



## Algansee

Our summer programs are at the halfway point and so far have been well attended and I've gotten positive feedback from both adults and kids. We have talked about farm animals, hermit crabs, fireflies and where animals live. The latest and greatest action song of the summer is Popcorn Kernels, it is the one kids start yelling for as soon as we get the story time scarves out. Ranks right up there with Roly-Poly!

Summer Reading continues with all ages picking up their challenge prizes and continuing with their reading hoping to finish the program by July 23 (they will)

We have a mosaic poster as our passive program this month and anyone wanting to take part gets a sheet of colored squares to place on the poster and then a piece of candy for participating.



*Before...*



*...after!*



*...after!*

Our big room switch happened towards the end of June right after those storms went through Branch County. We had electricians there to install more outlets and you can imagine in a 100+ year old building the fun they encountered. John was there and moved all the numerous cords and cables that go to the staff work area. Very grateful for his help and his talent in getting everything set up even while working in the dark. Yes, we lost power halfway into the project but that didn't stop us and we even had people come in and get books during the outage. We were able to get the desk and bookcases moved and it makes the room look bigger. We definitely have more work space behind our desk now. We will be moving the shelves in the other room once our summer programs are finished. The new ceiling fan really helps move the air around in the fiction area, we are very pleased to have it.

Attended the Algansee Township meeting to give a report and the board was very happy with the numbers they heard.

We are now working on programs for the fall which will start in September.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## **Bronson**

Our summer programs continue at Bronson with story time having a great attendance each week. We average about 30 children each week plus adults who come with them. In case you wonder, Popcorn Kernels is the top action song in Bronson too. We may attempt a Popcorn Kernels version using our parachutes, that would be entertaining. The tweens attending Steve's Tween and Teen program have really enjoyed his crafts. His first session was "No Animals Here: Vegan cooking" and the kids learned to make vegan snacks. They each go to take home what they made. His next one they learned about sewing and each made a plush sloth to take home.



*Vegan Cooking with Steve*

The Summer Reading Program is getting close to the end and we are encouraging everyone to complete their challenges.

Our Passive Program is a mosaic poster. Patrons get a sheet of colored squares and are working to figure out what the poster will look like. It is starting to take on a shape now and I think several have it figured out. These are fun programs because they get all ages involved.

We are working on Fall programs and unless things change again we will have a full calendar of fun events starting in September.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

## **Coldwater**

At the Coldwater Branch, we've continued our weekly summer programs for kids at the pavilion in Heritage Park, courtesy of Coldwater Recreation. Our first guest was Xena the search-and-rescue dog and her handler Jackie Harris, followed by magician and balloon animal expert Mr. Jim, sponsored by the Friends of the Branch District Library. Our third weekly program, yoga with Kristin Steckbauer, was enjoyable despite being rescheduled due to rain. Finally, Emily from Mad Science Detroit, sponsored by Kiwanis, visited us with a hands-on presentation all about animals, their traits, and their tracks. We have also given away take-home activity kits for children of all ages every week of SRP, each themed around a different animal, originally planned by Linda Dull, coordinated by Angie Richards, and assembled by Angie and the rest of our circulation staff.



*Nature Hike*

Teen Services Coordinator Lindsay Villa led teen patrons on a nature hike earlier this month in Rotatory Park, a one-and-a-half-hour program encouraging kids to share their knowledge and connect with nature. Teens also attended another writing club session, a program that features creative writing exercises and round-robin-style group activities. Lindsay also gave out cyanotype (sun activated photography) kits earlier this month, and her next kit for teens is a watercolor animal stencil craft.

For adults, we have an upcoming craft kit that's sure to be popular: getting started with resin bookmarks. Each kit includes ready-to-mix clear resin and an assortment of glitter, confetti, dried flowers, and other toppings to sprinkle in. We're also having our first in-person craft activity for adults this week as staff member Ben Lyon will be leading patrons in creating their own tie dye projects.

