

Algansee

October seemed to fly right past us. Linda took care of our patrons so I could attend the Michigan Library Association Conference in Traverse City. I enjoyed the many informative classes and have already been using the training from MI Legal Help and a session on dyslexia for our library users. I met many other rural librarians whom I exchanged ideas with.

Our adult craft classes were filled to capacity again. Each month we receive positive feedback from our attendees. The Adult Tea and Story Hour has been a fun addition to our adult programs.

Our crafting kiddos have been busy creating pumpkins and piñatas this month. We've been learning about the beginnings of our country each Thursday. We started out with a tea party while learning about the most famous Tea Party of all time. Then our delegates voted on the family movie. They also narrowed down the candidates for the new library mascot. A Raccoon and a Beaver will be attempting to sway our voting patrons next month.



At Little Explorers, we have continued to read books from the Beatrix Potter collection. My younger group made leaf people and listened for the crunching noise as we jumped into a pile of leaves after we read our book. We created popsicle scarecrows with the story *There Was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Pumpkin*. After reading *Raccoon Tune* the kids made tracks of their own with their finger prints.

I met with our Friends group to finish planning another Cookies with Santa program in December. They have graciously agreed to supply cookies. ☺ October is Library Friends appreciation month and we do greatly appreciate each of our members.

I attended the Algansee Township meeting. The new township building is progressing quickly. Once it is completed, they will begin renovations on the current hall to become our new library.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Coldwater

The Coldwater Branch has been trying to adjust to the short days and the long nights. We are doing this by creating fun, friendly displays to engage our library guests. "Dinovember" is our display next to the elevator. Our teen area and third floor displays are honoring the Indigenous people for November. On the third floor, just for giggles, we have a "If You're Cold, They're Cold" book display. Alisha created another voting board just in time for Thanksgiving: Pumpkin Pie vs. Pecan Pie. Our library guests get to vote and at the end of the month we display the results. We have received the Winter Event Guides and have been handing these out to all our library visitors.



Family Fright Night was a huge success this year with the all-age glow maze in the basement and changing the date to a Friday night. We were busy the entire two hours and saw many hundreds of people. Several BDL staff members took part in the Coldwater Halloween Parade, where BDL was elected the Grand Marshall. Coldwater Branch staff also made a scarecrow for the Chamber of Commerce Scarecrow contest.



The new janitorial service has been doing a nice job cleaning the library. We are noticing significant improvements with the Diamond Janitorial Services. We still have to work out details before starting the restroom project with Foulke Construction.

Some of our November program highlights: Kalamazoo Orchestra's Instrument Petting Zoo. Around 75 people attended this program, which spanned 2 floors and included a variety of string and percussion instruments kids could play. We have also had two storytimes weekly, Sensory Play, Pop-Up Movies, Bad Art Afternoon, Crafternoon and many, many more events.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

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

- Our kiddo programs are continuously growing, which is fantastic! We might have to start hosting these programs in the basement to give us a little more room - we are running out of space in the children's area for these events the last few months.
- I am always staying busy with planning, prepping, and executing different wonderful programs almost daily. Check out our event calendar to see what you want to join!
- We had a 2nd grade class from Jennings Elementary walk to visit us at the library this last month. They have been studying about nature and with the weather being fantastic for October/November, their teacher wanted to take them on a nature walk and end at the library. They asked so many great questions, learned a few things about the library, and all left with big smiles.
- The Quincy Friends of the library had their semi-annual book sale the first weekend in November and they were able to get rid of many items. A big thank you to them for hosting these events to make room for more materials.

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood!

October was here and gone in the blink of an eye! We had several programs this month that were well attended. Our adult program had several attendees and all were happy with their scarecrow creations.

I was able to attend the 2024 MLA conference, and it was so good! I took several break-out sessions that were helpful and informative. Having that time to bond with my coworkers was probably the best part of our trip!

My clerk and I both worked Family Fright Night and, as usual, had a blast. We were excited to see our Sherwood patrons attending!

I have finished ordering materials for the most part, for the rest of the year. (I still often find there is something I've forgotten to order), but the bulk of it is done!

We have more great programs coming up throughout the rest of the year and we're excited to be getting into the holiday season.

Until next month, Happy Thanksgiving!!

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

October was a very busy month with staff training day, Family Fright Night, and Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf, which brought in 110 patrons in two hours. We had an amazing time with this program and can't wait to make it even bigger next year. We got a lot of great feedback from patrons, and Meghan and I had so much fun putting this program on.



Scarecrow results are in, and we got 2nd Place!!



End-of-year ordering has been completed and submitted. All the Halloween decorations are down and we are geared up for Native American Heritage Month, "Dinovember", and Thanksgiving themes.



Upcoming for November:

Appy Hour, Teens Minute to Win It Challenges, Paper Turkey Craft, Knit-Away Club, Holiday Mason Jars, Thanksgiving bingo, and DIY Essential Oil Play-Doh. This month I will be attending our Friends meeting to discuss Breakfast with Santa, which will be held on December 7 from 9-11am. I wrapped up end-of-year ordering and am now working on Spring programming.

Submitted By Maria Rathbun