

Alganssee

The Open House was a success with 188 attendees, 7 new library card signups, and many questions answered. We received many positive comments about our Alganssee history archives in the hallway and how we've utilized the space. A scavenger hunt to find all our library mice took people to different areas of the library. The kids guessed how many book worms were in the jar and took a package to snack on. The weather cooperated and we had our yard games from our Library of Things out for everyone to enjoy. It was a wonderful day.



Our Friends of the Library book sale also had a successful day with \$352 in sales. This will help cover the costs of back-to-school supplies for the kids who complete summer reading. We are so thankful for their support!

Erica Ewers and our Friends of the Library painted the hallway and program room to match the front of the building. Rod Bassage and his nephew got the new hitching rail installed, which has made our patrons much happier. Curt and Kristin White came out and fixed the window, sink leak and helped me hang a map of the township. Will Eicher and Robert Shilling surprised us by getting the library sign up just in time for the Open House. This has truly been a community project and I am so thankful for everyone.

We have had 159 checkouts of seed packets this month, and we still have more available. The seed library is off to a good start.

Junk Journals has been growing in popularity. I am happy with the changes we've made with our teen programs. Our Mad Science egg drop was so much fun. Each of the kids took a different approach to protecting their egg and many landed safely. Builders Club had so many attendees that we had to move it to the front room to have enough space. It was a solvable problem, that warmed my heart.

With our Amish kids out of school, we've received many questions about Summer Reading. Although it's not here yet, we are excited to *Dig into our Story* and learn about paleontology, archeology and anthropology this summer as the dinosaurs take over our library.



But first we are excited to have Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary coming on May 29th. They will be bringing out alligators and reptiles for our community to discover and meet.

I attended the annual county Friends meeting at Quincy and our Alganssee meeting. We all appreciate their hospitality and many people have come in asking where to get "I Love My Library" signs.

Submitted by Teresa Shilling

Bronson

Spring is here! To help get us into the spirit of the season, the Friends of the Library cleaned and mulched the flower beds, and even raised the bricks edging the beds back to where they should be. Everything looks so nice and clean and was just in time for the Friends' book sale that took place May 7-9.

With the Friends' Sale going on, we moved our Toddler Time and Friday Tales storytimes into the media center.

At the end of April, the Bronson Historical Society put on a program about 40 Years of the Polish Festival, featuring a collection of photos and videos with past festival kings and queens from 1968 to 2009.

After some repair work on the sink in the basement, for the first time in around 15 years we have water downstairs! Now after craft programs we can clean brushes and the paint mess down there, and that will help keep the restrooms cleaner.

Carpet and window cleaning are scheduled for June, stay tuned!

Submitted by Lynnell Eash and John Rucker

Coldwater

I cannot believe that school is almost out for the summer! At the Coldwater Branch we have been working hard and doing big things to prepare for the Summer Reading Program (SRP) and DINOSAURS!

Ben, Alisha, Emma, Christina ,and Kayla went to the Legg Middle School for all three lunch periods to offer information about SRP and library card signup. We engaged with 291 students. On May 14, we will be hosting a field trip to the Lincoln Learning Center with a special storytime and craft. On May 21, the Lagrange Library will pay a visit to the Coldwater Branch as a part of their programming. The Lagrange Library is interested in our architecture. These guests will take a tour of our building and receive a handout with a historical timeline. Brittany, our Holbrook Heritage Room coordinator, has agreed to come in early and be the tour guide for our special guests.



Our May programs are off to a great start! The book bedazzling had great attendance and the feedback from our library guests was outstanding. The Wicked Watch party was a beautiful collaboration of pink and green. Our patrons love our craft programs and programs that provide a community space like our Homeschool Programs, and the event guides for summer! We are ready to have a DINO-MITE SUMMER!

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh



Quincy

Even with using some PTO over the past month, we've still been busy in the branch!

Is it done raining yet?! I'm ready for warmer, sun-shiny weather!

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

- Quincy had their Spring Fling on May 4th. That is where high school students are all around the Village volunteering at local businesses. I had 14 students and a teacher here for an hour and a half who raked the back fence, dusted, dusted, and dusted some more. They deep cleaned the Lego table, they deep clean every single Lego piece and the box they go in. They organized some of the book sale books downstairs, moved the picnic tables for me, cleaned up the computer areas, dusted and straightened up the entry way, vacuumed the stairs and basement, and pulled many, many weeds outside in our flower beds. They were efficient and a great group of kids. Thank you so much for all your hard work!



- We made some pretty great crafts this past month! We painted cat lamps, made our own puzzles, put together springtime wind chimes, decorated some maracas for Cinco De Mayo, made a sweet craft for mommas\aunts\grandmas, made the cutest live edge wooden signs, and in honor of military month we wrote letters and colored pictures to send to some of our soldiers. We had a fun, crafty month!

- We had our windows scheduled to be cleaned on April 29th but can you believe it, it got rescheduled because of the rain. They did get done on May 7th and look sparkly clean and beautiful!

- We have still been spreading the word about moving our storytime from Fridays to Wednesdays in the branch starting in March and hadn't had much attendance. As for

teens, I haven't had a consistent group coming for a while now. I keep trying new things for them but I know that teens are busy! Well ... there was some magic in the air in Quincy on April 22nd - we had 12 show up for storytime in the morning and 4 teens come do snacks and crafts in the afternoon, all in the same day!! My whole week was made!

- The winner of our checkout challenge for National Library Week from the week of April 19th – 25th had never won anything in her life and she was over the moon about winning. Such a great idea!

- Friends of the Quincy Library hosted the county-wide annual friends meeting at the Quincy branch on April 28th and we had 27 in attendance, what a great turnout. They got to look at the bookmobile, we played a get-to-know-each-other bingo, and did a word search. Each Friends group got to share what they have been doing or what they have coming up and had some great discussion. We raffled off the beautiful flowers that we got for decorations around the branch for the evening and everyone got to leave with an 'I love my library' yard sign and a baggie with some goodies in them. The Quincy Friends did a wonderful job!

Summer Reading Program Loading in 3....2....1
DINOS!

Submitted by Sarah Strong



Sherwood

Kids' programs were well attended this month and last month. Storytime on Thursdays has had regular attendance. Yay!

We tried something different for our adult program in May. It didn't go over well and we won't rush to try it again. Fortunately, we completed a few tasks during the scheduled time, so I'll still call that a win.

Kathy Barnes was here in April to make Dream Catchers with us. It was a great program and we had a full house.

Materials ordering is going great and we are currently weeding Juvenile Fiction to make room for the new stuff.

I'm very excited about our Summer Programs. We have some great things planned. Not only will the Bigfoot hunters be here, but we're also going to have many critters and animals visiting in June. A skunk, kinkajou, armadillo, many boas, newts, frogs and more! Please check out our calendar of events!

Until next month best regards,
Traci Counterman, Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

Hello May!

SBA Assistance

The SBA (Small Business Administration) Disaster Loan Outreach Center was coordinated to support Michigan businesses, nonprofits, and residents impacted by the March 6 tornado. In-person assistance was available during regular library hours from April 27 through May 14. Brian, Mario, Theresa, and Eric were on hand to answer any questions one may have.

For more information, please see the articles below:

<https://www.sba.gov/article/2026/04/29/sba-offers-disaster-relief-michigan-businesses-private-nonprofits-residents-affected-tornadoes>

<https://wtvbam.com/2026/04/30/931314/>

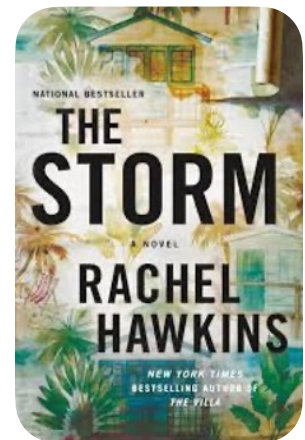


All Booked Up

This month's book selection was *The Storm* by Rachel Hawkins. A gothic suspense novel set in St. Medard's Bay, Alabama, focusing on the Rosalie Inn, a hotel with a dark history tied to hurricanes and a decades-old murder mystery involving a local woman, Lo Bailey, and a political heir.

Turtle Time Storytime

I brought in my two one-year-old painted turtles, Franklin and Mr. Turtle, and the kids loved visiting them during storytime on Wednesday, April 29. The children were fascinated watching the turtles eat and swim, and many enjoyed the chance to gently touch their shells. Some of the children even had a hard time saying goodbye and wanted to stay



by the turtles the entire time.

During storytime we took time to talk about how to care for turtles, including what they eat and the kind of habitat they need to stay healthy. The children asked thoughtful questions and were excited to share what they already knew about animals. It was a wonderful hands-on learning experience that encouraged curiosity, patience, and respect for living creatures.



Meetings/Trainings

I attended the Annual County-Wide Friends Meeting at Quincy Library. Thank you, Quincy, for hosting this year! What a great time all getting together and sharing our experiences and events.

Big Ideas Start Here: April–May Library Program Spotlights Library



Check Out Challenge Winner

Congratulations! Look at that smile – made her day finding out she won a \$ 50.00 gift card.

Congratulations are in order for Meghan!

She has officially earned her MLIS (Master of Library and Information Science) from Valdosta State University. After years of hard work and dedication, graduation day has finally arrived. If you see her, be sure to congratulate her on this incredible achievement—way to go, Meghan!

Coming Up:

Adult Program – DIY Stencil-Painted Personalized Flower Pots (registration required) May 19 at 1 PM — spots are still available!

We're also looking forward to Summer Reading and all the exciting programs planned for the season.

Submitted by Maria Rathbun



Outreach

Summer is right around the corner and preparation is in full swing! The bookmobile's last school visits for the year are this week. We will be picking up all the books students have checked out and dropping off information about Summer Reading and our coloring contest sheet. Our final visit to Waldron Learning Center will be bittersweet. One of the students informed us during our previous visit that he is graduating this year, and is excited about it but will miss seeing the bookmobile. We let him know that we make stops throughout the county, and that I bet his caretakers could take him to one of our stops if he asked.

We recently fulfilled a visit request from a couple of teachers at St. Charles elementary school. Three classes came out to see the bookmobile, hear about the library and what the bookmobile does, and read a story. A total of 62 kiddos got to take a peek inside the bookmobile!

Coming up this summer are several local events: Cultural Jubilee (May 16th), Union City's Memorial Day Parade, the Summer Reading Kickoff Party (June 6), Strawberry Festival (June 20th), Quincy's 4th of July Parade, and Bronson's Polish Festival (July 16-18). Also coming up is the bookmobile's first paid performer program! Ben Traverse's American Folk: Old Time in the Current Times program will be hosted at Maple Lawn's facility. Despite its location, this program will be open to the public. I chose to host this program at Maple Lawn so residents from our various facilities could attend a library program more easily.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence, Outreach Manager