

### Alganssee

The Craft for March was a ladybug piggy bank, everybody painted their own design, lots of fun colors, 5 piggy banks went to a new home. Snacks provided by Friends of the Library.

April craft will be an Easter flower wreath April 13th Saturday 9 till 12. Please call Library if interested in joining us, all materials provided.

Young Adult program was making our own wand, with the Harry Potter theme.

Lots of new books and videos for all ages!

Any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

Alganssee Branch Manager

### Bronson

We attended 3 more school programs since the last board meeting and they were all great opportunities to talk with people about BDL and what libraries can offer them. We registered numerous children during the Kindergarten Round-up night and have had several visits the library already. Ryan School's, "Leaders in the Spotlight", was entertaining as usual and kids stopped by our table to talk with Mr. Steve.

Science Olympiad seemed busier than last year and our table was visited by kids and adults both. We were able to get some really great science game ideas to take back to the library.



Bronson Branch had been experiencing some electrical problems over the past month and they continued to get worse until a Thursday morning when there was no longer a question, we had a major problem. After consulting with John and shutting down all circuit breakers, Ludwick Electric and Consumers were called and made an emergency visit to try to fix the problem. We started with a delay in opening but then had to shut down for the day. The problem was in the meter box on the side of the building and after seeing what had happened the Consumer's guys only comment was "Glad there wasn't a fire" Yikes! Everything seems to be working great now.

Jeanne Berg led our One Book, One County discussion and did a wonderful job. Decorations, food and discussion were all perfect.

We kicked off National Library Week with a Read-a-thon and Pizza party. Twenty-one adults, teens and children attended. Participants found places to read in the library and after ½ hour were all rewarded with a pizza party. We will also be recognizing National Poetry Month by doing a "Create Your Own Poem" contest using clipped words from magazines and newspapers. All ages welcome to participate.



Over spring-break, we had the basement open for kids to visit and had games, puzzles, coloring, crafts, Legos, marble run, a movie and Wii games for them to enjoy. It was a busy week.

A big SHOUT-OUT to Steve and Jessie for helping our branch run smoothly. Both are great with patrons and always willing to listen/help/participate when I announce "I've been thinking..."

### **Coldwater**

One Book One County: The Coldwater Branch wrapped up the county wide book talk with two great book discussions. First up was a Saturday talk lead by the Coldwater Friends of the Branch District Library president, Jeanne Berg. She did an amazing job not only leading a lively discussion but with decoration including green glowing light and jars of "radium paint" and paintbrushes. Shockingly no one wanted to participate in "Lip, Dip, Paint". Also on display, were copies of primary source materials that were collected by BDL staff member Keeley Briggs, who spent countless time contacting other libraries and tracking down materials from MeL to highlight the media sensation the Radium Girls produced. For the first time, we also offered a night book discussion, which I was able to facilitate to a smaller but no less lively group!

**Adult Programs:** At the beginning of the month our Coldwater Adult Programmer retired. She had been in the position for many years. She created a balance of craft and educational programs that the public received very well. She left us with several great programs scheduled for the rest of the 2019 and we are excited to evaluate and try some new adult programs that are showing great promise at other public libraries.

- **Poetry Month and Contest:** April is Poetry Month and an annual event is the Adult Poetry Contest. Aspiring poets (ages 18 and up) can submit an original poem and have it displayed at the library. Poems will be judged on by a panel of library staff and cash prizes will be awarded to the first and second place winner. This year is off to a great start with 12 entries. The poems are on display on the first floor in combination with several works of poetry and poetry how to books.
- **Seed Saved Exchange Update:** Donations still are arriving from the community and there is a healthy supply of seeds still available for people to start their gardens. The donated seed starting greenhouses have all been handed out and we again thank Biz-Aid Recycling for thinking of the library!
- **Coming up is an author visit on Tuesday April 18 at 6:30pm.** Susan Betz, master gardener, will have her book *Neighboring with Nature: Native Herd for Pleasure & Purpose*. The Morrison Financial Group will be back to repeat a Social Security and Medicare Workshop on April 25 and May 9. Also, from the comments received from patrons who are jealous of the Teens having all the fun, our first ever adult Pokemon table-top adventure will be held on April 30. You can always stay current with upcoming events at all 6 branches by visiting our event calendar at [BranchDistrictLibrary.org/calendar](http://BranchDistrictLibrary.org/calendar) or follow the library on Facebook at "Branch District Library"

**Kids' Place:**

- April blew in like a lion with Spring Break. Busy doesn't begin to describe the atmosphere in Kids'. With daily programs, we were kept hopping. The Bunny Peep Cottages (think gingerbread house only using graham crackers) were a total blast. We also made Bird feeders and had fun with a spring themed story-time. And while we had a great turn-out for the Red Cross Pillowcase Project, the Red Cross didn't show up! Staff improvised and our patrons seemed content. And let us not forget the great April Fool jokes that our young patrons shared!



- Our Money Smart program, "Library Loot" is popular with our young patron earning redeemable "loot" for attending programs, checking out materials, writing/drawing book reports and poems! The Earned It Store will open for business on Saturday, April 27 with all the loot to be redeemed by Saturday, May 4. The Honor Credit Union will be here for a special story-time using this year's give away book, "Earn It" by Cinders McLeod. This program is made possible through the Michigan Credit Union Foundation.
- We finished the Reading Incentive with a total enrollment of 102. Of these, only 44 turned in their completed logs to receive the prizes. The weekly scavenger hunts had a total participation of 85. We had four winners of \$25 Amazon gift cards drawn at random from completing the scavenger hunts. It was fun watching the children and parents working together to complete the weekly hunt. We plan to repeat something similar in May.
- Linda Dull did a total of 4 off-site preschool story-times and 3 in-house preschool visits as part of the March is Reading month. We gave copies of the Michigan Reads book "Touch the Brightest Star" provided by the Michigan State Library to each of the preschools. It was a great segue into promoting our Summer Reading!
- BDL staff member, Angela Richards, had as much fun as our youth during the "Gadget Busters" program. We plan to continue hosting this program throughout the year. It is so much fun watching and helping the youth dismantle the gadgets we provide. Think "I didn't know that's what's in there!" So if you have any small appliances that refuse to work, please remember we'd be happy to take them as long as they can be taken apart.

- And let's not leave out our super popular marshmallow catapult coordinated by BDL staff member LuAnn Watson. We're still finding marshmallows in the strangest places! I do think staff enjoyed "testing" this program as much as the library users who actually participated. This is defiantly another program we plan to repeat.
- We're excited to have the Branch County Community Theatre provide free tickets to their May production of "Mary Poppins". Ashley will be holding drawings for these at several of our Thursday pm events which tie in with Mary Poppins!
- We're also finalizing plans for our Kids' Place version of the NetFlix program, "Nailed It!". We'll be unveiling our version on Saturday, May 11 with the help of Larisa Vorce, Laurie VanDosen and the Coldwater Library Friends. We hope to hold a Friends fundraiser using this competition on Saturday, June 22.
- Summer Reading is just around the bend. Staff are happy to report that we're looking good for programs and sponsors! Linda and other staff have been working very hard to get all the details completed for the almost 9 weeks of programming that is planned!

### **Teen Services:**

- March ended with the month of Harry Potter, from the Wand Making, Herbology (Seed Bombs), Harry Potter trivia, and kicked off Spring Break with the 24-hour movie marathon. The Teen Services Department did a great job coordinating the event and it ran so smooth. A huge thank you to the many staff who gave up their sleep to provide the needed supervision and constant restocking of snacks. I really enjoyed listening to the Teens talk and just be super excited about the library and Harry Potter. What was really great was that this event brought in a lot of new faces including Teens from Union City!
- During the month of April there is a display in Teen Space for Poetry Month. The Young Adult collection includes several great titles for the month all available for checkout.
- Upcoming programs for the month include Blackout Poetry, Dungeons and Dragons, Are you Smarter than a Librarian, and Custom Buttons.
- Met with the Teen Services Department to talk programming during the Summer. A lot of great ideas were presented, it will be hard for them to figure out what ones to pick!

Submitted:

Kimberly Feltner

### **Quincy**

- I read to Jennings Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes on United We Read day in March.
- A teen Minute Mysteries event was a hit with giant magnifying glasses hung to announce the event
- Spring break students enjoyed a craft table all week and a different craft was available for teens.
- Money Smart Week offered great displays, "dollar" bookmarks and gold chocolate "coins"
- National Library Week was celebrated last week with goodies for our patrons
- The One Book, One County book discussion was facilitated by Jeanne Berg and attended by only 2. Refreshments were provided by Bonnie Frick.

- The Quincy staff appreciated the pizza in recognition of Library Workers Day, it was a very nice treat

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Wood

### **Sherwood**

Greetings from Sherwood!

As we're well on our way into spring, we're still noticing several cases of "spring fever." In order to continue our fun on the not so nice of days, we invested in a "Corn Hole" game that kids are able to play inside the building (without causing damage). I also purchased 6lbs of Kinetic Sand - Wow! I had no idea how much kids love this stuff! - It was a great purchase along with the few other games that we've recently added.

Friday's in Sherwood have been deemed, "Wii Fun Friday's" - as you've probably guessed, the kids come in and play Wii games after school. Not only has it increased our library traffic, it has also engaged our kids who would otherwise normally keep to themselves. We like to call that "Success!" Summer Reading supplies, weekly prizes and various potential programs are slowly coming together for the 2019 SRP.

March was Reading Month so we held a reading challenge for anyone who wanted to participate in three different age groups. The adult \$25 Visa gift card went to Zach, the donated custom bike was won by Samantha and the big box of Lego's went to Angela. There were roughly 22 combined patrons who participated, with well over 100 entries!

I continue to visit the Union City Elementary School weekly to read to my two classes. I'm proud to say I was part of a friendly reading competition held between the third-grade class and the fourth-grade class, down the hall. My third-grade class read the most books and won an over-night pizza party at the school! Yay for them!

I attended the UCES "Showcase Night" alongside Judy from the Union branch, last month. We had 77 different entries to win the two books we brought and donated from each of our libraries and we had the pleasure of speaking with well over 250 people! We were exhausted by the end of the evening, but it was well worth it.

Until next month,  
Best regards!

Traci Counterman - BDL Sherwood Branch Manager

### **Dearth Union Twp.**

March turned out to be a very busy month. Camri visited both the high school and middle school during their lunch hours to promote March is Reading month and the programs being held during the month for teens. Traci and I were available during the Elementary Showcase and we saw talked to over 250 parents and children. We had a raffle for the kids for 2 books and had 73 children sign up. I am very happy that we were able to participate with the schools.

Chip Chioda from *GreenSide Up Consulting* presented a program on landscaping and how to take care of our landscaping now that spring is here. He plans on returning each season to explain what needs to be done with our landscaping for that season.

I had five programs at the schools for the Ready to Read Michigan program. Over 100 students were able to hear the book Touch the Brightest Star by Christie Matheson and color a picture to go along with the book.

I also participated the 7<sup>th</sup> annual United We Read Program which is a program by Branch County United Way. Volunteers were able to read in classrooms across the county. Mrs. Sherwood's 2nd class was the lucky class I was chosen to read to. The kids were super and enjoyed the book.

As part of a Community Action program for seniors we had 2 days in which seniors came to the library to sign up for senior meal vouchers. The vouchers allow the seniors to go to specific restaurants and receive a breakfast, lunch, or dinner at the establishments. At this point only, the Broadway Grille is the restaurant in town that accepts the vouchers. Also, during the program, I have talked to the people who came in and am happy to report that I had 2 new patrons sign up for a library card.

Our book discussion on Radium Girls only had 2 people attend but it was a good discussion.

Eighteen adults completed our Spring into Reading program and each adult received a little notebook for completing the program.

I listened to a webinar on A Universe of Stories that pertained to the summer reading program this year.

I was glad to see the end of March and all the programs that we had.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Gottschalk