

Alganssee

It was a fun and very busy July. The water balloon piñata party was a hit. I was struggling with the water balloons breaking, so we hung latex balloons for the kids to bust with wooden spoons. Then they raced to the water balloon stations for war. It was not a safe place for adults. The great cup race was so much fun to watch, but also ended in everyone getting soaked. The squirt gun painting was a success. It was amazing how unique each canvas was with their abstract art. We ended with a bang, literally. We used paint, Alka-Seltzer and film canisters to create some explosive art projects.



Erica Ewers and McKayla Milliman taught our crew how to make sugar molds. They did an amazing job and I am so thankful they came to teach the kids. Bonita Shilling also came to teach the kids how to make chocolate molds and peanut butter cups at the candy making workshop.

Linda had a room full of adults for the Nautical Lantern craft. They turned out beautifully and we had more requests for reservations than we had space for. The Button Bouquet craft brought in some crafters from other library branches, along with our regulars.



Popsicles on the porch has proven to be a fun and successful program. I plan to run it again next summer. We had a few less story times due to the holiday and Vacation Bible School. But the ones we had were fun. We learned about Hellen Keller and they loved learning how to sign their names. We wrapped up our summer story time with the craziest bubble party ever after reading about the happy trolls and grumpy bergens.

Our totals for Summer Reading Program were 32 Adults signed up which 20 completed and 74 kids signed up with 54 completions. The Friends of the Alganssee Library provided each of the kids who completed a bag of back to school supplies. I am thankful for their support of our library programs!

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Bronson

June and July certainly flew by quickly! Seems like we were just preparing all our programs and now they are all behind us. We had a full summer with all of our programs having good attendance. Over the summer kids painted, heard stories, used their imaginations, sang, laughed and read books. They learned about helping our pollinator friends, being kind, accepting differences and helping out. They survived a giant spider's web, exciting cup stacking races and fun parachute games. It was a wonderful summer.



Adults enjoyed quilling classes and making garden ornaments.

Teens had a great time painting, creating journals and playing games.

We had lots of children and adults join the Summer Reading Program and a good number completed the reading challenges.

During August we are taking a deep breath and relaxing just a bit and then we are getting excited to start our fall programs in September.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

That's a wrap! On July 29th we wrapped up our Summer Reading Program. Coldwater had a combination of 141 people complete the Summer Reading Challenges. The foam party at Coldwater Heritage Park was a great success, lots of smiling faces.

We will not be having any programs in August. We will be spreading the word about fall programming and library services at the Branch County Fair and school open houses. August is Family Fun Month



Canvas and Coolers SRP Program July 2023

and we have created several displays highlighting the Michigan Activity Pass and our Library of Things collection.



In July, we purchased \$1,884 in materials (books, audiobooks and DVDs) for the library and filled 6 patron book requests. We also had 6,166 people visit the library. We had several checkouts from the Library of Things, a car diagnostic tool and the karaoke machine. We received our new chairs for the second floor reading area and for the computer lab, and the new service desk for Teen Space.



Upcoming Programs

A few of our September programs: Story Time, Teen Trivia, Henna, Fall into the Forest- A guided nature walk at Rotary Park, and Jump Back into School.

Look for our Fall Event Guides Coming Soon!!

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

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

- Summer Reading came to an end and it was a busy one this year!
 - Programs - Wonderful attendance for the all of Summer Reading Programs! It was so great! I think the fan favorite was Mr Jim Cup Stacking - I still have kiddos coming in to talk about it!
 - Early Literacy - 9 registered; 6 completed
 - Kids - 95 registered; 51 completed
 - Teens - 16 registered; 7 completed
 - Adults - 28 registered; 15 completed
 - Registered: 148 Completed: 79



July Adult Tote Bag Stenciling Program

- Brittany and I attended a MeLCat training in Lansing and it was good info! We were excited to bring back to the library what we learned.
- Summer Reading Wrap Up Foam Party was a blast and I've heard nothing but positive comments about it! The main one being that it was well organized and so much fun! Great job everyone!
- We worked a few fair shifts this year and the prize wheel was a fun change from last year. The kiddos (and even adults) really seemed to enjoy the game!

I hope you're staying dry with all this crazy weather we've been having! We're getting ready and really excited to start programing back up in September!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Traci will be delivering her report orally, and you'll get to see the results of all of the work in person, but here are a few photos of the process to go along with it.



Union Twp.

Summer Reading is complete! We had 151 total that signed up and 64 that had completed the Summer Reading Program. All the winners have been called and a lot of the winners have already picked up their prizes. The Foam party was a lot of fun and Andrea and I had a blast helping out. It was great to see such a huge crowd excited to jump into the foam. We had a very busy summer with Mr. Jim, Pint Size Polkas, Magic Show, Community Unlimited, passive art crafts, Tie-Dye fun, scavenger hunts, bowling, Edward Jones, Bobbie Mathis and Southern Michigan Bank and Trust presentations.



The Friends Group has bought back to school back packs and school supplies and we will be passing them out on August 18 from 2 - 4 p.m. Patrons ages 5 - 17 can check out 5 books then get a FREE back pack! Looking forward to this event for sure! A BIG shout out to the Friends Group for making this possible!



All of our programs have been entered in for the rest of the year and we are excited for all the great fall programming coming up. Some of those programs include Teen Chess Club, friendship bracelets, DIY Buttons, Fire Safety Day, Halloween BINGO, Dinovember Month, Granny Squares and so much more. Andrea has been working very hard on some passive craft projects for kids this month to have for when they come in and just want a quick craft to do. Love all the great ideas she has been coming up with. Examples include Jellyfish, Monster Bookmarks, Summer Paper Windmill, and a Photo Bus craft.

Library of Things has a great new area in the library and the word is getting out and patrons are now checking the items out. Items include, but are not limited to, cake pans, record player, cookie cutters, loom kits, and a telescope.



Halloween is right around the corner and we have prepped for Family Fright Night October 7th by organizing all the Halloween crafts we are bringing for the event. Already have 200 made up and need to prep more. Also that day is Fire Safety Day and I will be attending a meeting coming up this month to meet with the UC Auxiliary to discuss logistics on this event.

Staff Picks are new and we are getting the word out on what we are reading and why we feel others might enjoy them as well!

Looking forward to Fair week and talking to the public about all the great programs we have coming up!

Submitted by Maria Piper



Outreach

Fair week has come to a close, but we had lots of interactions! 237 of the 360 activity kits were passed out to 4-H-ers on Sunday. These contained 5 different paper activities for a range of different ages. I did not hear anything as far as feedback, but several expressed appreciation for something fun to do on the rainy days. With Erica's assistance, I hosted a sucker tree game as one of the many activities available for Kids Day at the fair as well. 222 kids and 117 adults came by to pick suckers and win prizes. We estimated about another hundred or so of others who came through the barn we were in and did not stop to play our game.

Extra activity kits came back to BDL with me. I plan to use them as take-home programs/kits for my pop-up libraries. I can't wait to see how different our interactions will look for next year's fair when we have the bookmobile to bring people in!

Pop-Up Libraries will be starting this week at Butler Twp. Hall and the Coldwater Lake Association building. Both will be twice monthly, with hopes of increasing the frequency of the Butler Twp. visit as the time we are there per visit will be limited. An Outreach agreement has been received from Kinderhook, so I will be putting them in the schedule as well.

There has yet to be much interaction at my California Twp. Pop-Up, but it is also currently a busy season for a lot of the residents in that area. I am hoping the consistency of my stops and the end of the busy harvest season may help bring more attendance.

I've volunteered to take part in the 2024 YouPer Award committee. This is an award given by Michigan Library Association to a kids chapter book published in 2023. I've previously participated in this committee back in 2018, so I am looking forward to the time spent reading many quality kids books.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence