

Alganssee

Summer is here and the library has been taken over by dinosaurs. This year's summer reading is *Unearth A Story*. Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary was out to help us kickoff our summer fun. The presenter did a great job explaining each animal that he brought out to meet us. There was a bearded dragon, legless salamander, scorpion, tarantula, tortoise, boa constrictor, and of course an alligator. Many of the kids and even some adults held the alligator for a picture.



We brought the Dino Dig inside due to the uncertainty of the weather. We had some very messy fun. The kids made paleontologist badges, then we discussed digging etiquette and what the world may have looked like in the era of dinosaurs. Then they carefully dug through the layers of seashells, gemstones and finally fossils. Like good paleontologists they took their finds back to the dino lab to clean and identify. The largest dinosaur fossils are displayed in our museum of dinosaurs in the children's section.

Amber and I enjoyed helping with the district Summer Reading kickoff at Heritage Park. My daughters said it was one of their best days ever!



We started May with a quiet afternoon reading to Bruce Watson's Newfoundland therapy dogs. We all had a case of puppy love! They were so friendly, fluffy and huge! My librarian heart was happy watching the kids laying on the dogs and next to them reading aloud. They even did a good job of showing them the pictures. I was proud.

We wrapped up many of our school year programs. The teens in Book Dragons were so excited about their last book that they requested we finish the series over the summer. They convinced me to continue their book discussions after Dino Tales. I just can't turn down kids who want to read....

Our Friends of the Alganssee Library have again offered to sponsor school supplies for each school aged child who completes their summer reading challenges. We also began making plans for a community trunk or treat and Not So Spooky Library event October 10th from 2-4.

We hope to see you all soon as we dig into reading and summer fun!

Submitted by Teresa Shilling

Coldwater

We are officially in the summer swing at the Coldwater Branch. The Summer Reading Kick Off Party was held at Heritage Park on June 6th. The event was well attended and the weather was perfect to cool off with the inflatable water slides.

With such an amazing staff at Coldwater we have had programs nearly every day of the summer. At the beginning of June we introduced several new programs like Teen writing group, Fossil digs in Kids' Place and Loud Library concert series for all ages. Erica, our kids place coordinator participated in Popsicles in the Park with Branch Intermediate School District. She talked about the library and the summer events with over 40 attendees.



June is Pride Month so we held a Pride Bracelet craft and 8 people attended. We have many more events and crafts happening the entire summer.

Lastly, we changed out both storywalks: Heritage and Waterworks parks. Have fun in the sun and visit your local library!



Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

Summer Reading is here!!! YAY! Lots of fun things happening!

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

- We kicked off our summer by doing Popsicles in the Park on the first Friday after school was out for the summer. We had the pleasure of having 185 patrons participate within the 2-hour program time. We had a big t-rex bounce house, sidewalk chalk, handed out bubbles and maracas to all the kiddos, a bubble machine going non-stop, a station where they could make gigantic bubbles, we did a couple rounds of a “book walk” – like the traditional “cake walk” but instead of winning a cake, they won a book, and of course, POPSICLES! Great Start Collaborative was there to talk to parents\kids about school. We all had a blast!
- The Quincy branch received a very generous donation from Mary Jo Kranz. She designated \$50,000 in her will/trust to be donated to the Quincy Branch. I did not have the pleasure of knowing Mary Jo personally but I have heard some wonderful stories in her memory. What an honor it is to be able to receive such a generous gift.
- Tracy and I decorated our branch to go along with our Summer Reading theme of “Unearth a Story” – it’s dinosaur explosion in here! Summer Reading, we’re ready for you!
- The adults created some really cool live edge signs that turned out really awesome! They also made pressed flower hanging frames that turned out adorable. Check out the pictures!



- Tracy went through our storage room – she cleaned it up, took out all the boxes and put everything in clear totes, then organized and labeled each tote. It looks great in there – she is a true rockstar!
- The Quincy Friends of the Library had their bi-annual book sale and did some cleanup of older materials that have been here for a long time. They got our basement looking really great and ready for more quality donations to come in.
- We replaced our story walk story for summer, put on our new green backer sheets (the part the book pages go on), and changed out all of the acrylics. Our story walk is sparkling clean with the most adorable dinosaur story – How Dinosaurs Went Extinct: A Safety Guide by Ame Dyckman. Come check it out!
- ****New to the Quincy Branch this summer**** We started a scavenger hunt in the branch this summer. I got a "gumball" machine to put prizes in. When the kiddos complete the scavenger hunt, they can get a prize from the gumball machine or pick a snack :) we're excited to start this, this summer! The kiddos have LOVED it so far!
- It was pretty noisy in the library for a few days this last month. Star of the West Milling Co closed in January of this year and now the mill is now being torn down.



Check out our event calendar and see what FUN, FREE, program you want to attend! I hope to see you there!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greetings!

May was a very hit-or-miss month for us here in Sherwood. Attendance for some of our programs was low, but we accomplished a lot of weeding and materials ordering.

Our Summer Reading numbers are slowly rising. I'm actually very happy with the participation we're seeing. We're just hoping we can get them all to stick with us to the finish line!

We have some amazing programs coming up in the near future and throughout the rest of the Summer. We look forward to seeing everyone!



I have diligently completed as much of my work as possible before June 26th. I will be off for a knee replacement on that day. I'm assuming it will be a typical six week recovery because I have some underlying issues beyond just a routine replacement. If I can get back sooner, I definitely will.

I hope to be back to see you all at our meeting here, in August. Until then, have a wonderful summer!

Best regards!

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

Summer Reading is finally here! Get ready to RAWRR into an unforgettable summer filled with fun and adventure. Meghan and I have been busy transforming the library, and now dinosaurs are around every corner! Stop in to explore our themed displays, discover new reads, and enjoy some Dino-mite jokes posted throughout the library. We can't wait for you to join in on the fun.



On Wednesday, June 3rd, I had the pleasure of attending the Union City Schools Career Fair at the Union City Field House. I connected with students in grades 5–12, sharing insights about careers in libraries, including educational pathways, essential skills, and training opportunities. As part of the event, students completed worksheets designed to encourage meaningful conversations with representatives across a variety of career clusters. These included Arts & Communications; Business, Management, Marketing & Technology; Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology; Health Science; Human Services; and Natural Resources & Agriscience—all aligned with the Michigan Career Zones model. Students asked thoughtful and engaging questions about my role, the challenges I face, and what might surprise people about working in a library. My favorite response? “I get to dance and be silly with kids during Storytime in my dinosaur costume—it’s a highlight of my day!”

The Summer Reading Kickoff Party was so much fun! I had the opportunity to help children “adopt” their very own dinosaurs, and their creativity truly shined through in the names they chose—Blue/Bluey, Chopper, T-Rex, Rexy, and Angel, just to name a few. You can’t help but love kids’ imaginations!

In addition, I’ve been busy working on fall planning and confirming some exciting presenters. I’m especially looking forward to introducing new programs such as Death Café and Curiosities & Keepsakes.

Looking forward to our Mad Science Dinosaur Workshop we have planned on June 9th where kids can explore paleontology through hands on dinosaur excavation, examine a real fossil, compare herbivore and carnivore teeth. participate in mini dig and a make a dinosaur tooth cast to take home.

Wishing everyone a wonderful June!

Submitted by Maria Rathbun

Outreach

The bookmobile doesn't have much space for Summer Reading decoration, so I am hoping to decorate the inside with coloring contest submissions instead. Our Butler visitors took several coloring sheets, and all of them intend to turn in their pages by the deadline. Attendance there has still been going well.

Since the bookmobile's delivery, we have had an issue with using the installed canopy. Essentially, the problem stemmed from a safety feature in the awning that makes it automatically retract any time we have to use the battery system that powers our computer equipment. Matthews Specialty Vehicles has finally worked out a solution! We will not be able to fix this problem before Strawberry Festival, but it will be fixed around the end of the month!

The bookmobile has been invited to a couple of events for Legg Middle School. One is an Open House just before the start of the new school year, and the other does not take place until March 2027. Both look like they fit well into our current schedule, and they would like us to provide library card sign-up and service information.

Lately, I've been working on a few options for having book displays on the bookmobile. There isn't much space to set up a display, and having to set up and take down a display at every stop seems like a hassle. Last year, especially when the weather cooperated, I used the exterior tv for a digital book display slideshow. I will employ the same strategy this year and attempt a few shelf displays (like the picture below). I have also made a few "shelf talkers" to recommend books based on themes or readalikes.



Cheryl Lawrence

Outreach Manager