

Algansee

Hello from Algansee.

- February was a busy month for the copier. Valentines, school prints, science fair projects and kids preparing for geography tests.
- Our adults got together to decoupage ordinary boxes into beautiful keepsake holders. We received a very nice compliment about our Tea & Story Hour program. The candy making class brought in a few new faces along with our usual group.
- I've continued reading stories by Jan Brett for both story times. The kids did a lot of measuring to see the sizes of the animals we've been learning. We learned that narwhals are about 7 kiddos long. The hand measurement for horses is 4 inches. Which is the same as the average preschooler's hand.
- We've started a sewing circle during the Time Travelers program. We had a wonderful discussion on how work parties used to be a normal way for community members to socialize and help their neighbors. The children sew while I read from a book that matches our historical event.
- Valentines was celebrated by shooting hearts that were hidden throughout the library. Marble run mazes and building race tracks for matchbox cars kept our builders busy this month. We had a night of bingo and snacks that the kids requested. Buttons make great markers.

I attended the Algansee Township meeting and gave our library report. The new township hall is just awaiting the new septic system installation. Everything else has been completed. The board was hopeful that they can begin moving into it soon.

- Respectfully Submitted by Teresa Shilling



Bronson

Over the past month we have enjoyed some fun unusual programs starting with our "Not A Box" storytime. This was held during one of our Friday Tales Preschool programs. Big boxes are set out and kids climb in and that's when they find out they aren't just sitting in a box, it's a race car! Next a space ship or plane and we are high above the ground. Then it's time to make giant towers using the boxes. So many things to do with a simple box.

Next was our "Craft Closet Cleanout". We always seem to have leftover projects but not enough to do a whole program with again so we offered them to anyone coming to this program. Most popular was building a birdhouse. Steve had this program for the Tween & Teens and Homeschoolers. We also had one late afternoon program for all ages and they had fun making multiple crafts.

Our big program of the month was our "Barbie Birthday Party". Barbie turned 66 on March 9 so we had a party on Saturday to celebrate. The library was decorated with 97 Barbie dolls to draw attention to the program. It worked! We had 35 people attend and had tables set up for tiara making, bracelet making, creating a bookmark, coloring pages and the big hit was the shrinky dinks table. There were also mini cupcakes and balloons for everyone. Kids could even have their photo taken with a 3' Barbie.



I attended the Bronson Township meeting and they approved having a second railing placed on the stairway to the basement. The railing will be closer to the ground so that little hands will have something to hold onto. The Friends of the Library covered the cost of the railings. Our little toddlers and preschoolers will be very happy to have something to hold onto when they go down the stairs for storytime.

We added a number of items to our Library of Things and plan on doing a display of them during National Library Week.

Summer events are being planned and we continue preparations for the summer reading program.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

At the end of February the teen staff and I went to the high school and signed up 97 library one cards to the Junior Class. We spoke with over 130 students about library programs and services. We had the Key-Club, through Pansophia Academy, visit with 30 students to talk about the Teen Advisory Council and volunteer opportunities at the library. We also had two classes from BACC's Career Readiness Program visit, to talk about programs, and how the library can help with school and career building.

The bookmobile arrived several weeks ago and everyone that walks into the building is making comments about how wonderful it looks. The upstairs bathrooms are renovated and next up will be the two mainfloor restrooms.

March arrived quickly and we are onto the new event guide with a fresh start of Spring Programs.



Kids' Place started March with a "Ready for Ramadan" program. The children had middle Eastern treats, learned about the Ramadan Holiday and decorated a hijab.

The all-age group programming had a ceramics program at the Chameleon Pottery Studio, the program was well attended with a full registration. Our library guests got a chance to paint a ceramic figure of their choosing with an allowance of \$15-\$20 per person. This event was entirely free for our registered library guests.

The teen events this month include Escape Room in a Box, Homeschool Power Hour, and Four Leaf Clover Jewelry.

Randall Hazelbaker will be doing a State-Home Presentation for adults on March 19, at 5:30 PM. Randall recently completed a State-Home scrapbook for the Holbrook Heritage Room courtesy of the Charles Woodward Library Memorial Funds.

