

Alganssee

Fall Programs

We have been busy with many programs this month for all ages. Both of our adult crafts this month were filled at max capacity. We've had many patrons that signed up after the classes for the following month's craft. Our after school story and craft time has had good attendance this month. Tuesday Tales has been the highlight of my week. We have been reading and singing about farm animals this month. Our sheep craft was a very sticky, but fun adventure. One of the boys decided to use his glue stick on the cotton balls, rather than the paper. We got it all cleaned up though and had a good laugh.

Daily Business

We have seen an increase in our computer usage and prints this month. I have assisted several people with resumes, government forms and applications. More people are coming in for prints now that we have the new copier. Several have commented that we are the cheapest place to get copies made.

I placed an order for a Circuit machine this past week. It will be a great asset to our craft programs and I hope will be utilized by our local 4-H Clubs and community. We also have another large order of books and DVDs that should be arriving soon to add to our collection as the cooler weather drives us inside.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling



Bronson

Biggest news is that a plumber finally came and fixed both toilets! Township restroom, which we use when we have programs, and Library restroom both had leaking toilets so thanks to Brussee/Brady they are completely repaired.

We have had several kids sign-up for the Library1 card and it seems they mainly want it to access computers but there is always hope they will pick up a book to read too.

We finished weeding the adult section and then did a shift of books so that we could increase our Large Print area since we have more patrons using those books. Steve held his second Puppet Workshop this one featuring Edgar Allan Poe. Very interesting.

Bronson staff helped at the Family Fright Night with storytelling and a batty craft.

Our Friends group will be hosting the County Wide Friends of the Library event this year on October 17. Bronson Branch is celebrating our 110 year old Carnegie building.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

September was library card sign up month and in Coldwater we signed up 49 new people for cards. The Coldwater Friends of the Library held a books sale and "Chair-ity" Auction for Apple Fest and was able to earn \$520 to help out the library for future programs. To further the excitement of Apple Fest; kids place hired a balloon artist to teach a balloon twisting class. The "Balloonatic" was a hit! 25 people attended the class and everyone took home balloons.

On October 8th; Branch District Library in Coldwater hosted; Family Fright Night. Staff and volunteers worked for days on decorating. The teen floor was transformed into a creepy clown maze for teens and adults. Fright Night had so many fun elements that choreographed perfectly; games, crafts, scary stories, character artist, trick or treating and a



clown maze. We had 478 people attend Family Fright Night. On October 10th all branches were closed for a staff training day.

In September 6,040 people visited the library that is a 45% increase from September of 2021. We also added \$2,215 in new books to our collection. The Heritage Room had 39 visitors.

Our workroom received a new cubical style workspace for the bookmobile and Library by Mail program. This was installed and mostly finished on October 10th.

To continue to promote library cheer our outreach manager attended several events; Branch County Pride Festival, Community Baby Shower and AppleFest.

In Coldwater, we have finished our programming for winter and this means lots of exciting things are blowing in for the winter months: December through February. Coldwater will be hosting an evening story time on Monday nights. This will include some gentle music, a calming coloring sheet and a relaxing bedtime story. This will be available for all ages.

A few upcoming events: bookclubs for Adults and teens, Tuesday and Thursday storytimes, and STEM Monster Eggs on Saturday, October 15th.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

September was a nice month getting back into programming and trying some new things. We've also been very busy preparing for our upcoming events.

Here is a summary of some of things that have been accomplished this month:

- Family Fright Night was a huge success and we had SO much fun! Seeing the kiddos excited to play the games we made was very rewarding!
- For Cultivating Community Month Quincy branch did a story walk - 'What I Like About Me'. We have had great feedback about the story and about the idea of the story walk.
- We're starting story time at Little Orioles Preschool and we're both very excited for the opportunity! I'm excited to try something new in the community.
- The Quincy Friends got a lot accomplished at last month's meeting and things figured out for the rest of the year - newsletter items, the November book sale, and activities they're doing at Quincy Lights in December.

- We've started another large weeding project in our juvenile collection and that is going very well. Brittany and I are excited to make improvements on the juvenile side of our library.
- It's crazy to think that we're only a couple months away from the end of the year but we finalized all of our winter programs and are very excited for them!

We have a lot of fun programs planned for the rest of October that I'm looking forward too! Come join the fun!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood!

It's been a busy month. Our programs are going well and our Grab & Go kits are flying off the shelves.

All ordering is done for the year! New books and movies are coming in for the last quarter of the year.

