



Algansee

In February we had an attendance of 330, were open 108 hours, had 16 faxes sent, and 2 Adult programs with 5 Ladies attending each Saturday. The programs were Valentine picture frames with family members remembered with a heart.

The Young Adult Craft was a bookmark craft. We had a table full of coloring pictures and books for the children.

Branch District Library presented Bring Your child to the Library Day February 1. Our branch gave away lots of little gifts and free books. Lots of patrons stopped in to see Algansee Branch.

March is going to be a busy month for all branches. We have new Event Guides for all Branches Programs. The months are for March, April, and May.

Algansee Branch Manager
Janice Clark

Bronson

Disinfecting, disinfecting, disinfecting.

I attended the Youth Services 101 training in Albion this month. Came home with a brain overflowing with information.

Ben came over to train at the Bronson Branch in preparation to be a sub for the district.

Our June July and August events were turned in on time and we continue to prepare for summer activities.

Steve and I will be attending the annual Science Olympiad held at Bronson High School. We will have a table with information about the district and lots of handouts for all ages. Always a fun morning.

Steve, Jessie and I will be participating in United Way's United We Read program. We will be reading books at Head Start and Anderson schools.

The Township has been using their township hall (basement) more often over the past two months and so far we have all been able to work together without any problems. Very grateful that they allow us to use the township hall for our programs and part of the basement for storage.

Lynnell Eash
Bronson Branch Manager

Coldwater

We're upping our game with all-ages programming here at Coldwater! Our Leap Day event – Back to the Future Day – at the end of February drew 61 people, mostly families with children but also a group of tweens and a few adults on their own. We had a hula hoop challenge, a “letter to your future self” activity, and a craft in addition to music (housed by a classic-style jukebox build out of cardboard by our own Ben Lyon) and pizza. In addition, Dairy Queen and Pepsi Co. generously donated ingredients for the root beer floats we served. Later this month, we're having more all-ages programs, including a drawing club and board game night.

Our best-attended adult program this February was, unsurprisingly, Cheryl Lawrence's charity recycle mats, during which patrons used basic crochet skills to create sleeping mats out of plastic bags. We also had 28 participants in our month-long Adult Winter Reading Challenge. Each week of the challenge, we held a drawing to give away a gift card to a different local business. In March, we're holding two more craft classes for adults: an ever-popular quilling card class plus a DIY coral sculpture made from hot glue and wire. March has also brought the reopening of the annual seed exchange program! Our patrons have been chomping at the bit to get at their gardens, and we had several people take seeds the very first day. The seed library is supported by the indispensable Coldwater Garden Club as well as the staff member who initiated the creation of the program, interlibrary loan clerk Loretta Sherfield.

In Kids' Place, we had a successful Happy Heart Month program combining yoga, taught by Ashli Vogler of Coldwater Yoga, with healthy yogurt snacks put together by Children's Services Coordinator Linda Dull. Public Services Clerk Julie Smith did an amazing job stepping up to help with this program after planned presenter from the MSU Extension Office had to cancel due to illness. The program was well-attended and all the snacks were snatched up by the end! Tweens had a fun time building Robot Crawlers and competing in a race; we'll be returning to robotics with this month's Tween Club. The Kids' Place February Reading Challenge was a big success with 80 participants aged 12 and under. Three of those children won an Amazon gift card, and everyone who completed their reading log got voucher for a McDonald's Happy Meal! Most recently, the latest in the Traveling Tales series featured Poland with a wonderful lesson on language, culture, and food presented by Gary and Patty Nettleman of Bronson. The group of attendees had great questions and eagerly await the next Traveling Tales when we'll visit Japan for the summer festival Tanabata.

Next week, Linda is heading out to area preschools to read *A Parade of Elephants* by Kevin Henkes. *A Parade of Elephants* is the 2020 Ready to Read Michigan selection. Ready to Read Michigan is an early literacy program provided by the Library of Michigan that ties into March is Reading Month. This yearly program includes learning materials to go along with the selected book and helps library staff model early literacy education for the benefit of parents and families. On top of all that, *A Parade of Elephants* is exceptionally cute! Linda will be leading a storytime as well as sharing information about how the library works as she travels around Coldwater.

We have several programs coming up presented by the Branch County Conservation District, a local organization dedicated to assisting people with protecting and sustainably using their natural resources. District Manager Jordan Beehler will be giving an informative talk on how patrons can practice conservation in their own backyards. We will also be hosting the first of the Nature Nuts! programs, a family-focused series that tackles a new topic each month this spring

and summer. In March, we will be learning how to identify critters here in Branch County. Teens and tweens will also be able to learn about water filtration with a hands-on demonstration.

Linda Dull and Angie Richards, our primary Kids' Place staff, attended Youth Services 101 with staff from several other branches last week. This proved to be a full day of informative sessions as well as an opportunity to exchange ideas and encouragement with library workers from around the state. I also attended Learning to Manage for New Managers through the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services.

Quincy

I attended the Youth Service Day at Albion District Library March 5. It was a well planned day filled with good information on grant writing, Early Literacy, Teens, Collections and Material selections and of course, Summer Reading Program.

I participated in United We Read day by reading to second graders at Jennings Elementary School on March 11.

Quincy offered the first book discussion on March 14 for the One Book, One county selection. Jeanie Berg facilitated our discussion. A portion of the DVD was also presented during the morning.

Next Monday, March 23 we will be hosting the US 12 Part 2 presentation by Professor John Geisler, using the United Methodist Church facility in Quincy. His presentation last fall brought in 100 people so we anticipate another great evening.

We are gearing up for activities, crafts and impromptu story times during the upcoming school spring break.

Our Friends group is making plans for the Annual Friends Gathering to be held at our branch this year on Tuesday, April 21, so be sure to mark your calendars.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Wood

Sherwood

Greetings and Happy almost Spring from Sherwood!

The past month has literally been a blur. We've had many great programs and we've seen some new faces attending.

I was able to attend a Youth Services Program at the Albion District Library this month. I brought back many wonderful ideas that I hope to incorporate here.

We have an adult program this month; we're making spring wreaths and I think they're going to be great!

I'm still visiting the UCES to read to a couple of classes each week. The classes and the teachers I work with are amazing and I look forward to seeing them as often as possible. Next week I will be attending "Spring Institute" in Ann Arbor. It's always a fun time with lots of information to bring back. Check out our calendar of events, we have lots of great programs coming up in the near future!

Until next month,

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

The Union Township Branch hit the ground running in February as we participated in the national Take Your Child to the Library Day event along with the other 5 branches in the district. We had storytellers from the community, an art table celebrating the new Dr. Seuss book Dr. Seuss's Horse Museum, STEM games, Kinetic Sand representing the 2020 Summer Reading Program, refreshments, door prizes, and giveaways. Over 100 people came into the library that day and 26 goodie bags were distributed.



The event was also used to promote the weekly programming. Storytimes have had low participation but we are continuing to offer the opportunities with stories, crafts, and refreshments. With the weather changing, we are hoping for higher turnouts. Creating STEAM has had regular participation with art and science projects. The Teen projects are continuing to draw the young people to the library where hopefully they are recognizing the additional benefits from visiting the library.



Because of sickness, the Crazy Quilting class was postponed to March as was the Sewing class. We began the Spring into Reading challenge with 16 readers currently signed up. Over 80 seniors took advantage of the Meal Voucher program and the Bingo participants cleaned out the prize basket!



The Census representative Daletta Payne visited Union every Friday from 10- 12:30 offering information about employment as a census taker. Keith Benthin from Mulder's Moving and Storage visited to provide an estimate on new shelves for the AV area. His company sells Borroughs shelving and there is a need for additional shelving for audio books. These will also

provide additional shelves for the DVD collection. Ludwick Electric changed the light bulbs to LEDs within the library as well as exterior. This will assist in lowering the electric bill for the township.

Educational opportunities included watching a webinar on New Children's Books and both of us participating in various NoveList trainings.

Thank you for reading my report and supporting our mission!

Sincerely, Julia Baratta