

Algansee

Fall is here and so are our school year programs. The Reading and Quincy school buses have synced up on drop-offs, helping us start programs sooner. It's been a busy month helping the school teachers making copies for the schools. There are now 13 Amish schoolhouses. Several kids have come requesting homework help. Our new set of *Big Fat Notebooks* have been helpful with assisting them.

I focused on classics for Story Time. Our pancake eating pig returned with *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*. The kids called out the letter on each pancake as they fed her. We also read *The Case of Old MacDonald and His Farm*. *The Cheese* was a silly version of the Farmer and the Dell, which our preschoolers loved!

Jennifer Shilling taught our Kids WHOO Craft how to crochet this month. They worked each week and many completed adorable pumpkins.

Builders Club brought in a full house. I've had to create two separate challenges for big kids and littles, but it was much fun! STEM Robots brought in twice as many kids as I had anticipated. So, we created two different versions after getting out the supply I'd intended for the next month. I paired a big engineer with a younger one since I was greatly outnumbered, and it worked out wonderfully.

Our teens resumed their Junk Journals. Our first Brain Game was an Escape Room. Fable Haven was the first book pick for Book Dragons. They had a lot of fun making crazy sandwich combos like the kids did in the story. Old olive and salsa jars were converted into Miniature Worlds of fall pumpkins and forest critters.



The adult craft class was filled to capacity, plus some. Amber helped them make scarecrows from terra cotta pots. They each made their own unique version. We've had many requests for additional adult crafting classes. So, beginning January we will have two classes in addition to our drop-in crafting program.

The Not-So-Spooky program was a success. We had 147 people in two hours. I saw many new faces and our familiar ones too. There was a community trunk or treat. The Friends had their fall book sale next door. Three adorable (and escaping) goats greeted our guests under the bridge to the library. After crossing

the bridge, they walked into the Magic Treehouse to *Dinosaurs Before Dark*. Ate candy from the witch's cottage and saw *Hansel and Gretel* come to life. Then into *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* with food raining from a stormy sky. The gnomes were loose in the *Goose Bumps* room at the end of the hall. We had a party and cupcakes with *Winnie the Pooh* to celebrate his 100th birthday. Then a short trip through Diagon Alley took our guests to *Hogwarts* where they transformed water into juice and were able to cast a beginning charm with a magnetic wand and special feathers. I am so thankful for Amber, our Friends of the Library, Algansee Farm Boosters 4-H Club, community members and Royal Chevrolet for their help and donations.



Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Bronson

Fall programming is in full swing in Bronson and we are enjoying it (and the weather) so much! We've covered lots of surfaces with pumpkins and leaves and have lots of spooky book displays.

Steve has been doing a spectacular job with his Teen program "Coffee House". His first event of the season had 21 teens in attendance; his second 19. It's a testament to the rapport he has cultivated with the youth in our community and we're so lucky to have him.

Bronson is running its inaugural horror short story writing contest, *Little Horrors*. I consider our first year a success with six submissions submitted by October 1st. It is a collaborative effort with staff from the district volunteering to read and judge the submissions. We will be announcing the winner towards the end of October and I already hope to make this program a yearly tradition.

We have been doing a lot of collections work—mainly doing some heavy weeding on our juvenile and YA books to make sure we have current and exciting titles for our young patrons. It's been so helpful to see where the gaps are as we wind down this year's materials budget.

With the help of my staff we have planned and submitted our programming for December, January, and February. I'm so excited about the new things we're trying for all age groups. We will be offering a homeschool program that focuses on humanities studies, a D&D beginners night, a holiday gift wrapping party, and more.

Wishing you all a beautiful autumn,
Alisha Morris, Bronson Branch Manager

Coldwater

The Coldwater Branch is filling October with wickedly weird and macabre crafts. Our attendance for these programs has been better than expected. We entered October with a teen and adult program by making our doll-face necklaces. This was a first of its kind for Coldwater and all the attendees made a one of a kind piece of jewelry out of a doll head.



In Kids' Place, twenty-six children had a wonderful time making creepy air dry clay creations. Ten children took a beginner survival class at Rotary Park with our survival guru, Becky! And we honored a century of Winnie-the-Pooh by making maps of the forest, having Teddy Grahams and painting honey pots.

Around 35 students received library one cards to aid in their required coursework in the educational program at the Branch Area Career Center. The students visited our library to pick out a children's book to develop a curriculum based on the story.

Adults created a Halloween Horror bust-out canvas and watched a classic movie, *The Shining*.

It is official: the Coldwater Branch District Library has photos on the [Haunted History Trail of Michigan website](#). This is posted just in time for our live ghost hunt on October 23 with Forgotten Souls Paranormal Group.



As we make our way through the remainder of October we have programs everyday of the week and we look forward to seeing new faces and having a spooktacular time!

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

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

- Winter programs have been submitted to the district and boy do we have a full, fun line up across the district for our patrons. Check out the event calendar to see what FUN & FREE event you can join this upcoming season!
- We attended our annual fall staff training day & it was truly a great day! I thoroughly enjoyed the trivia questions to start our day, the AI talk was intriguing (even if it was a little scary :P), lunch and dessert was SO delicious, and the customer service training from Zingerman's always hits the spot – such a great refresher course! Kudos to Jessica for a great day!
- The Quincy Friends group is preparing for a busy upcoming season – they are hosting a two-day book sale in November, participating in the Quincy Lights Village program in the beginning of December, and helping put together our back-by-popular-demand program - Shenanigans with Santa. This year Shenanigans with Santa will be honoring the memorial of Harold Schultz, longtime active Quincy community member.
- It is crazy that we're already at this point in the year (didn't the year just start yesterday?!) but I have submitted my final book order the year.
- We changed the look up on our shelves all throughout the library. Tracy is a rockstar and did some dynamic shelving – super fun change in the branch! Take a look at the pictures to see what it is.

I hope you all have a wonderful, safe, and spook-tacular spooky season!

Submitted by Sarah Strong



Sherwood

Happy Fall from Sherwood!

We are currently in the middle of weeding our Adult Fiction section to make space.

Our adult program for September featured fall wreaths, which were great. Our crafting attendees always go above and beyond to make the greatest creations!

Our kids' programs have been well attended. Storytime has been hit-or-miss, but when they do show up, it makes for a great Thursday! Last week, we actually had a few extras who drove all the way from Vicksburg to join our regulars. It was fantastic!

I attended Fire Safety Week in Union City a couple of weeks ago. The Auxiliary ladies are always a pleasure to spend a few hours with. Next year the consensus is to hold it during "Farm to Fork" and hopefully increase attendance. This year was somewhat of a bust, but it was still enjoyable for the few who attended.

We are spending the remainder of our Programming budget in preparation for end of year festivities and next Spring. It'll be here before we know it!

Until next month,

Best Regards,

Traci Counterterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

October is finally here!

This month we have a lot of fun and great programming planned. Starting off the month with Banned Books Week check out all the current information on the [ALA website](#).

Death Café met for the second time and we had more patrons come this time around with a total of 6 patrons and we had light refreshments, journals, and some apple cider. Conversation centered around what we could do now to plan ahead for our wishes i.e., decluttering, making your wishes known, passing on memories to generations to come such as pictures, memory books, geology information, and not leaving it up to the family to make sense of the items left behind. Talking about your wishes and requests and have that information on hand makes for a smoother plan. Next Death Café program meets Thursday, November 5 at 5:30 pm. A big thanks to Kristen Steckbauer for facilitating this program.



This month's book selection for the All Booked Up Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, October 8th at the Broadway Grille at 4 pm. This month's selection is the Astral Library by Kate Quinn and it starts off with a great question. "Have you ever wanted to live inside a book?" This is a great question to think about and if you want to know more about this check out the book it will take you on an adventure inside different books.



Every branch is gearing up for the 100 Anniversary of Winnie-the-Pooh and we have a special Storytime planned which will have some fun activities, such as pin the tail on Eeyore, Winnie-the-Pooh scavenger hunt, and creating fun honey pots crafts.

We have lots of kid's programs planned coming up as well such as Halloween painted rocks, Book Page Pumpkins and not so scary stories Halloween bash. This month will be very busy with all these great and fun programs planned but one last program we are excited about is Bevin Cohen's The Art of Herbal Tea Tasting Experience scheduled on October 29th at 1 pm registration is required and we still have some spots available, [so register now!](#)

Kelly and I been busy with creating our scarecrow contest display and we finally finished weeding out all the adult fiction and large print and move the whole section down to make room for more Large Print. A big project but we are glad it is done and it looks so clean and refreshed. The Book sale section is reorganized and we have had a lot of patrons buying bags

of books at a time. A big thank you to Kelly for all her fun and creative Halloween displays it really adds to the Halloween atmosphere.

I attended Fire Safety event last Saturday and the turnout was less than previous year but the event was also was competing with other local events going on at the same time. The Friends of the Library came with donuts, cookies and giveaways. I had goody bags, crafts and a big fire truck as a giveaway. All the winners have been notified for the giveaways and since the numbers were low this year all the extra materials will be saved for next year. There is a conversation that the Auxiliary Club wants to connect with the Farm to Fork committee to possibly have next year's event on the same day as Farm to Fork to increase the attendance of this event more.

A big shout out to the Friends of the Library for also providing 12 themed baskets for the local Farm to Fork event. Every patron that toured the Bookmobile received a ticket and got to enter to win one of the 12 baskets. There was even a Dolly Parton themed basket which was one of the most popular ones for sure especially with the \$25.00 gift card to Barnes and Nobles.

At the end of September, we had a great program called Foraging 101 with Val Rossman and we had 10 patrons attend that event and Val spoke for over 2 hours and even brought delicious samples for everyone. A big thank you to Val for sharing all her expertise, samples and her time.



This month will be exciting, not so scary and filled with fun and spooky good times.

Submitted By Maria Rathbun