Lastly, we are looking forward to a special Oz storytime on April 5, at 10:30 am. A few cast members from *Oz: The Musical* will be reading a story to our library guests. The children that attend the library will follow the cast "down the yellow brick road" to the Children's Museum of Branch County, for free admission and songs and crafts with the cast.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

Here are a few of the things that have been going on at the Quincy Branch this past month:

- We have had lots of help from subs from other branches while we interview for the open clerk position.
- The new laminator provided by the Quincy Advisory Board has been purchased and should arrive soon, yay!
- Brittany from the Heritage Room in Coldwater has been going through items in storage to see what needs to be done with them for preservation, circulation, or possible withdrawal.
- Along with John, I met with Kurt Barve, the new Quincy Township Supervisor to discuss the library, our relationship with the township, and what the future might hold. It was a very good meeting!
- I did multiple visits to Quincy Middle School for March is Reading month and it was a HUGE hit! We interacted with at least 284 students and signed up about 60 new kiddos up for cards. We also renewed many cards and had lots of discussion about the library and different programs. It was SO wonderful!
- Former clerk Lynn Marshall put on a macramé plant holder program for adults that was a hit for all attending.
- I canceled my head-start storytime for the rest of the school year to try to get myself some scheduled time in the office before we open to try to get some things completed while we are short staffed.

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood!

We had a good consistent month with both adult and kids programs. Cardio drumming has had attendees every other week and is working out great. We're looking forward to moving back outside, soon! Kids programs have a decent attendance each week, also.

I was invited to read at the Union City Elementary School this week for "March is Reading Month." I read to three different classes and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.

We've done some rearranging and added a puzzle table in the kids area. It's been a success as we're now on the second time of putting it together. We have more puzzles ordered and the kids are pretty happy about that.

We spent an entire day Spring cleaning. We now have a little more space to work around!

Materials ordering is always exciting and ongoing.

I've been able to sneak away a couple of times to help my fellow Rotarians collect sap in the Sherwood community. We lost so many maple trees to the tornado last May, it takes us about half the time that it used to to get the job done. If you're looking for the best maple syrup, I know where it is. :)

Until next month, best regards!

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



Union Twp.

Hello March!

March is here, and we have some exciting programs lined up for you!



Roots and Shoots Seed Library Spring Celebration

March 15th, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Come join us for a celebration of gardening and growth! This event is proudly sponsored by:

- Pinetree Gardens
- Sow Right Seeds
- Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds
- Burpee
- Gary Ibsen's Tomato Seeds
- Eden Brothers
- Hudson Valley Seed Company

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Fortunate Farms and the Green Thumb Garden Club for their invaluable support in bringing this celebration to life. New Seeds to choose from, door prizes, and inspiring visits with other garden enthusiasts. Mark your calendars for this all-ages spring celebration!



A Special Thank You to the Friends of the Library

I recently attended a Friends Meeting where we discussed upcoming programs and donations to help support our Summer Reading performers and prizes. A huge thank you to the Friends of the Library for their generous donations. Your continued support means so much to us!

County-Wide Friends Meeting

Hosted by the Friends of the Union Twp. Library, this meeting will be held on April 22, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM at the Union Township Branch.

One Book, One County Book Selection: *My Murder* by Katie Williams

Book Discussion on March 25th at 5:00 PM

This thought-provoking book leaves readers with many questions—come and share what questions you have for this intriguing selection. We'd love to hear your thoughts!

Kids' Programming

Our kids' programs this month include:

- Leprechaun Puppets

- Storytimes
 - DIY Miniature Gardens
 - Movie Day
- ...and much more!

We're excited for all that March has in store and hope you can join us for these wonderful programs!

Submitted By Maria Rathbun

Outreach

We are all so excited now that the bookmobile is finally here, and things have started moving fast with so many preparations to be done. I have seen lots of positive comments on various social media posts about the bookmobile, and we have received many compliments and congratulations from other members of the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS). I have also caught wind of a few schools who are interested in the bookmobile making appearances at their locations.



The bookmobile did have to go in for a quick repair. Coldwater staff noticed a small leak, so we let Matthews know. Matthews set us up with Stoops Freightliner in Fremont to make the repair, and Matthews covered the bill. Once the bookmobile comes back, I will start loading catalogued materials onto its shelves.

A bookmobile request form for the BDL website has been drafted. This form can be used for individuals to request that the bookmobile attend their event as well as suggest the bookmobile add their neighborhood to the regular schedule of stops. When this has been proofed and officially published to the website, I will refer interested parties to this form. My intent is that this form will be an easy way to streamline gathering necessary information about the request (event or new stop) before reaching out to the applicant to make further plans.

I have started making conversations with our current pop-up stops in regards to changing the schedule. When the bookmobile is ready to start making these stops, we will be changing to a 3-week rotation schedule. So far, the feedback from my contacts has been positive and without any issues. I will be keeping them in the loop with plenty of advance notice when I have a better idea of when the change will take place. It was recommended during a session at the ABOS conference this past year that new Outreach Agreements be signed whenever there is a change in contact or schedule, so I will also send those out prior to the new schedule.



Cheryl Lawrence, Outreach Manager