

Alganssee

February was a good month to settle into our space. The kids Lego creations are proudly back on display. Patrons have been patient as I moved materials around to find the best fit for everything. I love how people linger to talk with each other and sit in the rocking chairs.

Adults made old fashioned valentines with scrapbook paper, lace, stamps and stickers.

Take Your Child to the Library had our branch's largest

attendance yet. Kids searched the library with a black light to find the hidden bees. Then they made unique bookmarks and snacked on marshmallows. I had a very determined group of kids that told their mom they had to come, despite the cold buggy ride over.

Our focus at Storytime has been movement with silly stories and songs. The tweens discovered China this month. We read folklores, made dragon puppets, sampled Chinese dishes and attempted to eat with chopsticks.

On Fridays the kids engineered with Legos. Watched *Cool Runnings* and discussed the Olympics. Made water walk from jar to jar and watched the colors mix for our Mad Science project. To end the month, we had our own Library Olympics. It was a great lesson in reading labels and finding materials. It also helped everyone become familiar with where everything now resides in the library.

With our previous clerk resigning this month, we are in the process of hiring a new clerk. We've had several new faces here filling in, and I've been thankful for their support.

Our new seed library opened Saturday. It drew in new patrons who I hope continue to utilize all we have to offer.

We have had many patrons getting copies of the One Book, One County book, *The Gales of November*. I am looking forward to our official discussion on Wednesday, March 18th at 5:30. I've enjoyed hearing everyone's opinions as they've returned the book.

Submitted by Teresa Shilling



Bronson

During our first storytime in March, I read the book "In Like A Lion Out Like A Lamb" by Marion Dane Bauer and our weather so far in March has definitely been lion-like! Our Friday Tales continues to be one of our best-attended programs. At the start of 2026 I decided to have Steve and Jessie take turns presenting at storytime too. Steve has focused on classic books read by Captain Kangaroo and then has a coloring sheet for the children to do. Storytime this week will be our annual Leprechaun Gold Hunt. The kids have so much fun searching for gold among the books.

Book Lovers are up to 56 books read so far this year.

Jigsaw Junkies had their second meeting and again we had five attend but two of those were new participants. We've heard a lot of comments about this program and hope it continues to grow.

Our first big event for March was our Barbie Birthday party. The library had a wonderful display of Barbie dolls and that created lots of questions and reminiscing from patrons. We had 45 children and adults attend and everyone had the chance to make Shrinky Dinks, Barbie bracelets, bookmarks and coloring sheets. Refreshments were served and lots of photos taken with the big Barbie doll.



The Bronson Area Historical Society presented the program, History and Memories of Holmes Hollow. Fourteen people attended and it was an interesting program.

March 6th the tornado siren sounded. We went into severe weather mode. Jessie rounded up patrons in the library, and I locked the inside doors to the library and hung the Weather Emergency signs on the doors. We grabbed phones and took shelter in the hallway downstairs. We leave the outside doors open in case anyone needs to find shelter they can get in the building and downstairs. We sure don't want to do that very often!

Steve and Jessie completed the first Libby Training webinar. I have been watching the recordings from the Book Club Leaders Foundations Circle.

The township has Board of Review the second week of March so we won't be able to have programs downstairs during that time but will continue to hold a couple in the media center.

Working on the events for the summer event guide.

Hope March turns into lamb-like weather soon.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

Spring is in the air at the Coldwater Branch District Library. Our library programs have had great attendance.

We rounded out February with a Murder Mystery Event at the Community Center at the Beech House. This was the first time we partnered with the Community Center and Kathy Bappert gave a welcoming introduction with a brief history of the first women's library in Branch County.

March came in like a lion with library events. We started March with the Branch County Conservation Native Seed Sowing Program.

The following day was an all-ages event called Basketball, Books and Board Games, it was held at the Dr. Browne Recreation Center. At this event the library rented a basketball court and a meeting room. We provided water, snacks, games, coloring sheets and the Bookmobile was parked in front of the recreation center.

In addition this month, we had Michigan Storm Chasers give a presentation on storm chasing and social media.

The Teen space has been busy every Tuesday for Taco Tuesday. This is a Roblox event and the Teen Computer Lab fills up.

For storytime we had a special guest reader, State Representative Jennifer Wortz. Jennifer joined us for our Tuesday storytime and read several books to a small crowd.

We have the rest of the month to have our regular programs including crafting, storytime and homeschool groups.

Lastly, the two Coldwater StoryWalks® have been changed in time for Spring! Check out the StoryWalk® at both the Heritage and Water Works Parks.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

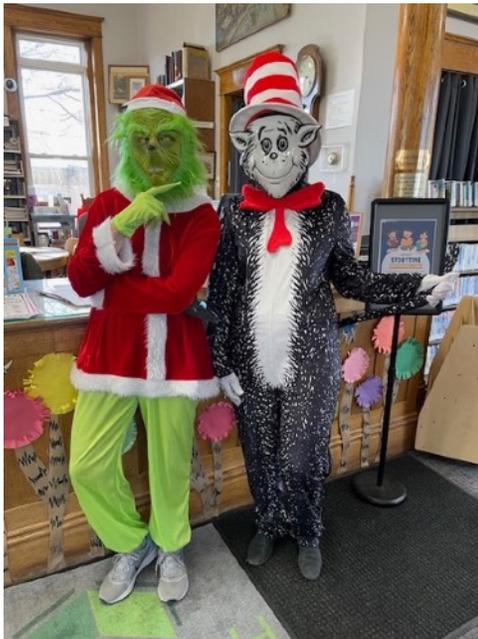


Quincy

Happy *almost* Spring! Yay! I'm beyond ready for warmer weather and sunshine!

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

Dr Seuss Day was so much fun! We had just shy of 50 people come to the event. The live characters were a really big hit and everyone seemed to really enjoy the snacks, crafts, and scavenger hunt. A few kiddos played the games and got the Grinch participating in the games with them. The kiddos thought that was so fun! I'm looking forward to more character days like this throughout the year!



Throughout March Jennings Elementary are allowing teachers to walk to the library with their students for March is Reading month. We have 14 classes scheduled to come. We have a library talk, scavenger hunt, and end it with some fun library\book trivia with the students. The theme this year is 'Go for the Gold in Reading' so we are handing out gold chocolate coins for those that answer the questions from the library trivia. The kiddos really seem to enjoy this.

Due to library sickness and a miscommunication at Jennings, a class surprised Tracy and Andrea on Tuesday, March 10 as they walked in the door for their program (the visit was supposed to have been canceled). Tracy and Andrea swooped into action and provided the class with the planned school program (see above). It turned out great and the kiddos had a great time.

I am working on finalizing my spring StoryWalk® – When Spring Comes by Kevin Henkes. It's such a great spring story book.

We had our first Wednesday storytime with zero participants. We are working on getting the word out about the new date.

Tracy organized the puzzle exchange and it looks great!

We were able to acquire the old magazine rack from Sherwood. We have moved many of our magazines to the rack and it has a fresh new look for the branch.

Until next month, Hoppy Easter!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Union

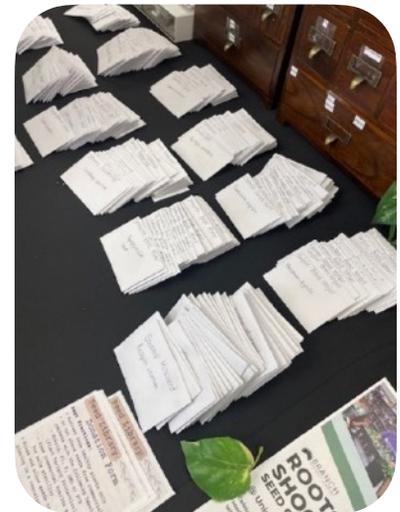
Hello, Spring!

We are looking forward to the arrival of spring and preparing for the many exciting programs and activities coming up at the library.

At the end of last month, we had the privilege of welcoming Bobbie Mathis, who presented a program on the Underground Railroad. The event drew a wonderful crowd of 35 patrons, and it was great to see such strong community interest and participation in this discussion.



Our Branch County Conservation District program which was held on March 5th filled to capacity one week before registration closed, highlighting strong community interest. We had a full house with 20 participants, and even Meghan and I were able to join in and learn alongside everyone else.



Our annual Roots & Shoots Seeds Celebration is cancelled this year but please feel free to stop by and check out our new seeds at your convenience.

I'm excited to announce a brand-new book club! All Booked Up, an adult book club, will begin this month on Thursday, March 12 at 4:00 p.m. at the Broadway Grille in Union City. This month's selection is *Gone Before Goodbye* by Harlan Coben and Reese Witherspoon. It's a great thriller, check it out if you haven't already!



Professional Development & Meetings

This month I participated in the following meetings and trainings:

- Township Monthly Meeting
- Libby Training
- Garden Club Meeting
- *"Digital Decluttering: For Your Mind and the Planet"* webinar through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative
- Completion of the 6-week Book Club Leaders Circle Training

We are excited to continue building momentum this spring through meaningful programs, partnerships, and professional development opportunities.



Community Update

In some sad and devastating news, a tornado moved through Union City on March 6, causing significant damage in parts of the community. During the storm, several patrons and I took shelter in the library basement. We could hear the chaos outside as the storm passed through, which was a frightening experience, but thankfully we were safe. The library sustained no damage, and everyone here remained safe.

My heart goes out to the families who lost their homes and to everyone affected by this tragedy. The love and support shown by our community has been truly heartwarming. I have been sharing information with patrons about local resources, and the library has become a place where people can charge their phones, stay warm, and connect with others. Several patrons are still without power, and recovery will take time, but the strength and compassion of this community continues to shine through. ❤️

Submitted by Maria Rathbun

Outreach

Happy early spring!

With the season change, I've been working on a couple of changes to the bookmobile's schedule. My Allen Township contact has agreed to the idea of moving that stop to a little later in the day. I am currently waiting to hear back on if he agrees with the proposed time frame. I will wait to confirm this new schedule before I move to the printing and mailing steps of the Every Door Direct Mailing campaign to advertise our stops in Allen Township. Moving the Allen Township stop to later in the day will require us to cancel the Allen Antique Barn. Our stops at the Antique Barn seldom see any visitors aside from the rare Antique Barn staff appearance.

It's also time to cancel our visits to the Coldwater Senior Villas due to lack of attendance. March 18th will mark our 5th visit there. Though we were requested by a resident, we have only seen 1 person stop by recently (and they only returned an item they borrowed from the Coldwater Branch).

The end of the school year still feels a ways off, but the bookmobile only has 4 more stops left at Pansophia Schools and Waldron Learning Center. I will contact both to see when the next year starts and to schedule the bookmobile's visits for the next school year. These visits have gone extremely well over the past year, and I am eager to continue our service there. The only change I would make is to move at least Pansophia to a different week.

While planning these schedule changes, I have also been scheduling a performer for a program during the summer. This program will be hosted at Maple Lawn so any interested residents can join the audience. I will also inform the other similar facilities we serve so they can transport interested residents to the program. Maple Lawn has assured me there will be plenty of space for the various residents as well as any general public attendees.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence, Outreach Manager