

## Algansee

The Grand Slam Hunting program may be my new favorite. After a brief discussion of hunting safety, filling out their license and donning hunter's orange, fifteen kids used Nerf guns and arrows to hunt the deer hiding throughout the library. It was so much fun! They requested that it become an annual program.

Our other events have run as normal. I enjoy seeing our different families for "their" program days. One boy was excited to show me his astronaut costume. I told him that it reminded me of a book, but I couldn't find it to show him. He laughed and told me it was because they had it checked out. That's why he had to wear his suit to the library. It feels good to know we've inspired someone and ignited his desire to read and learn.



After months (years) of planning we finally have a date to move to our new home. We will be moving after Christmas and will be open for everyone to see our new space January 5th. The past few months have been so busy preparing and we are nearly there! I am so thankful to the BDL Board, directors, marketing, IT, bookkeeping, Algansee Township board, our Friends and community for the support and help in this process. This library means so much to this little community. I am thankful that we have the opportunity to begin a new chapter, while remembering our history and the legacies of those before us.

Those who came to our Cookies with Santa program got a sneak peek at the new building. We had 72 attendees. Everyone was pleased with the space and the kiddos loved the new hallway. They want to utilize the space for science... launching matchbox cars down tracks, catapulting pompoms. The fun stuff.

Respectfully submitted by Teresa Shilling

## Coldwater

Wow! Just like that winter is here. To recap some of our November accomplishments Emma, Alisha, and I spent several days at the Coldwater High School presenting a book list and MeL how-to for an assignment. We also had activities for their "Day of Engagement." At that event we had a presentation on library services, played Kahoot, made buttons and library card signups.

We have lots of books and indoor activities to stay busy during the wintery months. We added several new board games and video games in the Library of Things collection. The staff built a display highlighting our Library of Things collection.

So many of our patrons are thrilled to see that Branch District Library is so much more than books.

Coldwater is hosting several crafts for the holidays like a Winter Crafting Wonderland; guests will make Simmer Potpourri and a Scandinavian Christmas mobile, while enjoying Christmas music and cookies. We also have a whimsical family photo area on the fourth floor.



Lastly, John, Erica, and I read holiday stories by the fire pit the night of the parade. This was the first year for this event and we entertained 60 people. It will definitely be something we participate in again. Happy Holidays from the Coldwater Branch!

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh



## Quincy

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and got to spend some nice quality time with your loved ones. There is always something to be thankful for.

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

- NIKA held their annual auction at the library again this year. NIKA puts together an auction yearly and with the money raised they donate to the library to do what we wish with it. I am so grateful for this thoughtful donation every single year.
- We hosted lots of fun programs this month - we made beautiful beaded Indian corn, turkey wind socks, 3D pumpkins, pine cone Christmas trees, and an adorable pinecone ornament. Check out our event calendar to see what fun activities you can participate in!
- Quincy Lights was a huge success! We had just over 200 people come through in 2 hours. We had 3 crafts, a fun and easy Christmas game, letters to Santa, snowman soup, and some fun coloring pages. Thanks to Kimberly for helping us out this year, we were so glad you were here to help!
- Shenanigans with Santa is coming SOON! On Saturday, December 20th from 9a-11a at Union Church we will be doing all the Christmas things - breakfast from Small Town Girl, cookie decorating, Christmas games and crafts, pictures with Santa, and I heard a little rumor that Santa might be handing Christmas books out to each kiddo. This program is being paid for with the funds raised for Connie Karney's memorial. She was a long time Quincy Township Board member and Quincy Advisory Board member.
- BCCADSV closed their Quincy office and donated LOTS of personal care items to the library to give away to anyone who needs them. I am setting up a "free" table in the basement with hopes that it will help some people out who need it.



I wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Submitted by Sarah Strong



## Sherwood

Seasons Greetings from Sherwood!

As we close out the year, we're grateful that we've had so much participation in 2025! Our November programs were a great success, both kids and adults.

The adults created DIY centerpieces for Thanksgiving, we stuffed our (almost) annual Noah's Ark Babies, and also did turkey handprints! We were even lucky enough to have a couple Early Literacy programs this month.

I am working diligently on the 2026 materials ordering ~ getting those book carts ready to be ordered in January!

We have more great programs coming up throughout the rest of December. Be sure to check out our calendar of events.

Until next month,

Happy Holidays and a Very Happy New Year!

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



## Union Twp.

Happy Holidays!



### A Look Back at an Incredible Year!

What an incredible year it has been at the Union Township Library! We were delighted to welcome Marvel comic artist Jerry DeCaire, Bobbie Mathis, and Bevin Cohen. Our partnership with the Leila Arboretum also brought a special Storytime featuring guest reader Val Rossman. Thanks to the generosity of a wonderful patron, we were able to add seven new STEM kits to our collection—an exciting boost to our hands-on learning opportunities.

We were thrilled to take 5th place in this year's Scarecrow Contest with our wickedly fun display. The Roots and Shoots Seed Celebration was another highlight, bringing together garden enthusiasts and partners from Fortunate Farm and the Green Thumb Garden Club. And, of course, we wrapped up another memorable Summer Reading season!

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the Friends Group for their incredible support throughout the year—from sponsoring Back-to-School backpacks and water bottles to volunteering at our annual Fire Safety Day, complete with crafts and donuts. Their dedication also helped make Breakfast with Santa a truly magical event once again. With more than 200 people preregistered and more that came on the day of the event we were all overjoyed seeing all the families coming out to see Santa. Grand total: 79 kids, 71 adults, Friends members, more than 20 church volunteers, American Legion Post 196, and Santa all came together for two hours of festive fun.



We extend our gratitude to the Union City First Congregational Church, the American Legion Post 196 for collecting and distributing Toys for Tots, Santa (Bob Weaver), and the Church Men's Group for preparing the delicious breakfast. Special thanks as well to Friends Group members Marcia Carman, Marilyn Johnson, Joseph Lynch, Stephanie Calhoun, Karen McFeters, and Michael McFeters for their presence and assistance. Additional appreciation goes to Patti McGlashen and Julie Hurley for helping stuff the children's gift bags beforehand, and to Joe and Thomas for providing the marvelous Santa chair.



Both Meghan and I were off work for a short period of time and I am truly thankful for the strong teamwork that kept everything running smoothly. Teamwork truly makes all the difference!

On a personal note, I attended the Michigan Library Association Conference in Lansing and began my Master's in Library and Information Science at Wayne State University. My first semester has been wonderful—I'm learning so much already!

I'm already looking forward to spring!

### **Upcoming Events**

- Family Game Time - Wednesday, January 14 • 3-4 PM
- Bobbie Mathis Presents: The Underground Railroad - Tuesday, February 24 • 4-5 PM
- Roots and Shoots Seed Celebration - Saturday, March 14 • 9 AM-1 PM
- All Booked Up Adult Book Club at the Union City Broadway Grille • Monthly, March-May

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season surrounded by family and friends. Here's to an exciting 2026!

Submitted by Maria Rathbun



## Outreach

Is it the end of 2025 already? It's crazy how time flies when you're having fun!

The Bookmobile was among the many other decorated participants in Coldwater's Christmas parade. We decorated the bookmobile with some tinsel and Christmas lights, using painters tape as recommended by other members of the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services. The painters tape held the decorations up well without damaging the vehicle's vinyl. A handful of staff volunteered to walk along with the Bookmobile, so I had a number of mini candy canes to hand out.



We are in the process of switching over the in-person delivery service to Library by Mail. Any qualifying patrons who currently have materials checked out will have a final pick up scheduled before we send out their first Library by Mail package. I am hoping to have this project finished by the start of the new year.

Speaking of 2026, planning is already underway for programming and events! Our first event of the year will be Winterfest on January 24th, where the Bookmobile will be offering a quick craft activity. We have started offering a Quick Craft Stop program, where patrons can visit the Bookmobile and get a quick crafty fix.

The Bookmobile will be going in for a regular maintenance check on the Odyne battery system just after the new year.

Cheryl Lawrence  
Outreach Manager