



## **Algansee**

Snowman Craft went very well, still have patrons stopping by to put together a snowman, we have plenty of supplies for patrons to take a snowman home.

Our February Craft was Book Pages and Hearts. It went very well with 4 patrons taking home a frame with a favorite book page and hearts attached with family names.

Our Young Adult program this month is a Bookmark craft. Looking forward to having some Young Adults!

Once a week either John, Kimberly, or Jessica comes in to our Library to see how we are doing and to see if we need anything, I really appreciate and look forward to their visit. I can not forget Curtis who pops in once in a while!

We have a lot of Amish coming in for books and copies lately. They tell us how much they appreciate our service.

I am ordering lots of new books and DVDs for all patrons to enjoy.

And we always have crafts for all ages.

Thank You,

Janice Clark  
Algansee Branch Manager

## **Bronson**

Bronson schools were closed for two days this month due to illness so that meant we had more kids in during the day. We put up our cootie shields and carried on. We opened the basement each of those days for 3 hours of crafts, puzzles, games and more so anyone coming in could go downstairs and have some fun. We have been trying to open the basement after school so that tweens and teens have a place to hang out and talk without annoying other patrons.

We celebrated Take Your Child To The Library on the first Saturday of February. We had Storytelling with Mr. Steve each hour, a coloring contest, button making, free books for children, Legos and some of our electronic games out for play. There were drawings for door prizes, refreshments and we checked out lots of books that day. Everyone had a good time.

Our Jeanne Unterkircher book truck has been a big hit. This holds books from the bottom shelves and so many people think they are new books because they haven't seen them before. Circulation from the book truck has been awesome.

Steve held a chocolate tasting Tween and Teen program and it was one of his best attended events. Offer them food and they will come!

We are preparing for March is Reading Month and will be going to the schools to read to the children and provide books for classrooms to help with their themes for the month.

We are working on programs for our summer schedule and summer reading program. Seems a long way off but the months are going by so quickly.

Last month I mentioned the book sale the Friends were having and after the sale ended they had raised over \$2,200. The leftover books are being purchased by a book store in Goshen IN so they will be receiving more money once the books are picked up.

Is it Spring yet?!

## **Coldwater**

Between the weather and flu season, things have been very quiet at the Coldwater Branch.

Public Services Clerk Cheryl Lawrence has been busy with craft programs this month. Her weekly Charity Recycle Mats program is still ongoing and seeing regular attendance of around seven people. She also continued her successful series of quilting classes with Valentine's Day themed card-making. Cheryl's crafts have been so successful they've spawned a spin-off series run by one of our regulars! Upcoming adult programs include the final Book Tasting Coloring Club, an event that invites patrons to chill out with coloring while sampling an audiobook from our collection, and Speed Friending, a quirky take on speed dating that will help millennials make new friends.

Our newest recurring Kids' Place program, Movin' to the Groove, is a high-energy, music-based program that invites children to "Jump, Turn, Dance, and Learn!" with our staff. Linda Dull and Angie Richards lead this activity that builds coordination, cognition, and creativity in a fun, positive atmosphere. We also celebrated the season with snowy crafts during Winter Fest, bringing visitors a bit of warm, wintery fun. We're looking forward to rounding out our February with this month's Tween Club, during which Angie and the kids will be making Kiwi Company Robot Crawlers, plus "Happy Heart" programming generously sponsored by Coldwater Yoga and the MSU Extension. This program will help children explore healthy food and exercise in a fun, interactive way. The next Traveling Tales is also right around the corner – on March 7th, Gary Nettleman of Bronson will take us on a tour of Poland (and Polish cooking)!

All of BDL's branches celebrated Take Your Child to the Library Day on February 1st, and Coldwater was no exception. We had activities on each of our floors, giving patrons a taste of everything we have to offer. In the basement, clerk Julie Smith ran a Slime Station, which was so popular that Linda had to make a run for extra supplies! Clerk Ben Lyon taught drawing basics to children on our first floor, the second floor was devoted to introducing families and children to genealogy and history using materials curated by Heritage Room Coordinator Bonnie Sherman, and we had self-guided board games on the third floor. Finally, Kids' Place and the fourth floor hosted a yeti hunt and a showing of the movie Abominable. 60 people found their way to Coldwater Kids' Place during Take Your Child to the Library Day.

As planned, we're expanding our intergenerational programming options here at Coldwater. Our first board game night attracted patrons aged 7 to 20. Adult staff and attendees learned a new game, Pandemic, a cooperative strategy game, while others played Jenga as well as the less-

traditional card game Exploding Kittens. We are also beginning a series of monthly movies that should be fun for patrons of many ages and celebrating Leap Day with a Back to the Future party featuring a movie marathon, 50s music, a hula hoop competition, and a craft, as well as refreshments in the form of root beer floats (donated by Pepsi Co. and Dairy Queen) and pizza.

Starting in March, the Branch County Conservation District will be partnering with BDL to bring educational programming about the environment to patrons of all ages. The first BCCD/BDL crossover event will be a talk about conservation practices we can all put into practice in our own backyards on Wednesday, March 11th. Future events will include hands-on activities for teens and tweens as well as projects for the whole family. We're enthusiastic about working together and expect great things from these programs.

This February, we have reading challenges for both kids and adults. We're very excited to have 70 children already signed up for the Leap Year Reading Challenge! This bingo-esque event encourages children to try out 29 different themes this month. Those who complete the challenge will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$25 Amazon gift cards. For the Adult Winter Reading Challenge, meanwhile, we're having weekly drawings for four different \$20 gift cards to local businesses. We had 10 participants the first week and look forward to watching the challenge gain momentum.

## Quincy

- I met with Jennings Elementary Principal Ron Olmstead and school Interventionist Darcy Roach recently to discuss how the library and school can work together this June as the schools will again be offering a three week summer school session.
- The public seems to appreciate the new consistent 9:00 opening hour (aside from Monday's). Although they still seem to think we are closed on Thursday's from several years ago.
- Approximately 40 of 60 people visited specifically for Take Your Child to the Library Day on February 1. Four families began their journey at Quincy acquiring their passport and three families turned in their passports at our branch. Storyteller Larry Todak, retired from Quincy Schools, entertained children the whole morning, and families enjoyed an actual color sheet of our library, crafts and cupcakes as we celebrated our branches' 110th birthday!



- An adult Cookies, Coffee & Coloring session was held last Saturday morning with three attending.
- A good amount of children's books are on order in memory of Gary Karney, who passed in late November, husband of Quincy Library Advisory Board Treasurer Connie Karney. Some book suggestions came from Connie's son who teaches at List Elementary School in Frankenmuth, MI where many books were purchased in his memory there also.
- Quincy will offer the first book discussion on March 14 for the One Book, One county selection. Jeanie Berg will facilitate our discussion and refreshment discussions are in the works, as always at Quincy.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

## **Sherwood**

Greetings from Sherwood!

It's been a busy month. We ended our "Winter Reading Challenge" on the 31st of January. There were three prize winners, one from three age groups. The prizes were generously donated by our friends at Solutions of Southwest Michigan. Again, a huge heartfelt thank you to them!

I've been working with Union City's Chamber in an effort to set up a community service program that allows us, and our group of wonderful willing local patrons of Sherwood, to help collect sap and when they do sap pick up. This is the first time our local community has tapped our trees and I feel that it would be the perfect opportunity to introduce our young people to the different ways each of us can contribute to the betterment of our communities and the importance of doing our part. I will be hands-on involved throughout this process! Yes, I will also be bundled up and carrying buckets full of sap - Leading by example, of course! I'm grateful to have been in the right place at the right time and that has enabled us to partner up with such a wonderful, dedicated group of people from our sister community. They have a wealth of information to share with us and we're eager to learn.

I'll be ordering "Summer Reading 2020" prizes this week. SRP might still be three months away, but that is literally right around the corner in the library world.

Our programs participation is keeping steady numbers, but we continue to reach out and work hard to get those numbers up.

Cupcakes and movies are on the calendar for Valentine's Day. Kids and food, it's going to be a great day!

There are many more programs on our calendar of events, and we'd love to see all of you here!

Until next month,

Respectfully,



Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

## Union Twp.

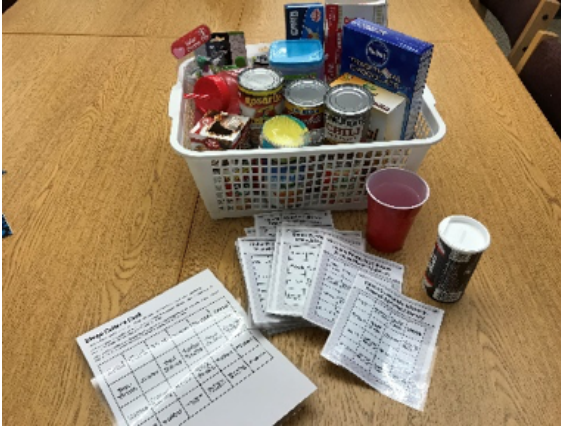
The Union Township Library has appreciated the colder weather with some needed maintenance and housekeeping projects taken care of. Ductz came on Saturday, January 4, to do a thorough cleaning of the building's ductwork, Monday, January 6 was the cleaning of the carpets by Hawver Steamway of Coldwater and M&K Plumbing came on Monday, January 13 to replace the latrines. We are looking forward to the changing of the light bulbs to LED in the near future.



While sickness caused some programs to be cancelled, there were plenty of activities through the month. Storytime themes included snow, bears, colors, and celebrating the Caldecott winners. Though the average numbers are low, there is a consistent group and the hope of more interest as we continue on. The Creating STEAM activities are growing as the young people played with a snow science kit, tried a new game, drew lighthouses in honor of the 2019 Caldecott medal winner Hello Lighthouse by Sophie Blackall, and made pinecone bird feeders for their feathered friends. The teens have been invited to make a bullet journal, flavored lip balm, scrunchies (which most of the teens hand sewed their scrunchie!!), and marble tea lights.



Adults are invited to read *Finding Chika* by Mitch Albom for the February meeting of Seekers Book Club. A census representative has been available for people to talk to concerning employment opportunities on Fridays and will continue until March. Senior Bingo participation continues to grow.



Training was a little lighter this month with several short, 15 minute microtrainings from NoveList on several different topics relating to reader's advisory, booklists and displays and finding the next book in a series.

Thank you for reading about the Union Township Branch and supporting libraries!

Sincerely,

Julia Baratta