I'm hoping to be back at Union City Elementary for story time again soon. I've got some information to get back to them for my background check and such.

Fire Safety Day in Union City went great! We figure there were around 400 people there this year. It was pretty fantastic!

Family Fright Night this year was awesome - I was a Fortune Teller. I just have to say, I think I'll stick to my day job :) My clerk, Maria, took giant suckers and held a program that used them to make lollipop ghosts. Apparently it was a hit and the kids really enjoyed it.

We've got the program "Unknown Spirits of Hazen House" coming up later this month. Our spots for the program are filled, or will be filled by the date. I'm looking forward to all the fun to be had and to see what we can find out.

Staff training day was great as usual - there is, as usual, great information to take away from it.

I've got a few webinars coming up at the end of the month.

Until next month, stay safe and warm!

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

September 2022

As the children headed back to school, we are now shifting gears from summer activities to encouraging more educational pursuits. Our programming is starting to pick up and we are looking forward to sharing new opportunities with our patrons.

Our Library of Things is up and running and we are pleased at the interest in our “things”! Since we began offering them, they have been checked out 5 times! We are pretty excited that the patrons are enjoying them. We have since added round knitting looms and have one of them on loan already. I am looking into purchasing several other “things” to add to the library relating to tools for the kitchen, garden and needlework. I am also planning to buy some items for Makerspace activities.



As always, our Grab ‘n Go craft kits are leaving nearly as quickly as we are making them up. For September, we offered Dreamcatchers for Old Time Crafts (9/5), Child’s Harvest Basket (9/12), Origami Leaves for Creating STEAM (9/26), and Pony Bead Corn for the Teens (9/26). Salt was the featured spice for the Spice Club and *A World of Flags* by Rebecca Roman was the Lit Kit.

We had our first Spice Club Live! program where we made Tuscan Herb Salt and learned how to preserve herbs without having to dry them. The participants were inspired to try their own spicy concoctions at home after the presentation and samples were shared.

Other in-house programs included Apples for Everyone and Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall with Val and Chalkboard Sign Creations and Bubble Wrap Activities with Sandi. We had several children (and adults!) decorate their own pillowcases for the Pillowcase Project. The idea behind the Pillowcase Project is that the participants will leave with a pillowcase to put important things inside so they are prepared for an emergency.



We have started a new program at noon on Thursdays where people are invited to come to the library to enjoy a quiet time of stitching and visiting. We have supplies for those who are interested in trying something new and a pattern swap. I am looking at the program as a way to introduce our craft tools from the Library of Things to the public.



Our offering during the Farm to Fork event was an Old Time Kitchen Tools display where people were invited to guess what the tools were used for and what they were called. I am leaving the display up for the month of October as I believe it works well with the Cultivating Communities ideas.

I have been actively involved in the planning for Fire Safety Day here in Union City and have attended several meetings concerning it. We expect a great turnout and a good time! In addition, the UCFD will be holding a coloring contest and the entries will be dropped off at the library where they will be displayed above the shelves like I did for the BDL summer reading coloring entries. They will be judged here and on display for at least a couple of weeks.

We are currently running a Fiber Arts and Textiles Trunk Show at the library in connection with the Cultivating Communities activities for the month of October. In addition, I have set up an international doll display in the foyer display case and the StoryWalk is outside on the fence railing.



Thanks for serving on the BDL board! Your work is appreciated!

Julia Baratta

Union Township Branch Manager



A scarf from the trunk show along with a couple of the hats



The foyer display case with some of the dolls displayed

Outreach

The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services 2022 conference was a blast! So many of the people who attended were experts in the library outreach field, but it was also very enriching to see so many others who are just as new to this as I am, if not newer! Not only was I able to meet one of my Matthews Specialty Vehicles contacts in person, but the mix of expertise from attendees and vendors alike also offered a wealth of new ideas. To list a few of these ideas:

- Adding large print children's books to our collection (larger text makes the body strain less, in turn making reading and retention easier and better).
- Ways to customize our service both for outreach and our locations in order to become more barrier-free.
- Ways to reach unhoused children in our community (there are 4.2 MILLION unhoused children in the U.S. each year!)
- What to consider when creating a community disaster response policy for your library (what can we as the library do for our community when disaster strikes?)

The in-person conference may be over, but there are still several on-demand sessions available on the app used during the conference which I look forward to viewing and collecting even more ideas from in the next couple of weeks. These on-demand sessions are available for the next three months, so there is plenty of time to space them out and fit them into my schedule as needed.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence