

Alganssee

Amber Fast accepted the clerk position at our library branch. We are excited to have someone local working with our community members. She is from California Township, and serves on their township board, so she is a familiar face to our patrons.

Brooke Morrill came to teach a soap making class using tallow and natural ingredients. All the seats were filled and I heard positive feedback from our patrons.

Our first partnership with the Health Department for audio screenings and equipment repairs was a success. We will host them again June 10, 2026. The children seemed calmer being in a space that they were familiar with. We had four new library card registrations and a total of 132 people through our building that day.

Our new seed catalog debuted on March 7th. We have answered many questions and sent happy patrons out with free seeds to plant, and hopefully return. There has been a lot of enthusiasm for this program. Linda Phibbs was the winner of our gardening kit raffle.

The end of the hallway has been transformed into a fairy corner and reading nook. The kids add to their fairy display each Tuesday and their creativity is delightful!

We had a large crowd for the One Book, One County Discussion on the book, *The Gales of November* by John Bacon. It was a fascinating account of the Edmond Fitzgerald and the shipping history of the Great Lakes. We didn't receive a single negative review.

Our new teen programs started this month. They have been enjoying their own book club, Book Dragons. Junk Journals, Barista Bar and Tiny Art are the other new teen programs.

Several kids participated in Tiny Art Week over spring break and painted mini canvases with a variety of painting techniques.



The summer reading programs have been submitted to marketing. It was so much fun to create dinosaur themed events.

We've been busy preparing for the Library Open House on Saturday, March 25th from 10-1. There will be games, balloons, refreshments and a glimpse into our future Alganssee Township History Archives. We have received a bench in memory of Gwen Safford Dove that has been placed on our front porch. Our Friends group will be hosting their book sale the same day. We owe them many thanks for their hard work in helping paint the back of the library this past weekend. Erica Ewers has put so much love into this new space of ours. John was out to move two mismatched shelves on our in-service day, while everyone else worked on getting a second coat of paint on the walls. We are excited to share it and all the services the library offers to everyone.

Submitted by Teresa Shilling

Bronson

Spring seems to be zipping by quickly, or maybe it's because we've all been working on the summer event guide! Either way, here we are halfway through April.

Our Jigsaw Junkies program brought 13 people together last month. We even had some puzzle racers—yes, that is a thing—attend. They were very kind and took their time putting the puzzles together so they didn't make the rest of us look bad. Attendees ranged from grandparents to an 8 year old. So much fun.

United Way sponsored the annual Read Across America and Steve read to 1st graders at Anderson Elementary and Jessie read to 3rd graders at Ryan Elementary.

Jessie started an All-Ages Craft program once a month to follow the Adult Craft program. One is held on Thursday, and the other follows on Friday. Both have been very popular.

We held another Stuffie Sleepover with 14 stuffed animals spending the night in the library. Photos were taken of the different activities they did. They watched a movie, had a storytime, did crafts, ate snacks and just your normal shenanigans. They finally all settled down to sleep and the next day the kids came back to pick them up and enjoy



some pizza and got a booklet with pictures of the fun their critter had.

Our OBAC discussion was held on *The Gales of November*. Jessica Tefft did a great job leading the discussion and Jeannie Berg provided wonderful refreshments and decorations.

Our staff work day was filled with lots of dust! All drawers and cupboards in our desk area were emptied, dusted and re-organized. The tops of the cupboards, shelves and window ledges behind the bookcases were dusted. The coat closet was emptied and cleaned to make more room for our Library of Things. Steve even got a ladder and dusted the top of the quiet pod!



We are already getting phone calls for school classes to come for tours at the end of May. So far, we have around 160 children coming to visit the library.

During a quiet moment in the library, I heard some rustling in the attic and realized we once again had been invaded by squirrels. When I checked outside, I could see where they had chewed a hole just below the roof. I contacted the township, and between the township and city crew, they repaired the holes, and we are waiting to see if the squirrels launch a counterattack and make their way back into the building. So far, all is quiet in the attic.

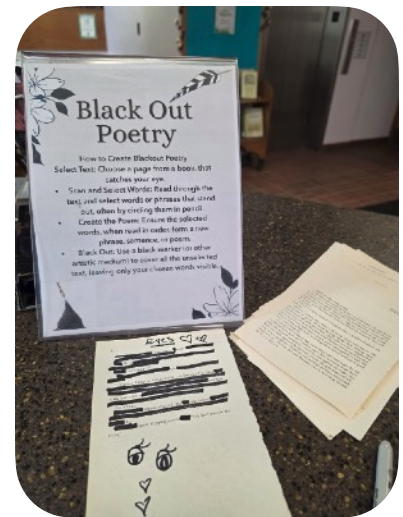
Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

April showers bring May flowers and the Summer Reading Program! In the early part of April, our friends from Little Lambs School had a field trip to the library with a special storytime. In April we honored poetry month with several passive and suggestive displays.

Crafting highlights for the month: kids and teens decorated wooden eggs with paint and the adults made Spring floral wreaths.

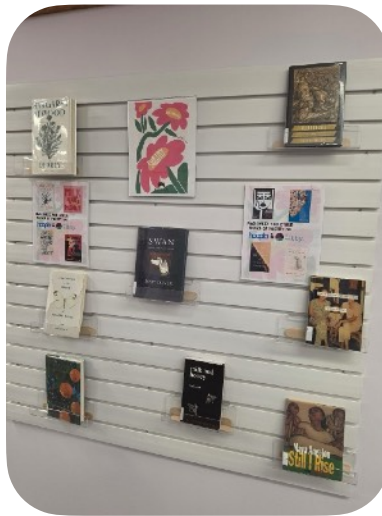
The Coldwater branch had a very successful spring-cleaning day/ in-service day on April 13. The fantastic, hardworking staff in Coldwater got their hands dirty to restore order and beauty to our building. This group of people radiate love for the library and take pride in their workspace. Some accomplishments for the day included: cleaning and organizing our craft room, shelf reading fiction, non-fiction and large print, organizing the kids place book shelves and craft



cabinets, and sweeping and mopping both emergency exit stairwells. In the Teen Space they did some rearranging with shelving and cleaned behind the desk. With all that hard work they worked up an appetite.

On April 25 and 26, the Coldwater Branch will be getting the carpets cleaned and the workroom tile refinished.

Lastly, we are starting to ramp up for Summer Reading, with the dinosaur footprints starting to be seen! Check out the Dino-mite programs that will be at the Coldwater Branch this summer!



Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

I keep reminding myself "April showers bring May Flowers" on repeat ... I hope you're staying dry!

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

- Tracy, Kayla, and I went to the Quincy Middle School for 2 hours – we made buttons and did library/book trivia with the kids during their lunch periods. The kids LOVED the trivia (because they got chocolate out of the deal) and most of them wanted to make buttons as well. Our button makers kept acting up so we were glad that trivia was such a hit.
- We got all the things for Summer Reading planned: Programs, Prizes, Décor and MORE! 2026 Summer Reading Program, Quincy is ready for you! A wonderful side note about Summer Reading is my



advisory board approved to give us \$1,000 for kiddo programming for SRP, which ended up paying for 5 of my programs! How awesome is that! Ready or not ... DINOSAURS HERE WE COME!

- We made some pretty cute crafts this past month. We made Leprechauns using paint, and boy the kiddos had fun with the paint. We made our own hatched egg craft where you could open it up and peep the baby chick inside. The adults made beautiful beaded wreaths with Tracy and they all turned out amazing! We had 7 people show up for our One Book, One County book talk! We all had a wonderful discussion. Great pick this year!!
- We had a surprise visit from the State of Michigan for an elevator inspection. It went really well.
- We did some major shelf shifting in a few areas in the kids' section to make more room for our juvenile graphic novels, they had absolutely zero breathing room on the shelf. We shifted graphic novels, chapter books, and non-fiction. This was physically having to move every book on the shelves manually and it was almost half of the kiddo collection! Tracy is a rockstar!
- I was a busy little bee in the branch for our staff in-service day. Tracy's youngest daughter decided to have her first baby on this day (Congratulations Tracy!) so I got the back-office counter and upper cupboards cleaned out and off. I also vacuumed every nook and cranny that I could find upstairs along with all carpet. I really focused on high traffic areas. I moved everything I was capable of moving by myself and cleaned underneath it. I'm so thankful to be able to do this cleaning in-service day every year, it is SO needed!
- We swapped out our StoryWalk® book to our new fun Spring book "When Spring Comes" by Kevin Henkes. It's such a great spring story book. Unfortunately, while we were swapping the story, we found some very obvious vandalism that has happened to some of our StoryWalk® posts. I have to replace the acrylic sheets in a lot of the posts when we swap to our summer story. I am hopeful the kiddos can be nice and respectful of our beautiful StoryWalk® going forward.
- Tracy swapped out our Dr. Seuss books for a newly decorated cart of all thing's food – it looks so adorable! **peep the cute sayings all around the cart**



Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greeting from Sherwood!

It's been a busy month. Our adult and kids' programs are well attended and highly enjoyed. We have more great ones coming up throughout the month.

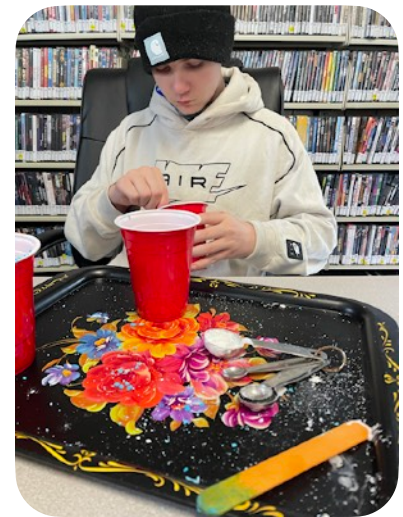
New materials arrive weekly and will continue to do so.

We spent our In-Service day scrubbing the library, cleaning cabinets, clearing out the backroom and washing everything down. It was a great day to accomplish things that needed our attention. We took full advantage to get some things done!

Next week we will take the kids out for a community clean up for Earth Day. Last year, we collected 6 bags of litter and trash. It was productive; therefore, we've decided to make this an annual event! The kids enjoyed it and hopefully they'll be back again this year doing wonderful things. Happy Earth Day!

We are actively gaining patrons for Toddler Storytime. Two families have been attending regularly. We love it and they love doing crafts after the story.

We are trying something new next month for our Adult night. We'll be showing the movie *Sisters* for Mother's Day. We'll be getting pizza, snacks and soft drinks for those in attendance. We're looking forward to a relaxing night with the girls!



I have contacted a local animal handler to do a program for us in June. He's bringing boas, newts, frogs, a skunk, kinkajous, and hopefully even an armadillo! We hope the weather cooperates, as this event needs to be outside. The last time he came, we were packed inside like sardines and I'm not trying to do that again :(

The Bigfoot hunters will also be here in June. We are looking forward to this and I believe it'll be another big summer hit.

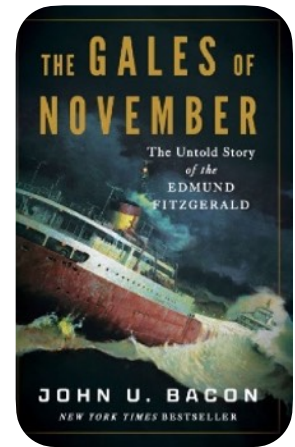
Check out our calendar of events for more great things on the horizon!

Until next month,
Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

Spring is here... well, kind of! We're hoping for more consistently warm days, as the weather has been unpredictable—40s one day and 60s the next. Even so, we're making the most of it and looking forward to when spring finally decides to stay.

On Tuesday, March 24, we welcomed a group of nine patrons for a discussion of *Gales of November* by John U. Bacon. We were excited to have a new participant who traveled all the way from Kalamazoo to share his appreciation for the book and the music of Gordon Lightfoot. He shared a special story about his grandfather, who once photographed the Edmund Fitzgerald—this is now a treasured piece displayed in his office.



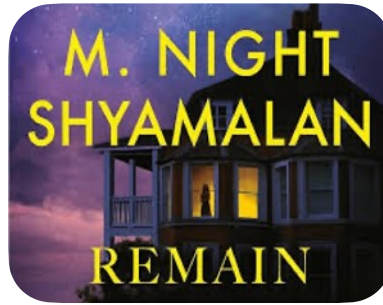
Local schools had Spring Break from March 27 through April 5, and we had several fun activities planned for kids, including DIY buttons, a movie day, scavenger hunts, and Minute to Win It games.

Storytime continues to be consistent, with an average attendance of around 10 children each week. The Wednesday before Easter, we hosted a special pop-up Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt for the little ones, including a hidden golden egg for extra fun.



All Booked Up Highlights

We had a great discussion this month on *Remain* by M. Night Shyamalan and Nicholas Sparks. The owners of the Union City Broadway Grille, Alex and Melissa, even created a themed menu to go along with the book, which made the experience extra special!



Be sure to check out their new menu screen, it includes a wonderful shout-out to the BDL Book Club. Thank you, Alex and Melissa, for your support! See you next month!

We have had several patrons and community members bring in items recovered after the March 6 Union City tornado. With the help of social media spreading the word, a number of individuals affected by the storm have been able to come in and reclaim personal belongings, including irreplaceable photographs.



Trainings & Meetings Attended

- Township Meeting
- Friends Meeting (March)
- Garden Club

Upcoming

- County-Wide Friends Meeting – April 28 at the Quincy Branch

On Monday, April 13, we held our Staff In-Service Day. With the help of Meghan and Andrea, we tackled an extensive list of projects. This included purging and organizing benches, cabinets, and drawers; cleaning out the storage closet and the program supply area; dusting and polishing all the benches; wiping down the entryway walls; mopping; and filling both the recycling and garbage bins.

Along the way, we came across a few fun surprises, a small red children's glove somehow perched on top of a shelf, and two bike chains with keys that we didn't realize we had.

Last week, our carpets were professionally cleaned, and this week our windows were done as well. It's been a full round of spring cleaning!

All Summer Reading plans are now in place, and we're beginning to explore ideas for fall programming. We're also looking forward to the upcoming stretch of nice weather!



Submitted by Maria Rathbun

Outreach

Spring has started with a lot of cleaning, planning, and a couple of changes to the bookmobile. Our current driver, Greg, suggested bringing his power washer to staff cleaning day so we could wash the road grime off the bookmobile. While he did that, I wiped down the shelves and kids books. The floor also got a good sweep and mop, even behind and underneath the carts. Now our bookmobile is sparkly clean inside and out!

This time of year also means our school visits will soon be coming to an end. I've reached out to both Waldron Learning Center and Pansophia Academy to ask for some feedback: what went well, what didn't, and what they would like to see next year. Everything seemed to go well from both perspectives (aside from the minor issue of a content complaint from a fifth-grade teacher because a student checked out a Young Adult item the teacher deemed

inappropriate). We are looking forward to continuing these visits for the next school year. I will be making a small change: moving our Pansophia visits to a different week on the bookmobile's schedule. Moving the Pansophia stop to a day without a community stop soon after it will also allow us to stay there longer, giving all students more time to browse.

We've recently made another schedule change: Allen Township stops now use only one location, the Community Building, with new hours from 12 pm to 5 pm. My hope with this new time is to be available for residents after work and school. We have only made one stop with this new schedule, and 3 residents stopped by after 4. Only time will tell if this change will help our attendance.

In the coming months, I will be working on a grant application for the Lois Lenski Covey Bookmobile Grant. If awarded, these funds will be used to purchase more VOX and world language kids books, boosting our collection with more inclusive and accessible materials.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence, Outreach Manager