In-person programming at the Coldwater Branch is back with a wide variety of activities, including the second Loud Library program featuring the musical talents of Lindsay Villa and her family. Local artist Sara Porter showed patrons the basics of henna art. BDL's bookkeeper, Ashley McCall, gave us an introduction to keeping chickens with help from special feathery guest stars Bubblegum and Oreo. Before the month is over, we'll also be having a Pet Palooza (with a buffet of do-it-yourself dog treats and cat toys) and an Around the World Picnic. On July 21st, staff from the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency will also be returning to the Coldwater Branch for a second vaccine clinic for adults and for children ages 12 and up accompanied by a parent or guardian.



The Friends of the Library was able to hold their regular book sale during Strawberry Fest this June and raised over \$200!

Submitted by Keeley Briggs

## Quincy

[to be delivered orally, but here are some photos of the Pet Parade to accompany!]



## Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood ~

It's hard to believe that our first month of summer is already in the books!

We did a Father's Day grab & go kit that went over really well and our SRP is going steady.

The winners from our coloring contest were super excited last week! We had a total of 9 entries for our Branch. We're definitely looking forward to another one.

We've gotten lots of weeding done to make room for the new books that are steadily rolling in.

Until next month:

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

## **Union Twp.**

Since the 2021 Summer Reading Program kicked off, we have been seeing more families coming into the library! How exciting! We began the "Tails and Tales" SRP with a visit from Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary and had 108 attendees. Mr. C shared alligators, tortoises, snakes and other reptiles with us and a great time was had by all! I was selected to share Casper, the friendly snake with everyone...yes, I held a snake! Definitely recommend and hope to have him and his critters back again.



The critter craft kits have been a hit as we offered a new one every week relating to the ecosystem theme of that week. We had Paint Sample Animals- Jungle (5/31), Old MacDonald's Farm (6/7), Paper Bag Otters- Water (6/14), Dragon Puppet- Fantasy (6/21), and Butterfly Puppet- Forest (6/28). In addition, a Father's Day card craft kit was available the week before the holiday. The Lit Kit offering supported the SRP theme of critters with the title Chicken Little and a fun chick puppet was the craft. The newest Horsey Lit Kit was prepared with a puzzle craft in it and the next Time for Kids kits have been shared. Dill was the featured spice for June. Teens were offered a cup weaving kit and the Old Time Craft was rubber stamping with the recipients making their own rubber stamp.



Union Twp Branch had an overwhelming response to the coloring contest as we had 39 entries turned in! Union City Police Chief Chris Mathis, along with Officers Corey Wilkinson and Tony Reyna, graciously accepted the job of judging the coloring sheets. We had three winners with Gracie Myers as our district representative, Haley Hare's picture won the Most Colorful and the UCPD selected Katy Bodtke's entry as their Top Choice. There were special prizes for each of the winners and we have a small gift for each participant. Congratulations to our three winners and thanks to all who participated!

Music with Munchkins started back up on June 3 with weekly sessions on Thursdays and are being held outdoors. The program was planned around the ecosystem theme of the week (ie jungle, farm, or ocean) We have had low attendance but hoping to get the word out so more will be coming.

The Shenandoah University Children's Literature Conference was amazing! During the month of June, I had the pleasure of watching presentations by Jason Reynolds, Ashley Spires, Phil Bildner, Angela Johnson, Matt de la Pena, Mac Barnett, Mr. Schu, Kelly Yang, Peter Johnston, Jack Gantos, and Kate DiCamillo. All very inspiring and interesting as we visited them in their workplaces (offices) versus the usual conference setting due to it being virtual. I also won a copy of Yes & No by Elisha Cooper to add to the picture book collection.

I attended the Union Township meeting and gave them an update. I have also been to two meetings concerning the Celebrate the St. Joseph River Day plans. During the month of August, we will have several craft kits relating to the river and the Lit Kit title is also related to the river.

We finished with the RFID project at the Union Twp Branch in early June. I also completed Union Twp Branch's purchasing of children's books from the Shamulas Trust for 2021.

Sincerely, Julia Baratta, Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Branch Manager.

