

Algansee

It's hard to believe that summer reading is nearly finished.

We started summer reading with a dinosaur dig. The kids dug through layers of sand to excavate shells, gemstones, rocks and fossils. After each paleontologist had a bag full of finds, we went to the Dino Lab to finish cleaning and identifying them.

Amber and I both helped with the District SRP kickoff at Heritage Park in Coldwater. I met with our Friends group. They are giving school supplies to the kids who complete summer reading again this year. Which we appreciate so much!



The adults enjoyed painting honeybee gnomes. The following day the kids painted dinosaur cars. Each came with a trading card giving them information about their kind of dinosaur. Then they lined up at the starting line to race them across the library.

We shared our space with the Health Department and U of M Medicine again for community members to get help with their hearing aids and testing. It has been a great way for us to reach more people, and for our regular kiddos to wait and play in a familiar place.

The Dinosaur Bounce House was hopping with 76 kids, plus their parents/grandparents. We also had the sandbox and bubble machine for a quieter, sensory friendly experience.



Our kids learned about the Cretaceous Period while painting dinosaur suncatchers. The following week we cracked boiled eggs and dyed them to look like speckled dinosaur eggs while cracking dinosaur jokes and riddles.

There was a lot of teamwork to put 652 rubber bands on their dino egg (watermelon) before the top cracked and blew juice out the top like a geyser. It wasn't quite the outcome we expected, but it was good to see them evaluating the project scientifically to deduce why it happened. (Too much spread of the rubber bands, a very thick rind, and more circular than oval shape.)

Hatching Day was so much fun. Each child picked an egg from the nest and helped it hatch. After identifying their type of dinosaur, we researched what they would need for food and habitat and how big their new pet would get. Each kid got a new dino pet with an adoption certificate and trading card for their species.

New gutters and ice guards were installed on the building this week.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Bronson

Well here it is, my last board report.

I wanted my final summer to be filled with lots of fun, exciting programs, and couldn't have asked for better themes than dinosaurs and a 250th USA celebration!



Our Books and More program featured dino stories and a dino craft each week. Kids Create also had lots of dino/archeology themes. We did take a two-week break to help celebrate the 250th with all things red, white, and blue. Toddler Time and Friday Tales, I got to read some of my favorite stories to the kids again. Our Noon movie had great attendance in a nice cool room. Steve's Coffee House program was really hopping this summer with new tweens and teens attending.

The Bigfoot program was great, and I was glad we got to work with not only the Friends group but also the Bronson Community Foundation to really make it a community event. Other special programs were Dino Stories and Mr Jim's Can You Dig It program; Jessie's Adult Craft and her All Ages Crafty Craft program were well attended, with everyone going home with amazing projects.



We welcomed Alisha Morris to Bronson and she and I worked together to get the fall events on the calendar for the guide that will come out late August. Alisha was able to transfer her programs over to Bronson and it is exciting to see new ideas on the calendar. Alisha has been here working with me for a couple of weeks getting her head filled with all sorts of Bronson information. John, Alisha and I attended the Bronson City Council meeting.

The windows did get cleaned just in time for some really bright sunshine. And Good's was out this week to replace the air conditioner, just in time for some really hot temperatures.

I'd like to thank the Branch District Library board, past and present, and the BDL staff, past and present for 27 amazing years.

And as we end each storytime:

*We clap and say goodbye
We clap and say goodbye
With our friends at storytime
We clap and say goodbye!*

*We stomp and say goodbye
We stomp and say goodbye
With our friends at storytime
We stomp and say goodbye!*

*We wave and say goodbye
We wave and say goodbye
With our friends at storytime
We wave and say goodbye!*

GOODBYE!

Never stop reading!

Lynnell



Coldwater

WOW! There has been a heat wave of programs at the Coldwater Branch Library. We've seen thriving program attendance and offered noteworthy programs for our library patrons. This month we kicked off with Dino-Green Books; patrons came to sip on boba tea, relax and read a book.

The 250th America's Birthday Celebration offered a variety of patriotic games, crafts, snacks including a custom cake and a book display featuring historic items set up by the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Our library had the pleasure of hosting Michigan Notable Author and Illustrator, Zoe Persico. Zoe gave a fantastic presentation on how she found the motivation to write a graphic novel and discussed her ties to Michigan. For this event we partnered with New Story Community Books in Marshall, Michigan to sell Zoe's books and succulents!

Our most recent adult event was a "Tea Tasting Experience with Bevin Cohen." Bevin, the owner and operator of Small House Farms, came to share a wealth of his plant knowledge on how to blend and make teas. Our library guests sampled three different teas and then made their own tea to take home.



After all that, we have so many more programs scheduled before our month off in August. To name a few upcoming events: Gaming in the Park at Heritage on Monday, July 20, Backpack Bling, Prehistoric Pals, Armchair Travel, Fossil Inspired Jewelry, Story times and Dinosaur Habitats!

Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

Summer Reading is in full swing – check out all the fun things happening everywhere!

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

- Summer has been a VERY busy one so far! Only one week left – have you completed all your summer reading challenges yet?! We've done many super fun and well attended programs! We had Mike Familant give a presentation on his work and research of finding Bigfoot (super cool information!), we had Gordon Russ teach the kiddos some magic tricks so they could put on a magic show for their parents (they even left with a bag full of tricks!), Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary was back and taught us some great things about a few different reptiles, we did dinosaur taxidermy (they were able to mount the dino head or the dino butt – the kids thought it was great!), and we did Americana crafts all day on July 3rd to celebrate America's 250th birthday. Check out the pictures – we've been having a blast!
- We had to do a 911 order on summer reading prizes because we have been flying through them – what a great problem to have!
- Quincy had a district wide winner of the coloring contest! Ava F won the 6-8 year old category. She did a wonderful job – congratulations Ava!
- Tracy has been going through our shelves and making sure books that are part of a series are all cataloged properly and are easy to read/tell what series they are apart of. Our patrons are very appreciative of this. Thanks for all your hard work with this, Tracy!
- Fall programs have been submitted and are ready to go – excited to share the fun things we're going to be doing in the upcoming season!
- Star of the West Milling Co announced their closure of the wheat flour mill in January of this year and part of the mill is now torn down. But they made an exciting announcement - they are going to repurpose the site as a new, boutique, dry corn mill! The facility will be capable



of processing more than 21,000 bushels of Michigan-grown corn each day; producing a wide variety of both food-grade and feed-grade corn-based ingredients. This is great news for Quincy and the surrounding areas!

- Carol Ludlow, long time serving on the Quincy Advisory Board put her notice in that she is retiring from the board in October. Thanks for all you have done for the Quincy Library and community Carol!

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

While Traci is out on leave, Casey has been keeping the Sherwood Branch running smoothly. Smiles abound at all our programs!



Union Twp.

Happy Fourth of July—and America's 250th birthday! I hope everyone had a wonderful time celebrating with family and friends.



We are already halfway through our Summer Reading Program, and it has been a busy and exciting summer with activities for all ages. We had a fantastic turnout for our tie-dye program, where kids created colorful t-shirts, hats, and mini bags. Even with the rainy weather, we were able to move under the front awning, and it worked out perfectly. We had 4 adults for the Summer Canvas painting and they made some creative creations to take home.

Our weekly storytime continues to thrive, averaging around 20 kids each week—an amazing turnout! Kids have been enjoying dinosaur-themed sensory bins, STEM kits, puzzles, scavenger hunts, games and more. Coming up this month, we're excited for our Dinosaur Dance Party on July 14th—it's sure to be a fun event! If you're free that day, we'd love to see you there.

Meghan and I have been refreshing our displays, featuring themes like America 250, Dinosaurs, and Summer Fun. We also created special book bins to help participants complete their reading challenges. We have patrons coming in each week to claim their prizes.

We had many great coloring contests sheets turned in this summer and it was really hard to judge them and just pick one from each age group to be selected to be judge across the branches. Union had two winners' overall and they both were excited for their great prizes. (Abigail Y. & Katy B.) Way to go!





Hope everyone is enjoying their summer!

Submitted by Maria Rathbun

Outreach

For the first time since the bookmobile was delivered, we can officially use the installed awning and our regular operation equipment at the same time! This may not seem like much, but the awning is very handy on super sunny event days! While our bookmobile was at Stoops having the awning issue addressed, they also performed some regular maintenance and inspections on the vehicle. During their inspection, they found the bookmobile's horn does not work. Unfortunately, the awning fix took longer than anticipated, so Stoops couldn't look into or fix the horn issue. We will take the bookmobile back to them later this month to have that work done.



The bookmobile has seen more kids at our regular stops this summer than we did last year. One of our regular visitors in Butler even completed and submitted this year's coloring contest sheet! Unfortunately, the competition was fierce and they didn't win.

June's Strawberry Festival had perfect weather and plentiful attendance. Hops on Monroe invited us back this year, and we attended the event on July 9th. Attendance at Hops was not as high, but we did see around 60 people (most of whom were kids) come into the bookmobile to browse or check out.

I have finalized the new schedule for Pansophia classes to visit the bookmobile for the coming school year. I changed the day we visit Pansophia to a different week so it can be the only stop we have that day, give students a little more time to browse, and have a little more time between classes to check items in and shelve.



June 17 Folk Music Program at Maple Lawn

Upcoming events: Bronson Polish Festival this weekend, where the bookmobile will be a booth on Friday and in the parade on Saturday. Branch County Fair August 9-14.

Cheryl Lawrence,
Outreach Manager