

Algansee

We had a record year for Summer Reading. 194 total sign ups and 175 completions. The break down was Adults, 43 signups and 36 completions, Teen, 24 signed up with 22 completed, Juvenile, 126 signed up and 117 completions. I can't thank our Friends group enough for donating school supplies for each of our school aged kids who completed. We received so much positive feedback.

It has been a very busy summer with fun programs and many new attendees. We had 38 kids at our sculpting program, which was far more than I'd anticipated. When we ran out of clay, Playdough came to our rescue. The kids created many crafts, enjoyed popsicles and stories, created unique handkerchiefs from flowers and leaves and created their own illustrated storybooks. Both of our adult programs were filled to capacity. It was good to hear everyone talking and laughing. The Barn Quilt paintings all turned out lovely and everyone enjoyed making the barbecue rub and ranch mixes.



Our new library building renovations are underway and much progress was made while I was at the fair. Many people stopped me during the week to share their excitement for the move and to ask questions.



Many kids are excited for programs to resume next month. I've received positive feedback on our upcoming program calendars. Nature Art and Mad Science have been receiving a lot of attention. Most of my story time kiddos visited with me at fair and showed me their projects.

I attended the Algansee Township Meeting, the Algansee Friends meeting, and met with the township board members and contractor several times this month.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Coldwater

Summer went by so fast! We are now on our “break,” which is really just a month off from programs so we can prepare ourselves for future greatness. Our completion numbers are as follows:

- Adults: 18 completed out of 52 registered
- Teens: 4 completed out of 17 registered
- Children: 114 completed out of 186 registered

We are really happy with our Summer Reading participation numbers. We wrapped up July programming with a Karaoke Party in the Teen Space. Teens ate snacks, sang songs and had a lot of laughs. Lastly, people of all ages welcomed a cultural program called “Aussie Didgerdoo and You.” This program explored Australian Aboriginal art, music, and culture with an environmental theme. Led by renowned Didgeridoo performer Peter D. Harper and educator Bobbi Llewellyn-Harper, both from Australia.



Our staff have been adjusting displays to theme the end of Summer. Teen Space is having “S'more Fun with Books!” In Kids' Place they are “Ant'sy for Books!” Several of our staff members are attending back to school open houses the week of August 11. They will provide promotional materials and talk about what the library has to offer.

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

I am back from my parenting leave and wanted to introduce the newest addition to our family - Kolten Gean Strong born May 25th, 2025. He is a super happy, healthy, and perfect baby 😊

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

- Coming back to work after taking maternity leave, it's been a lot of catch up but it's been going so great. Thank you to everyone who helped out this summer by covering shifts, ordering materials, running programs, handing out SRP prizes, and helped when they were able while I was out. An extra shout out to Tracy for being a rockstar with all the extra things added to her plate along with learning all things in library land. I'm so grateful for each and every one of you!
- It's hard to believe that summer is already coming to an end but with that we have the Jennings Open House this week. We're excited to see all the smiling faces of the kiddos getting ready to go back to school and meet their teacher for the year.
- We're getting things ready for the exciting fall programs we have coming up quickly. Check out our calendar to see what fun things you can join in for FREE!
- Announcement: Quincy Branch is getting new hours effective September 1st. Check out our website to see the new hours.

Submitted by Sarah Strong



Union Twp.

The 2025 Summer Reading Program Has Officially Wrapped Up!

What an incredible summer it's been—full of creativity, learning, and community connection! This year's program offered a wide variety of hands-on experiences, from painting and sculpting to drawing and other engaging art-based projects.

A BIG shoutout goes to our amazing Friends Group for their generous financial support, which helped make our weekly prizes and special summer presenters possible. We couldn't have done it without you!

Highlights included:

- Painting, sculpting, and drawing workshops, allowing children to explore different artistic mediums.
- Creative art sessions, where participants were encouraged to express themselves through guided and open-ended projects.
- A special visit from Leila Arboretum, where patrons created flower imprints, practiced water painting, and built a unique tree craft using paper bags.
- A session with a professional comic illustrator, who shared storytelling techniques and drawing tips—this was a favorite among participants.



We had 159 participants registered, with a completion rate of 51.5%. Prize winners have been notified, and their excitement upon receiving their awards was a perfect wrap-up to a successful program.

Spotlight: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten!

We are so proud of Dean & Brooklyn Polonsky, who will soon be graduating from the "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" program. What an incredible achievement! 📚🎓

Congratulations, Dean and Brooklyn – your love of reading is taking you far!



Upcoming Events

While programming is taking a brief pause this month, a few fun events are still scheduled for August:

- Middle School Open House – August 21st
I will be attending to share information about library services and programming with students and families.
- Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway – August 14, 1:00–3:00 PM
This annual event helps prepare local children for the school year by providing essential supplies. This year's giveaway also includes reusable water bottles, generously provided by the Friends Group—a thoughtful addition given the nearby park and summer heat. We deeply appreciate the Friends' continued support.



Special Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to Amanda Steele for her outstanding assistance and support this summer. Amanda was instrumental in helping plan and execute programs, coordinate scavenger hunts, manage supplies, and assist with daily operations. She was amazing and I am so glad I got a chance to get to know her this summer.

Submitted By Maria Rathbun

Outreach

- The bookmobile appeared at the Union City Summer School Carnival, where there was great attendance and interest.
- The bookmobile's appearance at Quincy Kids Day in the Park was cancelled due to rain.
- Thurston Woods has officially been added to the bookmobile's schedule. Our first stop will be September 3rd.
- I have talked to Bish's about options for washing the bookmobile.
- Bookmobile Electrical: we are corresponding with Matthews Specialty Vehicles about trying to solve some differences of opinion on how the electrical system should work. At present, we can't have the awning out when the power systems are on, which ... isn't great in the heat of summer.
- The bookmobile will make an appearance at the Hispanic Heritage Coalition's new event this year.
- The bookmobile was the library's "booth" at the fair. Attendance was a bit lower than our prior informational booths, but the dynamic was still really nice. People came on to the bookmobile to admire it, but also to check out books! And we registered many new library cards to county residents right at the fair.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence and John Rucker