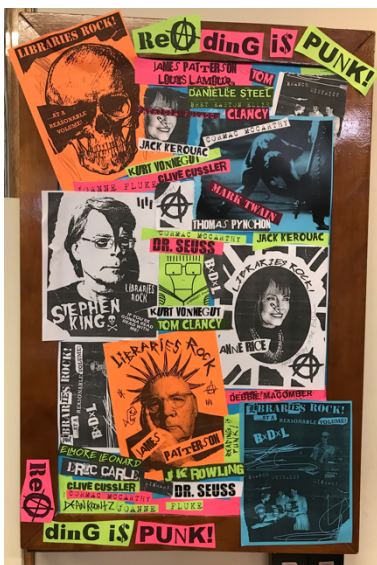




You can tell Summer has arrived. Starting the first of this month, the Coldwater Branch has been very busy! From the groups of families signing up for Summer Reading to the children and teens visiting us during the day, the staff have done a tremendous job welcoming them all.

For the first time the Coldwater Branch participated as a venue for the downtown Art Walk. We stayed open late to host BDL's very own artist Ben Lyon. During the three hour event, we had 175 people visit the library. Guests were treated to Ben's creative art, great food (provided by the Alusuriami Family and the Coldwater Friends of the Branch District Library), and Libraries Rock! Tattoos. Several people participated in the Painting scavenger hunt and received book marks for finding the hidden ten paintings.



Staff Member Ben Lyon also put together a special display case and bulletin board tying into our Libraries Rock! theme. Ben highlights his love of punk rock and was kind to share his collection of punk rock records for the Summer. He also punked up some popular authors in a throwback to classic record covers.

Adults: Summer reading for adults at the Coldwater Branch has never looked so good! Adults can read or listen for the chance to win one of seven gift cards to Pure Envee, Applebee's, Blue Hat, GNC Cinema, Tasty Twist, or Wings Etc. The grand prize is a Book Basket with a special bookmark. Events upcoming include, Michigan String Art and the Music of Freedom.

Kids' Place: End of school means the start of Summer Reading. The kick-off program was held on Wednesday, June 6 with Kevin Kammeraad at Kids' Place. The crowd, over 140+, was entertained with a great deal of laughter and general silliness as he shared with music and puppets. This program was paid for with a Walmart Transportation grant.

We also hosted, with the generous financial support of Asama, the Paleo Joe show. This program brought an actual working paleontologist to BDL! Joe shared artifacts and many interesting stories and facts about dinosaurs with us. We held this event in partnership with the City of Coldwater Parks Department at the Recreation



Building. This gave us lots of space to spread out and enjoy Joe's presentation. Last, Sarah Odom shared Latino dancing with a small but dynamic group on Wednesday, June 13th.

The calendar is jam packed for programs and events 6 days a week! There is no excuse for Summer Boredom with Kids' Place. Upcoming great programs include, Collision Reptile Zoo, Pint-size Gymnastics and Caribbean Steel Drums.

Teen Space: As school was winding down, students were busy with school and sports. However, we were able to get in some great programs before the summer hustle began. May programs included Book to Movie and Wild at Art. The upcoming Summer series of programs includes:

- Sundae Matinee
- How To Series
- Messy Science and Splatter Painting
- All the World's a Stage

Also happening in June, the Coldwater Branch hosted the first ever Teen Lock Out for the district. Teens from all over Branch County converge on the Coldwater Branch for an evening of life sized games, carnival games, food, and bounce houses. A huge thanks to Arnolds for assisting BDL with electricity and the multiple staff and their family members who made the evening a safe and fun event!

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Feltner



Alganssee Branch

The Branch District Board Meeting was held at Alganssee Library May 21st with 20 attending. The Alganssee Friends served water and cookies. Thanks to Erica for always baking cookies for our yearly meeting.

We gave out a large tray of flowers for Mother's Day week to all patrons that came in and all seemed very pleased.

We had our second Young Adult program with 3 attending for Art fun. The pictures are proudly displayed in our Library.

Sign-up for Summer Reading is getting started. This year everybody can sign-up on line and keep track of their progress on line. Lots of cool prizes for all ages. All instructions are on Branch District Site or go to any of our Libraries for help.

We have 2 programs set for Alganssee Summer Reading. The first is on Friday June 15th at 2 pm. Libraries Rock with Paleo Joe who is a paleontologist, author, and storyteller. Everybody is invited, please come and join us.

The second Program for this month is Wednesday, June 20th at 4 pm. Dynamic School Assemblies brings us Caribbean Steel Drums. We will wake up Alganssee and have fun. Everybody is also invited to Rock the Library.

More Programs to come, so come and support your Library and enjoy!

Any questions or suggestions please call 639-9830 or email clarkja@branchdistrict.org.

Thank You
Alganssee Branch Manager

Quincy Branch

- Children's Book week was celebrated last month with the Story Hour children receiving a free book, compliments of the Friends of the Library.
- School visits took place late May, including Head start and Amish classes.
- Jennings Elementary gave book bags (with books) to all elementary students and included our BDL Summer Reading Program information.
- Excited teens visited the library shortly after Jessica Tefft had visited the local high school. Her enthusiasm definitely spread to the students she spoke to.
- The Evergreen work seemed flawless on our end thanks to John and Curtis. We appreciate all they do and their ever-patient assistance when we need it.
- The Friends of the Library had a very good book sale and the local NIKA (Nothing Increases Knowledge like Association with others) ladies club offered a bake sale with the proceeds designated for library programs. In the past, NIKA has given to the restoration fund for the building. We have a great supportive community in Quincy.
- For the most part, young mothers have been excited about signing up for summer reading online. Some found it difficult, but we worked through it with them. Adults do not seem to want to sign up online. They would rather we keep track of their reading for them.
- Many thanks to Jessica, Keeley and Lindsey for the great programs planned for the summer. Last week eight teens attended Quincy's first Sundae Matinee and cleaned up every crumb of pizza and ice cream.
- Quincy has three programs planned for each week of the summer, so we will be busy.
- At this point, we have 79 children signed up for the SRP; 27 adults; 94 teens. That is a very low number for children for Quincy and an extremely high number for teens.
- Beautiful landscaping has been completed by True Trim and cement work on the south side of the building was completed last week by Locke Masonry. Aside from some smaller door entry repairs and painting trim on the roof finials, our building is nearly restored.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Wood

Sherwood Report

Greetings and Happy (almost) Summer!

Summer Reading is in full swing and we have a new clerk at our Sherwood Branch! Her name is Maria Piper and she is acclimating wonderfully to the library world. I'm grateful to have her on board.

Our first performer of the season is "Paleo Joe", he will be here this coming Thursday at 11am. I've actually had the pleasure of meeting him several times. We're looking forward to the exciting fossils specimens and knowledge he will be bringing and sharing with us -

The following Thursday (June 21st, First Day Of Summer) at 6pm, we will be hosting a "Free Concert In The Sherwood Park" - What better way to celebrate Summer solstice than rocking our library in the park!? There will be three performers. They are all local bands and I assure you, you won't want to miss this. I invite you all to come join us. Everyone is welcome!

Our District Teen Service crew is holding some pretty awesome programs here at the Sherwood Branch throughout the summer. They are doing a great job and our community kids are always happy to see the ladies from Coldwater.

I was able to attend the "Small and Rural Libraries" conference in Traverse City the beginning of May. I came back with some really interesting ideas. For instance, a "Junior Friends Group." I know I'm kind of excited about the whole idea as I have a big group of 10-13yr old's who really want to be involved - and I would love to involve them and make them part of the Library! This same group of "tweens" showed up after school one day and rushed into the library to express their concerns about a subject they'd been working on in school. "Endangered and Extinct" animals. Their desire to bring public awareness to this issue is very important to them. If it's important to them, It's important to us! So, what can we do as librarians to feed those interests and help bring to light the things they feel so strongly about? Well, I'll tell you, you give each of them "homework" assignments to research and study the animal of their choosing. They are gathering as much information as possible (with facts and where they got their facts) and we will then be putting all of their acquired information on poster boards so they can then share it with our entire community. I will be checking into this further after the chaos and excitement of Summer Reading slows down.

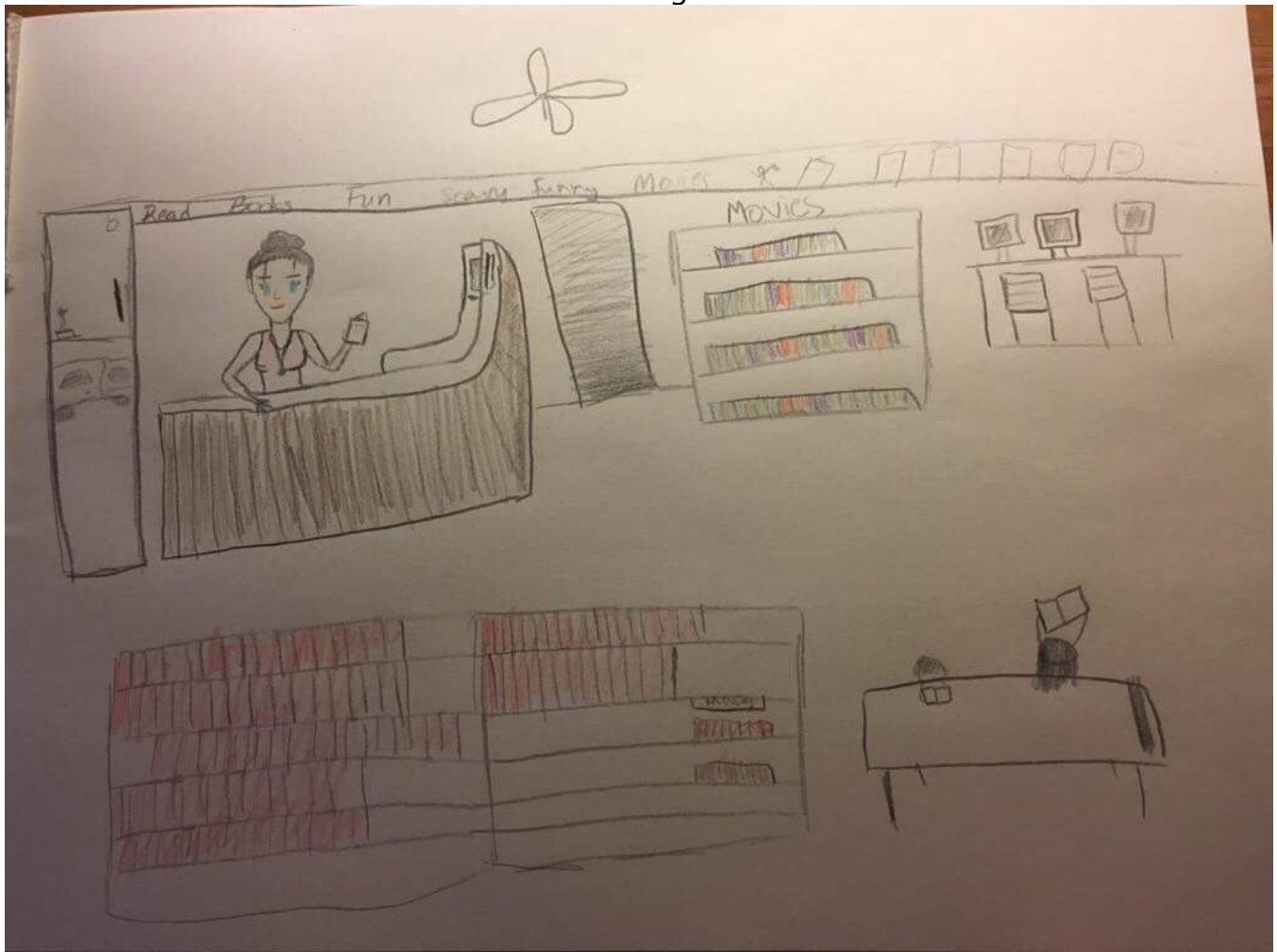
In closing, I received a message from one of our home-school families a couple of weeks ago. I thought I'd share it with you. Although some of his information isn't correct, It's nice to hear that we do make a difference!

Gunnar's mom wrote - " Gunnar chose to draw a Mural of you for art class about someone in the community who has an impact on the community and is worthy of a Mural. He wrote the words for the discussion part of the assignment."

Gunnar's essay: "I chose to draw a picture of our very small town's library and librarian. The librarian's name is Traci and she is in charge of all the counties libraries. She still comes to our little library and makes time for all the kids. She is always planning fun activities to do and always has a smile on her face and upbeat. She is fun to be around. If there is a book you need but the library doesn't have it she will get it from another library."

Until next month,

Respectfully,
Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



Dearth Union Twp. Report

- This was a month of endings and new beginnings. I visited Preschool and Community Unlimited After School program for the last time this school year and will continue visiting these programs when schools resume in the fall.
- Gene Wasserman from Michigan Bluebird Society presented a program on area birds and their environment. Fifteen children and adults were able to construct a Suet Feeder or a Nest Box to take home with them to help take care of birds in our area. This is a very popular program for both kids and adults and we will once again have a similar program next spring.
- Camri Wages, our clerk, was able to attend the Beginners Conference this month. She was impressed with this conference and has learn many new things to help her in her job and her pursuit of a degree in Library Science.
- I was very honored to be chosen to represent the Dearth Union Township Library as Grand Marshal in the Memorial Day Parade.
- Summer Reading programs have been booked and we are looking forward to a great summer reading program this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Gottschalk