

## Alganssee

January has been a good month for us here and I feel we kicked off the New Year right. We are now open 6 days a week after adding Monday hours, and our attendance increased. We had two individuals utilize the notary services that we began offering as well. Many new books and DVDs have been coming in. I was so proud to offer more tractor and truck books to some of our little boys. However two of them (ages 3 and 5) came in complaining about one of the books. The illustrator had a combine running corn with a grain head. Both boys, from two different families were concerned. I and many others have been chuckling over this.

Tuesday Tales began with lessons on manners. While creating thank you cards, nearly all the kids asked if I could help them draw spiders on their cards. So the next week we learned about spiders, with crocodiles being voted on for the following week. We had a donation of tongs and we turned those into crocodiles that chomped the number on each fish in the river. It was such a fun activity.



Adult and all age arts and crafts have been popular this month. All seats have been filled for the adult craft classes with Linda. The sock penguins and snowmen door hangers were adorable.

Thursday afternoons are STEM projects. This month's theme was the Ice Age and geology. Our first week we studied cave art as we painted our own stories on stones. The following week we created a landscape to see the effects of erosion. We learned how rocks are formed by using our old crayons, heat and pressure to create our own crayon rocks. I would

say their favorite project was creating geodes while discovering how crystals are formed.

Lego Club has been so popular that I had to purchase additional legos for our collection. One young lady used the gear set to create a semi-working claw. It was amazing! Family movie night was well attended and we did not burn any popcorn this time. 😊 We tried our hand at seed art for our family craft and it was fascinating to see how each child chose different techniques to accomplish the project.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling



## Bronson

Displays! We have been busy creating different displays to feature books that have been forgotten or new items to let people know what we have. A fun **dinosaur** display with giant dino footprints leading over to the book cart was a big hit with kids and adults. Many of our dinosaur books got to leave the library to be read and enjoyed by someone. The book cart is now filled with books about **cats and dogs** and for every book about cats or dogs checked out the child can put their name in to win a plush critter. We have a table with the **2023 Michigan Notable Books** set out along with bookmarks listing all 20 titles. Once this display is taken down the table will feature the **One Book One County** title, *Firekeeper's Daughter*. **Romance books** filled one of our endcap units (best title: *I Love Bacon*). That area has switched now to books with **green covers**. Our **Staff Picks** continue to be a big hit and we have fun seeing whose favorite book gets picked first.



During Take Your Child To the Library Day on February 4 the kids made mini books that they could write a story in or fill it with drawings. Coloring sheets were available along with some tasty snack cakes.

Mini colored plastic balls have been added to Toddler Time and Friday Tales to go along with our color themed sessions. We also have several new flannel boards to go along with books, just something different to catch the children's attention.

Since the months are flying by we are working on summer programs because June will be here before we know it!

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## Coldwater

The end of January was a busy time for the Coldwater Branch; for outreach Cheryl took the Nintendo Switch and games to Winter Fest. She engaged with around 150 people at Winter Fest. In February, we have been celebrating Black History month with book suggestions and a scavenger hunt. We have also been celebrating our love for books by participating in the Love Local Event on February 4th. February 4th was also, "Take Your Child to the Library Day." We gave out a sweet treat and had crafts. The crafts were a felt fortune cookie and bookmark. Our local artist Ben Lyon created a window masterpiece in Kids Place.



In January, we had 4,512 people visit the library. The Heritage Room had 40 visitors. We also purchased \$3,599.11 in books and \$629.30 in DVDs.

Upcoming events include: Night Story Time, Anime Night, Book Club, Are you Smarter than a Teenager and Art Club.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh



## Quincy

Quincy has had a busy and fun month of programming and getting things accomplished!

Here is a quick summary of the fun things happening:

- ❖ We made fake snow before there was any snow on the ground and the kiddos absolutely loved it! They said it was even cold like real snow and played with it for over an hour!
- ❖ Brittany and I did a training webinar 'Story time Tune up' - we learned a few new tips and tricks that we'll be incorporating into our current story times.
- ❖ We had our front doors re-tinted and it looks so much better! Many patrons have commented on how nice it looks.
- ❖ When there were snow days at the schools it made the library extra busy those few days. Parents and their kiddos came into the library to get out of the cold and enjoy some books, Legos, and iPad games. So much fun!
- ❖ We got our drinking fountain installed this month and it is officially up and running. It's a very nice addition to the building!
- ❖ Our 'Go on a Blind Date with a Book' program for teens and adults has been successful. We've had so many positive comments from patrons on how much they like the program idea and how well it was displayed. Brittany did a fantastic job with this!
- ❖ The librarian at Jennings Elementary reached out and asked if I would be a guest reader in their library for March Reading Month a few different times during the month. I'm very excited for the fun opportunity!
- ❖ We had Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary come put on a program and it was a huge success! We had 70 people in attendance! It was such a fun program and all the patrons seemed to enjoy learning more about the reptiles that they brought along. They especially liked being able to touch and take pictures with the animals at the end.

Stay tuned to see what other fun things we have happening this next month! Warmer days are ahead and I'm so excited for that!

Submitted by Sarah Strong



## Sherwood

Greetings ~

We're well into the new year and things are going good!

I'm back at the school reading to a couple of classes again. After such a long time away, It's wonderful to be back! Our in-house story times are consistent with attendance.

Materials ordering is going well.

Maria has been working hard on the program events. We're looking to incorporate a book club at some point. I'm currently seeking feedback from our community to see if this is something that would be well received. We have other great programs coming up this month.

Until next month -

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

## Union Twp.

Happy New Year! We are ready for 2023 and looking ahead to offering some great programs, presenting new kits, and providing wonderful materials for our patrons in Union City and Branch County!

We started the year with a couple of Grab 'n Go Kazoos kits and Bobble Head figure kits. One of the Creating STEAM programs was also making bobble head animals and the children really enjoyed themselves! We didn't have a new Spice Club selection as we wrapped up last year's kits. We received several copies of money books from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to use in our Lit Kits. There will be some Horsey Lit Kits reintroduced this year as well as the MI Smart Money week title, Owl+Otter and the Big Yard Sale by Andrea Mills!





We also received new seeds for the Roots and Shoots Seed Library and we are so excited! Each packet will be divided into “sample” packs for the patrons to take home and try in their home gardens. Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds was VERY generous and gave us 91 packets of seeds to appreciate! That is a GREAT start to the 2023 season. I am planning to order any other types that were missed from MiGardener here in Michigan. I have not received any new stock since the first batch in 2020 so very pleased with what will be available for the patrons during the Spring Celebration held in March.

For in-house programming, Taking Time to Stitch had a patron who was learning to use the round knitting looms from our Library of Things participate a couple of times. She successfully completed a few hats and is now teaching her granddaughter how to make them. It is lovely to see the Library of Things successfully doing its job! Creating STEAM is building with a small core group regularly attending with some extras on occasion. The Spice Club Live! Hot Chocolate Mix was appreciated a couple of times resulting in more interest in our programming. I attended a few virtual programs including MiYouth (1/10), Ready to Read (1/19) and a Performer’s Showcase (1/26). In between meetings, I also caught the Youth Media Awards (1/30) which are the Oscars of Children’s Literature! I am pleased that we have some of the winners, including the Newbery Medal winner and a couple of the Honor books!

I am currently pulling out games to incorporate into the in-house programming along with passive. The items will be housed on the upper shelves of the Juvenile Chapter Books and available for usage. They will not be a part of the Library of Things collection but rather an in-house collection.



Looking ahead to March we will be having our annual Dolls’ Party on Saturday, March 4, and a canning presentation on Tuesday, March 21. Throughout the month of March, we will celebrate Women’s History with several picture book biographies and a quiz. This activity will be set up similarly to “...Quizmas...” and there will be prizes! Lastly, the Roots and Shoots Seed Library Spring Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 18 and will feature new seeds, gardening books display, an arrowhead collection, children’s games, refreshments, and door prizes!

Thank you for your continued support of literacy!

Julia Baratta, Union Township Branch Manager