

Algansee

The Minecraft party was the best building party ever! Boxes became a fort with towers, complete with a drawbridge. It was awesome! One boy brought his sword and one of our gals made herself a Minecraft Halloween costume. We watched the Minecraft movie, but the activities were so much fun! Each of the kids left with an origami Steve and creeper.

Pop in story times at the library continue to bring smiles and laughs. We've read many fun books at the library and at Paula Preston's daycare.



The kids made twig bats, leaf ghosts, witch's brooms and twig and pebble skeletons during Nature Crafts on Tuesdays.

Our Big Explorers have been crafting as we read about India each week. We sampled some food, learned about their holidays, culture, wildlife, geographical landscapes and danced with Dandiya sticks that they decorated.

I've ordered more Legos for Builders Club. It's amazing what the kids create. I also have new puzzles waiting to make their debut in the new building.

Science helped us once again to make Ralph the pumpkin, puke green, glittery ooze. The kids loved it. Then we made Frankenstein pirates and enjoyed fall snacks.

Excitement continues to build about the move. I have not had a day when someone hasn't asked when we are moving or offered assistance. We are looking forward to the additional space.

The flooring in the library area is nearly finished. The frame for the ceiling is up, but they are waiting on the electricians to get the lighting installed, to be able to finish it. They were finishing touching up the paint this morning and plan to install the base trim today. Our furniture pieces are coming along, and some are complete. We are just waiting for an official moving date.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Shilling.

Bronson

We spent October getting our craft ready for Family Fright Night (pirate puppets) and a fun Spooktacular 1/2 day of school craft (ghost painting). Steve had spooky stories to tell the Homeschoolers, and Friday Tales talked about all things fall. Halloween night, the city held Trunk or Treat in the parking lot, and we had candy to hand out in case ghosts and goblins came into the building.

In November, for our 1/2 day of school program, we had Joel Tacey come with his "Let It Snow Santa Show". We could hear the laughter all the way upstairs; those kids had so much fun. Joel always does a great show.

The township held the election in the township hall so we adjusted our programs to be out of their way. We are very grateful to the Bronson Township board for letting us use their meeting room for our events.

I've spent more than a few hours working to figure out Ingram and appreciate being able to call Teresa or Cheryl when I get stuck. I think I'm getting better at it because we have actually received books from the orders I placed, so I did something right!

Our Friends are preparing for a LARGE Fall book sale so we know we will extra visitors during the next couple days.

Preparing for holiday programs now.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash



Coldwater



Happy Fall! To highlight some events in October; it was a frightful fun month at the Coldwater Branch. We hosted the annual Family Fright Night and Max Larsen 1st grade field trip; we welcomed over 600 library guests for these events. Our guests shared many words of praise on the decorations and expressed thanks for the wonderful memories they make at these events.



November has brought the cold weather and that means it's the perfect time to read books! The Coldwater staff does great work keeping our book recommendations and displays fresh.

Foulke Construction has completed our sidewalk renovation. It took three days to complete.

With the donation money received this year we were able to buy new craft supplies, games, a Blu-ray player and a TV wall mount for the Teen's Area and several new toys for the Kids area.



Programming continues strong this month with Dinovember Digs, Gemstone Mining, Bookclubs, Teen Crotchet and many more.

Emma, our Teen Service Coordinator, has been asked by a CHS teacher to put together a curated book list on the "status of the American Dream." In addition, several staff members will be visiting CHS to talk about opportunities available with a library card. Emma will also do a demonstration on how to use the MEL databases. Lastly, we will be taking part in CHS, "Day of Engagement," at this event we will offer library cards, host a Kahoot (trivia game) and let the students make buttons. Have a great month!

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

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

- We had our Staff Training Day and it was a great day. The active shooter training was so informative and fascinating! I learned many things from Meagan's Libby training. And, of course, lunch was delicious! Thanks for a great day of learning!
- We were struggling to put books back on our shelves because we were running out of space so Tracy and I did a large weeding of most sections in the library. The shelves look so much better now.
- We have had some pretty awesome programs - we made turkeys out of pumpkins, we brewed some pretty magical potions (healing potion, magic potion, and dream potion), painted some block pumpkins, and made some beaded Indian corn. Check out our calendar to see what fun activity you want partake in!
- Birds of Prey came to the Quincy Library! Wow, what an incredible program. We had 48 in attendance and I think every single person learned something that day. They are so unique and amazing animals. If Birds of Prey comes back to the library, be sure to see it!



Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Autumn greetings!

The month of October was a whirlwind with so much going on.

Kids' programs have attendees every week and our adult craft in October was so much fun! We have ongoing passive programs that are well received with much participation. We also invested in many new board games recently to get the kiddos through the dark and gloomy months. They love them!

Casey and I both participated in Family Fright Night and I was able to attend Fire Safety Day in Union City. We handed out candy on Halloween and got to see the kids in their costumes. Lots of fun!

We have many great programs coming up throughout the rest of this month. Check out our event calendar!



Until next month,

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

The weather is turning, and with the time change behind us, November has officially arrived! It's getting dark by 5 p.m., and the holidays will soon be here. As the temperatures drop, don't forget to take a cozy moment to sit down with a good book and enjoy the season.

October Recap

Halloween Fun

Meghan did an amazing job with all the Halloween decorations and organizing the annual Scarecrow Contest. We proudly placed 5th this year, and we already have some creative new ideas for next year's entry!



Salve Workshop

We had a wonderful turnout for Bevin Cohen's DIY Herbal Salves Workshop last month. Participants really enjoyed the session, and we hope to bring him back again next year.

Fire Safety Day

This year's Fire Safety Day was a bit slower than in previous years, but the Friends Group truly stepped up while I was out on medical leave. A big thank you to the UC Auxiliary, the community, and our amazing Friends Group for all their help.

Special thanks to Cheryl and Brandon for bringing the Bookmobile—everyone was so excited to see it, many for the very first time!

Michigan Library Association Conference

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the 2025 Michigan Library Association Conference in Lansing, themed "A Kaleidoscope of Creative Solutions." Throughout the event, I attended a variety of sessions, met inspiring library professionals, authors, and educators, and came home with a wealth of new ideas and resources. I will be sending out some resources to their Branch Managers to be able to share with their staff.



MLA 2025
Lansing MI



Author Wade Rouse
(Pen Name Viola Shipman)

While I was away, Meghan welcomed visitors from the Community Unlimited classes who stopped by the library for a trick-or-treat visit! The students enjoyed their time exploring, collected plenty of candy, and left with fun craft bags to take home.

Looking Ahead to December

Breakfast with Santa

I recently met with the Friends Group to discuss their annual Breakfast with Santa event.



Date: Saturday, December 6



Time: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.



Location: Union City Congregational Church

Families can enjoy breakfast, grab a snapshot with Santa, and children will receive a gift courtesy of the Friends Group. The American Legion Post 196 will also be on-site with Toys for Tots.



Registration: November 10 – 24th

New Library Hours - Effective December 1

To better serve our patrons, we are making a small adjustment to our weekly schedule. We will be closing one hour earlier on Tuesdays and adding that hour to Fridays, giving patrons more end-of-week access.

New Hours

Monday: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (*previously open until 6 p.m.*)

Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (*now open one hour later*)

Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

I just placed my end the year materials order and will be ordering some new STEM kits with a recent donation from a patron on behalf of her late mother. Meghan and I will be working on March, April, and May programming and excited for all the great programming ideas. A lot of them I got at MLA.

Hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Submitted by Maria Rathbun

Outreach

Brandon and I have been adapting well to the cold while we are out and about. We are switching out the tires for a winter set, and the bookmobile heats up nicely to keep us warm even when we have students coming in and out at our school stops. Speaking of these, our school stops have been going well so far. With 3 Pansophia stops now behind us, our system of having carts with some books outside for students to browse works really well and helps keep the crowd of students inside the bookmobile at a manageable level. We've not had too many older students sign up for Library1 cards yet, but we are slowly adding more and updating existing accounts.

We participated in Coldwater's and Quincy's Halloween parades, handing out loads of candy that was left over from Family Fright Night. We also made our first visit to a new stop in Allen Township's Community Building. This will be a longer stop to help allow for visibility and a solid length of time for residents of the area to come see us.

Another new stop has officially been added to the schedule: Coldwater Senior Villas. While some of the residents already come to the Coldwater branch for materials, there are some residents who cannot for mobility reasons. I am hoping we will see some of the latter use the bookmobile. If we are only seeing the more mobile residents, we will cancel the stop.

Cheryl Lawrence
Outreach Manager