

ALGANSEE BRANCH REPORTS

Our last program for the summer was presented by, Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary, from Athens, Michigan. He brought alligators, snakes, turtles and lots of different critters. Mr. Critchlow was very good with the children, answering questions and handling the critters. The weather was great and it was the most attended program we have had. All 46 patrons enjoyed it. There are pictures of the event on Facebook, Branch District Library-Algansee Branch.

We had 56 sign up for Summer Reading Program with 44 finishing. All patrons that turned in reading lists received book bags with lots of goodies, tablets, pencils, crayons. Monies for all gifts were donated from Branch District Friends and Algansee Friends. We also received coupons from McDonald's, coupons and coloring books from Branch County fair. Linda from Coldwater Branch and Judy from Union Branch also sent coloring books and coupons for pizza bread for our patrons. I appreciate everybody!

Algansee Friends put last name of each family in drawing and the family selected received a giant popcorn bowl filled to the top with family DVD, soda pop, popcorn and all different kinds of candies, put together by our Erica Ewers. The family was so excited and thankful for everything. Everyone that participated in the Summer Reading Program were winners, nobody was left out!

I am very grateful for our Algansee Friends for all the help with the programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Clark

Algansee Branch Manager

BRONSON BRANCH REPORTS

It hardly seems possible that we are down to our final week of summer programming. We had a total of 50 programs over the summer including six weekly programs by the American Red Cross and two by Elite Martial Arts of Coldwater. We held 20 Noon/bring your own lunch Movies, 10 in English, 10 in Spanish and 13 Friday tales and craft hours. We were able to have six special programs this summer through generous donations from Century Bank and Trust and other donors, capital money and library funds. Joel Tacey did three shows in one day, Western Michigan University, Dynamic West and Kalamazoo Nature Center.

We also held our "Fizz Boom Read" Summer Reading Club for the children and had 197 participate with 122 completing the program. Each child received a book-bag with a certificate naming them a "Readologist", 3 passes to the Branch County 4-H Fair, McDonalds Happy Meal coupon, Ye Olde Book Shoppe coupon, coloring book, stickers and coloring sheet/poster. Bronson Masonic Lodge 141 once again provided the grand prizes which were awarded to a boy and a girl in each grade. Grades 3-6 received bicycles and the Lodge gave money to purchase grand prizes for the younger children. Nancy Stutzman once again gave blue jean quilts and we held a drawing for these after the bike drawings.

Teen and Adult readers participated in "Spark A Reaction". We had 39 teen readers and 41 adults but only 19 total completing the program. Those finishing received a coupon from Smitty's, coupon from Ye Olde Book Shoppe, a magnetic bookmark and a book bag.

This summer the Bronson Jr. Sr. High School ran a reading club and had asked if they could meet with students here at the library so we had a different teacher here each week to meet with students. It gave us a chance to talk with them and come up with some great ideas to work together during the coming school year and next summer. Principal McCree was even here one day and was very excited about having the school and library involved with each other. We have been invited to set-up at the school open house later this month to get parents to sign up their kids for library cards and we can promote the library and its programs.

Worked the Library booth at the Fair and had a fun afternoon meeting people.

Patrons have been very happy that the millage passed (as are we!) and are looking forward to what 2015 will bring (returned hours/returned book budget)

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnell Eash

Bronson Branch Manager

SHERWOOD BRANCH REPORTS

It has been a busy summer at the Sherwood branch. Even though we only had 16 sign up, 14 of those finished the program. Because the numbers were low, every child that finished received a prize.

- We started out with a bee program in June with local beekeeper, Joe Stauffer & family. They did a wonderful job informing the kids and adults of bee behavior, how bees are critical to our survival and what we can do to help the bees.
- We learned how to mix 3 simple ingredients to make slime (huge hit with the kids).
- We made “edible bubbles” and our own bubble wands and tried to see who could make the biggest bubble.
- Jill Duke, Assistant Director of the Lab at CHC came and talked to the kids about blood and how at the lab they can find out things about you by testing your blood.
- We did a build-a-bot program where the kids took a vibrating motor from a cell phone, connected it to a watch battery and attached it to the head of a toothbrush. Once assembled, the children lined them up for a race.
- WMU came to Sherwood to teach the kids about the 2 different types of volcanos and the different types of rocks they made. They also taught the kids that it is possible to blow air through certain types of rocks, which rocks were the hardest and that not all rocks sink in water, some actually float. It was a great program and we really appreciate the graduate students who shared their knowledge and love for geology.
- Our final program was sponsored by the BDL, which was “Made in Michigan” with Dynamic West Assembly. It was an interesting look into how early settlers in Michigan farm, compared to farming today. They also brought along animals that kids today use at 4-H fairs, like rabbits, several different breeds of chicken and a goat.
- I attend my first Friends meeting at the Union Branch. Together we are in the planning phase for the Breakfast with Santa. I am thrilled to be working with such a fantastic group of people!

Our sponsors this year: Solutions of Southwest Michigan; Sherwood Party Store (Mark & Terri Hicks) and the Union Station (in Union City). We are so very grateful for their support! Our patrons are very excited about the millage passing and are looking forward to the changes coming in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Horn

Sherwood Branch Manager

UNION BRANCH REPORTS

Summer reading has come to an end this month with many activities enjoyed by all patrons.

We started the month off with a visit from Jeff Porter the meteorologist from WMMT 3. Jeff explained the tornado that hit west Michigan and how rare it is for a tornado to hit Michigan. He also explained his job with a power point presentation.

Another well attended program was earthquakes by WMU. The patrons were able to build buildings and skyscrapers with sugar cubes. Using an electric toothbrush they were able to simulate an earthquake and see what happens to those buildings.

The mad scientist was once again busy as we hosted a family scientist night. We had over ninety children and adults attend this program. The program started with the mad scientist and her scientist in training welcoming our patrons with an experiment of exploding coke. Once inside the young scientists were able to build a marshmallow and toothpick structure, make a pom pom shooter, enjoy screaming balloons, see their heartbeat, expand a baby bottle, and see our attempt of making s'mores in a solar oven. The evening ended with the mad scientist making snow.

Build a Bot was an experience in building a brush bot. We used a toothbrush, a watch battery, and a vibrating motor from a cell phone to build them. The kids were really excited when their brush bots took off.

We ended the month with our Summer Reading Round Up. I am happy to say we had a 61% completion rate. Prizes were drawn for the patrons who completed their goal. Winners in the 3 - 6 group were Devin Gottschalk and Elenore Bailey, 7 - 11 were Lydia Bailey and Brooke West, 12 - 17 were Alexia Nagel and Jillian Rick, and adults were Renita Wallen and Jenny Bailey.

Our sponsors were Dearth Union Twp Friends of the Library, BDL, The Wallens, The Gottschalks, Branch Co. 4H Fair, Union Station Food and Ice Cream. and McDonalds. Each patron received a goodie bag and certificate at the conclusion of the round up.

Events at the library in the coming months will be:

- Back to School Bingo sponsored by Dr. Christopher D.D.S of Union City
- Fancy Nancy and Pirate Party
- Pine Wood Derby
- Breakfast with Santa.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Gottschalk

Dearth Union Township Library Manager