

Algansee

- Our branch is looking and smelling good inside and out. We utilized our spring cleaning day to clean the shelves, wood trim and windows. Outside we cleaned the porch and planted flowers. I love how welcoming it looks!
- Everyone is looking forward to summer. We have been assisting students with science and social studies projects for the end of year Celebration of Learning. Our area Amish schools have been collecting their last copies for the year. 4-Hers have been utilizing the computers for Award Forms and market reports as they obtain their projects.
- Our adults made wreaths from seed packets, sewed hanging tea towels and enjoyed our ongoing story and tea time. We've been reading about spring and focusing on activities with movement for my wiggly story time group. Reading Mossy and making our own mossy turtles was my favorite program this month. Our Egg Hunt was a success, even though we had to bring it inside due to rain.
- John came out and taught me how to publish books that have become free domain. We've been able to add some unique items to our collection
- There was an abundance of computer questions this month. With the state requiring business license renewals to be done online, we helped some people set up their first email accounts. It was a busy month of teaching basic computer lessons.



Respectfully submitted by Teresa Shilling

Bronson

I often feel like May is overlooked because we are already focusing on summer programs and the reading program but May has been a busy month so far. We have had a lot of tweens in after school to play on the computers the past few weeks so the library seems to be vibrating with their energy!

Programs have ranged from Mother Goose storytime to an Adult craft of making dragonflies out of kitchen whisks.

Anderson Elementary had a Career Day for kindergarten to 2nd grade and it was so much fun. They asked me to come talk to the kindergarten classes about being a library manager and it was interesting presenting it so that that age group would understand. When talking about how I order books I made the comment that sometimes you might look at a cover and think that book is stupid...Every child in the room gasped and looked horrified and that's when I realized that s word is NOT allowed in kindergarten. I'm sure they all went back and ratted me out to their teacher. Didn't use that example again!

Our spring cleaning/staff work day was busy getting craft supplies cleaned up, emptied out and reordered. We checked all of our VOX books to make sure they still play and smashed down a mountain of cardboard boxes to take to recycling.

The schools have started calling and setting up tours for the end of school. We have 12 scheduled so far.

Last week part of the county lost internet and we had at least two home run businesses come here to use our wifi and they were so grateful for it and a quiet place to finish up business for the day. The quiet pod was used often that day.

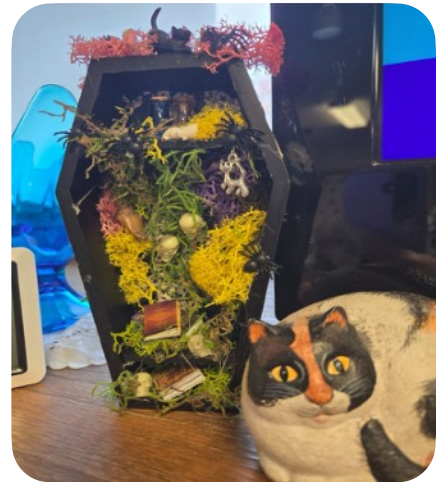
Township held the election and everything went smoothly.

Friends held their spring book sale and they also held a work day to clean up all the flowerbeds and the yard around the library.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

Coldwater began the month of May with several halfway-to-Halloween programs. The tweens had a Halloween in April party with crafts, candy, a movie and games; sadly, no one attended this program. Our program attendance has been a little lacking this month. We had several programs that have not been attended at all and only half of our registered guests actually attend programs they sign up for. This month the adults got crafty and made Gothic Shadow Boxes, 5 people attended.



The kids created Petal Perfection, a handmade bouquet to take home just in time for Mother's Day, 6 people attended. Soarin' Hawk will be visiting in May for an owl pellet dissection lab.



Summer Reading is officially right around the corner. Coldwater has shared digital information with all Coldwater schools about the Carnival Kick-Off Party on June 1st and the coloring contest; some of the schools chose to have us print and deliver coloring sheets for the coloring contest. Coldwater printed 980 coloring pages for Max Larsen, St. Charles and Pansophia. To further promote Summer Reading; Emma, Christina and Erica will be visiting Legg Middle School's English Classes and

St. Charles to talk and answer questions about the Summer Reading Program. Several of our staff members will visit Legg Middle School during their lunches to encourage library one card sign up. This lunch signup will happen on May 20, just in time for the Summer Reading Program.

Lastly, the Eastside gate has been installed along with the barrier on the front porch. We have received no comments, complaints or thoughts from the public at the circulation desk.



Submitted by Christina Holibaugh



Quincy

Happy Spring! 😊 Finally, it feels like it's here to stay a while – I'll take it!

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

- Our Monday kiddo programs are back to controlled chaos again & it's so wonderful! We've done air clay magnets, Mother's Day crafts, Easter crafts and beautiful butterflies!
- With welcoming Tracy, comes a lot of learning & training. She has been doing a wonderful job! She even hosted her first kiddo program and storytime by herself and has done amazing.
- For our April Staff In-Service day, we had an afternoon full of shelf reading, shelf reading, and more shelf reading. I'd like to shout out my thanks to Jessica Tefft, Tracy, and Laura for all your hard work helping with that big project. It's nice to have our shelves looking wonderful and organized again! It was much needed!
- Tracy and I installed our new story in our story walk. The new story is 'I Got the Rhythm' by Connie Schofield-Morrison. Please take some time to check it out; such a fun up-beat story!
- It is with great sadness that I report the Treasurer of the Quincy Advisory Board, Connie Karney, passed away in late April. She was truly a gem and a big staple in the Quincy community. She will definitely be deeply missed by many.
- I have been very busy trying to get everything completed and prepared before I go on maternity leave – doing larger material ordering, branch supplies, SRP planning complete, and also finalizing all fall programming since that will be due while I am gone.

With that, the next board report coming from me will include a welcoming of the newest addition to our family. <3

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood!

We don't have a lot to report on this month. Programs are going well as we have had regular attendance and have plenty more programs coming up. One program we had a lot of fun with was Earth Day. We cleaned the community up and plan to make this



an annual event. The kids loved it, the community loved it and several people stopped to thank our crew for doing such a wonderful job. They collected 2 full garbage bags of litter (within just a few streets), raked several different areas and collected many bags of leaves to dispose of. We cleaned around the library, raked the yard and weeded the flower beds around the building. (That was a very tiring day and I'm thankful for all the help!)

Story Time has been hit or miss, lately.

Spring cleaning is all done and we've just completed a huge weeding job.

We are looking forward to the upcoming programs and putting our best feet forward to increase our numbers! That's our goal.

Until next month,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



Union Twp.

May Is Here - Let the Warmth Finally Be Upon Us!

We are excited for the upcoming launch of the Summer Reading Program, with sign-ups beginning mid-May. Thanks to the generous support from the Union Twp. Friends of the Library, we're offering a fun-filled summer with engaging performers, creative programs, and weekly prizes for readers of all ages. All Summer Reading prizes are packed and ready for distribution!

Featured Summer Programs & Performers

- **Jerry DeCaire** - Comic Book Artist Presentation
- **Leila Arboretum** - Educational Program

Summer Reading Theme: Color Our World

This year's theme centers on **art and creativity**, with a variety of hands-on and imaginative crafts, including: Art Around the World, Recyclable Art Projects, Painting, Drawing, Doodling, Fiber Arts, Clay and Pottery, and Paper Arts.

Friends of the Library - County-Wide Meeting

The County-Wide Friends of the Library Meeting was on April 22 (Earth Day), during which we welcomed representatives from the Union Twp., Quincy, Algansee, and Bronson Branches. Although the Coldwater Friends President was unable to attend, next year's meeting is already scheduled to be held at the Quincy Branch.

A highlight of the event was a tour of the new Bookmobile, which received great interest and enthusiasm. We thank the Friends group for organizing such a well-attended and productive gathering. It was a valuable opportunity to connect with other Friends groups and share program successes and ideas.



Spring Cleaning

As part of our recent staff in-service day, Meghan and I completed a full spring refresh of the branch, including:

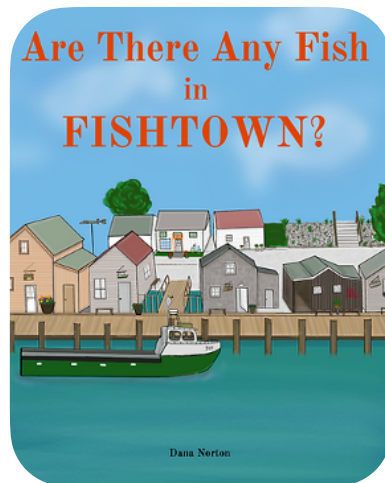
- Carpet cleaning
- Shelf dusting and reorganization
- Sorting of bins and materials
- Reorganization of the board game section

The improved organization has already enhanced the working environment and the experience for patrons.

Special Storytime May 14th at 11 am Children's Author Dana Norton

We are thrilled to have a very special guest visiting us for storytime. Dana Norton is an imaginative children's book author and illustrator based in Southwest Michigan where she lives with her husband and three fun loving children. Her passion for storytelling and love for Up North charm inspire her to create captivating tales that resonate with young readers. She draws inspiration from funny and interesting things around her, often her family's Up North vacations.

For more information on Dana Norton check out her website at <https://www.dananortonauthor.com>.



April Highlights

During April, we celebrated **D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read)** month. Patrons who were "caught reading" were entered into a drawing for prizes. We had five winners, all of whom were thrilled to receive the congratulatory call.



Hope everyone has an amazing May and gets to enjoy the sunshine especially Memorial Day weekend!



Submitted by Maria Rathbun

Outreach

The Bookmobile has officially launched and started traveling around the county! We decided to postpone the ribbon cutting ceremony until a later time as we launch, so stay tuned for more information on that event. The new schedule has been posted and solidified with the places we have previously been popping up at, and I have been starting the process of adding a few events for the summer as well as starting the conversations to add more stop locations to the schedule. Currently, I am talking with Potawatomie and Waffle Farm campgrounds and Bronson's Ryan Elementary school. I hope to reach out to the Antique Barn in Allen Township soon.



This summer, while also fine-tuning the ins and outs of the Bookmobile, is already filled with several events. Bookmobile Saturdays are reserved strictly for events and will be limited to only two per month, and most of those have already been claimed for the summer! In May, we have the Cultural Jubilee in Coldwater and possibly the Memorial Day Parade in Union City (I still need to get some information on the parade first). June will have us attending Branch County Community Field Day and Safety Fair (put on by Great Start Collaborative), Hops on Monroe, and Strawberry Festival. In July, we will be at Coldwater Lake Association's Pancake Breakfast fundraiser (which I personally recommend for cheap delicious breakfast), Polish Festival, Hops on Monroe, and Quincy's Kids Day in the Park.

It's going to be a busy summer on the Bookmobile for sure, but I am looking forward to these appearances creating more buzz and public awareness!

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence