

Alganssee

We are settling in to our new home. The teens at the Campbell School are enjoying the new location and drop in frequently on their lunch hour. It feels like our programs have had overwhelming attendance or very low. The amount of snow days messed with everyone's schedules.

The Noah's Ark workshop kept me busy. The kids enjoyed it so much and all of our critters were adopted.



Our other programs have carried on as usual. Crafting after school on Tuesdays. We sampled Russian candy, made nesting dolls and enjoyed Russian folktales on Thursdays after school. The magnetic slime was amazing. The kids had it moving side to side with their magnets. We unboxed the Wii and the bowling tournaments around here have gotten a bit intense, but so is the laughter. We love our new space!

Despite the weather, it has felt busier. I realized that is because patrons aren't filing in and out to make space for each other. They are sitting in the rocking chairs and visiting for long periods of time. It is becoming the community space I had hoped it would be. Our younger patrons race to the coloring table to see what new coloring sheets are there.

Our first puzzle is nearly completed and ready to give up its space to the new seed catalog. We will have an assortment of seeds for patrons to check out beginning March 2nd. I have to give a big thank you to Meghan Babbitt for all the resources and knowledge she has shared.

I am excited for our new programs next month. The adults will have a soap making class taught by Brooke Morrill, using beef tallow and natural ingredients. Our tweens will be starting their own book club, called Book Dragons, and trying some new tiny activities.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Bronson

We held our first Jigsaw Junkies program and had five attendees. One group of three completed two 300-piece puzzles during the two-hour program. Everyone had fun.

Book Lovers 'R' Us met for the second time and have read 33 books so far this year!

We participated in the annual Take Your Child To the Library Day the first Saturday of February. We held a special pop-up Valentine program on a no-school Friday and had 17 kids attend. Our storytime that day had 30 in attendance and it was great to have a full house again.

I met with the Bronson Community Foundation regarding partnering with them and our Friends group on a special summer program featuring Big Foot. Everyone was in agreement so planning is underway.

Attended the Bronson Township meeting.

We are now preparing for a busy March, starting the month with a birthday party for Barbie and ending with our OBAC book discussion.

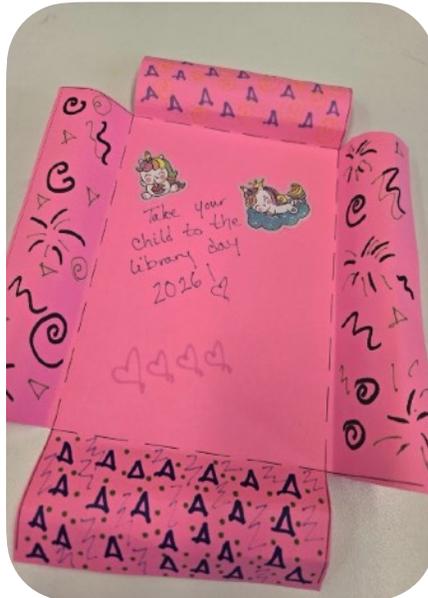
Submitted by Lynnell Eash



Coldwater

The Coldwater Branch has been getting sweeter the entire month of February. February started with Take Your Child to the Library Day. We hosted a variety of crafts, a scavenger hunt, and games for all ages. The crafts and treats were DIY photo frames for the kids and felt fortune cookies for the teens, everyone got to enjoy a cookie just for stopping by.

We started February with Art Club, a teen program that is no pressure, just fun making art. Then was the Murder Mystery Book Club. We have regular club attendees that have tea, snacks, and will soon start crafting at the book club. We also made some delicious and Edible Art: Candy heart pizzas where guests decorated a sugar cookie and put it in a tiny Valentines pizza box. This was a great surprise for their special someone. Lastly, our homeschool families had a day of games complete with cup stacking, speed math, a ping pong cup game, and mini golf. We could hear the excitement from screaming on the first floor.



We have plenty of craft programs, a Murder Mystery Dinner at the Community Center, and a historical presentation about Dr. Crippen all coming up in the next two weeks.

Lastly, I am so excited to announce that the Coldwater Branch District Library applied and were selected to host a Michigan Notable Author, the author and illustrator Zoe Persico. Zoe writes and illustrates Young Adult and Children's books. The speaking fee is paid directly by the Library of Michigan.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

Happy Valentine's Day, I hope you got to spend some wonderful quality time with a loved one during the season of love. 31 days until Spring! ...but whose counting? 😊

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

- It was a cold day on Take your Child to the Library Day this year which I believe deterred some patrons from coming to our event. We only had 1 participant this year but she loved the snacks and crafts that we did together.
- Along with the cold and snowy weather came a lot of snow days for school so we had quite a few storytime cancellations from all the snow days.
- Quincy Head Start asked the library to participate, and have a table at their annual literacy night this year. I will get to be a part of their literacy night for the first time and meet their families that attend and hopefully make those connections.
- We had a very known patron to the Quincy library finally get her very own library card this month and she is such a grown up now that she has it, just ask her. 😊
- We've been having some fun in the branch with some fun crafts – we've had a blast doing Sand-tastic art (the kiddos really loved this one), made some handprint heart trees, the kiddos watched their art work come to life - it was like magic, and we made some really awesome flower vases out of books. Check out our calendar to see what free, fun event you would like to attend!
- March is Reading Month is right around the corner, already! Jennings Elementary and Quincy Middle School reached back out again this year and would like the library to do some fun things with their kiddos. Stay tuned for more info.
- I attended a virtual women's leadership conference this past month and it was SO, SO good. One of the many takeaways that I'll leave you with is ... rest is part of work, not a reward for working. Keep that in mind when you're feeling guilty for resting ... it's okay to do so but also mandatory.



Until next month, stay healthy!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood!

We didn't have a lot happening here in January.

Many of our programs were "snow" related and Mother Nature had her own way of doing things and ruined many of our plans. We did manage to make squishy soap with the kids, a few game days, and had a canvas paint night for the adults hosted by Kathy Barnes. We had a full house and everyone had a lovely time!

Books and movies are consistently rolling in and we're planning our Summer programs.



I am working closely with my community, the Sheriff's department, and John to catch our burglar/attempted burglar. We have some new leads and we're hoping that something will come to fruition from them! I'll feel much better once he is caught!

Until next month,

best regards,

Traci Counterman, Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Township

Hello February!

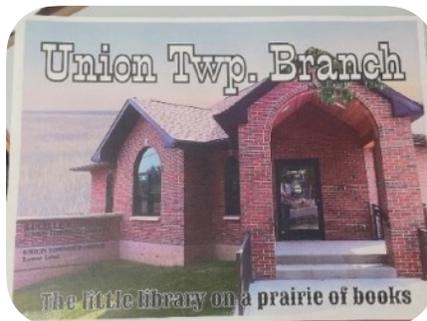


May this month bring temperatures above freezing and roads free of snow, we can only hope! Until then, we'll stay warm indoors and keep thinking positive spring thoughts.

A month of slippery, snow-covered roads and freezing temperatures resulted in some low attendance, which allowed for additional time to focus on behind-the-scenes projects and to work ahead. During this time, we completed weeding in Juvenile Non-Fiction, wandng, cleaning, updating displays, and ordering new



materials. I also booked presenters for our Summer Reading events and planned and entered all Summer Reading programs into the calendar. Meghan has been diligently packaging seeds for our upcoming Roots & Shoots Seed Celebration. We are very much looking forward to spring and this wonderful event for all ages.



Take Your Child to the Library Day, Saturday, February 7, was a lot of fun with a small group this year, 20 patron's total. Crafts, scavenger hunts, games, cookies, activity sheets, bookmarks, DIY bracelet making, a small book sale, and small bags for kids to take with them where all part of the day. Everyone walked away with goodies and cookies!



Trainings & Meetings

I attended a webinar through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative titled *AI and the Environment* and participated in Leaders Foundation Circle Book Club, Week One. One key takeaway from the *AI and the Environment* webinar was the environmental cost of AI infrastructure. AI servers in data centers require massive amounts of water for cooling, and by 2027, projections estimate that AI could require up to 1.7 trillion gallons of water globally (Cornell University, 2023). Those interested in learning more can view the recording through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative.

Upcoming Meetings & Trainings

- Leaders Foundation Circle
- Township Meeting
- Garden Club Meeting

Looking Ahead:

- **Bobbie Mathis Presents the Underground Railroad** – February 24 at 4:00 pm
- **Anti-Valentine's Paint Party** – February 11 at 3:00 pm (Registration Required)
- **Native Seed Sowing Workshop** – March 5, 1:00–3:00 pm (Registration Required)
- **Roots & Shoots Seed Celebration** – March 14, 9:00 am–1:00 p

Stay warm and stay safe! How many more days until Spring, just asking for a friend?

Submitted By Maria Rathbun

Outreach

With the coldest weather of the winter season also came the unfortunate cancellation of a few of our bookmobile stops. The good news, however, is that we have learned the low-temp threshold as far as vehicle functionality. In the future, stops may be cancelled if the forecasted high temperature drops below 20 degrees. Around 20 degrees is when the battery system's charge rate greatly slows, and not much lower than that is when the lift stops working due to the cold. Facility stops such as Maple Lawn, The Laurels, Thurston Woods, and Waldron Learning Center may be less affected by cold weather cancellations as we can revert to the tried and true crates-full-of-books method we used before the delivery of our bookmobile.

To help bring more awareness and attendance to our stop in Allen Township, I am working on an Every Door Direct Mailing project to send postcards with stop information all around Allen Township. I hope to have this finished, sent off to the printers, and possibly on the way to mailboxes by the end of March.

In the midst of planning for summer events and programs, I am also revisiting the current bookmobile schedule and thinking of changes that can be made, especially for the next school year. A couple of stops will be removed due to lacking attendance, while timing may be changed for others. The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) recently had a recorded Zoom discussion about evaluating Outreach stops. I was unable to attend the live Discussion, but I greatly look forward to gleaning some information that can help our community stops be more worthwhile and effective.

Cheryl Lawrence
Outreach Manager