for the adults. We're super excited about it. If it works out, we're hoping to possibly incorporate it all year long.

I'm visiting Union City Elementary each Monday to read to classes. I have three classes and that is definitely the highlight of my week. The kids are so fun and the teachers are wonderful. I'm grateful to be able to bring a little bit of the library to them each week.

I've recently paid my dues to be a Rotarian member in Union City. I'll be representing the library at our Tuesday afternoon meetings. I'm really enjoying being a bigger part of the community and getting our little Sherwood name out there! I've been an "outside" member of the club for the past few years, but I am now a full fledged member. Exciting!

Until next month,

Happy Spring,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager.

Union Twp.

Think Spring! Happy March Everyone!

A lot of great and fun programs this month along with a few changes. Meghan Babbitt joined Union Twp. Library as our new clerk. Meghan has been with BDL the last 10 months working in ILL at the Coldwater Branch and has a variety of work experiences that will bring a lot to the table. I am very excited for her to be joining the team over here. We have already begun brainstorming ideas for Fall/Winter programs.

March Programs/Events

- Michigan Mysteries 2024 Author and shipwreck hunter, Ross Richardson shared stories of missing persons, missing aircrafts and ships of the Michigan Region. We had 22 patrons for this event and everyone was very impressed on all the knowledge and hands on experiences Mr. Richardson was a part of. If you want to know more about his books or where he might be speaking next, please visit his website at www.michiganmysteries.com.



- Community Unlimited Pre-Kindergarten class of 14 kids and 3 Adults came for an hour visit. I read two stories on St. Patrick's Day and danced to a couple songs. We split the group in half and each of the groups got a chance to find all the clues for the St. Patrick's Day scavenger hunt and have fun with Meghan with the Paper plate St. Patrick's Day craft. All the kids walked away with a goody bag which included coloring books and activity sheets.



- The St. Patrick's Day Gnome Adult Craft went over really well and we had five pre-registers but three unregistered at the last minute due to sickness but we had some walk in's the day of the event. Meghan got a chance to make a gnome as well which she really enjoyed making and is now on display on the front counter for all to view. Total we had 6 patrons and every gnome turned out so unique!



- National Women's History Month! We changed up the bulletin board to reflect amazing women and all that they have contributed, influenced, empowered, and achieved and still achieving throughout our culture.



- Union had 2 winners for the Get Yeti to Read Adult Winter Reading Challenge and the winners so very excited to hear they had won and just made their day.



- We had 2 kids that signed up for their very first library cards and was so excited to have their own cards and even put their cards in their wallets.

Upcoming Events

- We have been gearing up for our Annual Roots and Shoots Seed Library Spring Celebration which will take place on March 16th 9 am - 1 pm. Andrea had reached out to several Seed companies and they responded with over \$1,200 worth of seeds. All the seeds are counted, inventoried, and ready to be given out. While you are here for the event members of the Green Thumb Garden Club will be on hand to share all the exciting things they do. Fortunate Farms will have a table of information where you can start some seeds in your own milk jug terrarium to take home. There will be refreshments and door prizes. Thank you to Fortunate Farms for their generous donations of a t-shirt, a hat and two \$25.00 gift certificates good for a Bouquet from July - September 2024.



- One Book One County Book Discussion at Union Tuesday, March 26 at 5 p.m. If you haven't already read *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt, you still have time. Excellent book and amazing characters.
- Spring Break is right around the corner for kids and we have some events planned during that week such as movie day, passive Teen Escape Room program and Spring Break BINGO.

Think Spring - First day of Spring is March 19th just right around the corner! Yay for Spring!

Submitted by Maria Piper

Outreach

- My term on the YouPer award committee has come to an end with the selection of our award winner as well as 4 honorable mention titles. These will be officially announced by the Michigan Library Association sometime a few months from now. This committee was a lot of fun, and there were so many excellent books that were well-deserving of a place in the overall top 10. I would love to do it again in a few years!
- I've started building a webpage to have bookmobile information and updates on. Before the bookmobile arrives, I plan to put in updates like pictures and grants awarded. Once the vehicle is here, the web page can be used to find information such as its operation schedule.
- My visits to Maple Lawn, which started almost a year ago, continue to be successful and rewarding. While Library Pop-up stats are still slow, a newly acquired regular patron has started visiting one of them. I am optimistic that the warmer spring weather may also bring more people and visibility to these pop-ups. As days get warmer, I will be thinking about when to take the Butler township visit off hiatus as well as changing the California Corners stop from the township hall to the Dollar General, which is just a little ways up the road and sees more traffic flow.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence