

Algansee

The end of Summer Reading continued to be a hit with our fun theme this year. The kids had fun during our Dino Hunt program, and hung leaves everywhere to decorate.

We were excited to have 11 people signed up for Digging up Your Past. Brittany did a wonderful job teaching them the basics of genealogy and how to get started.

At a recent story time, the kids they wanted a deeper understanding of how the dinosaur bodies decomposed and how fossilized bones remained.

So we discussed the stages of decomposition and what minerals and chemicals can aid that process.



Digging Up your Past



SRP Prize Winner

We would like to give a special thanks to Ace Hardware in Quincy. Recently, strong winds damaged the chain holding up the library sign, and Ace Hardware said donating the replacement was their contribution to the library and refused to let us pay. Thank you!

SRP is a wrap with 153 kids completing! We ended things with our Dinosaur Tea Party, where the kids had a wonderful time with 30 in attendance!

And just in time for the rest of summer heat, the wiring issue with the air conditioning in the back part of the building was fixed and everything works. Yay!

Submitted by Teresa Shilling and John Rucker

Bronson

Being new to Bronson I wasn't here for a lot of the July festivities and SRP fun. But, I know Lynnell and the staff here pulled off a very large carnival in celebration of America's 250th and wrapped up SRP with a 40% completion rate—which as I understand it, is about average for the district.

The last couple weeks of July I spent my time shadowing Lynnell, trying to learn as much as I could before her retirement. I also had the great (and emotional!) privilege of being at

Lynnell's last storytime. She is so beloved by the community and it was great to see her celebrated.

The staff and I are looking ahead to September and doing lots of planning. I've reached out to the local schools and we're scheduled for three open houses so far. We have our flyers done and ready to go out into the community with the Event Guides once they arrive.

While we prep for this next event guide season we've started a couple of passives for August. There is a scavenger hunt (4-H Fair themed this month) as well as a trivia question. It's helping us offload some of the copious amounts of SRP candy we have, but also the kids have been really enthusiastic and excited about it.

While we have the down time we're doing a lot of collections work. Weeding, getting series pulled and labeled for our patrons, and doing some shelf shifting to make room for displays, seasonal children's books, and more.

Staying busy and excited for what's ahead as we resume programming next month!

Alisha Morris, Bronson Branch Manager

Coldwater

The Coldwater Branch had a Dino-Mite Summer! We are glad to all have a break in programs to rest up for a busy fall. We had 298 participants sign up for the summer reading program and 95 people complete the challenges.

To recap in July we had a total of 52 programs at the Coldwater Branch. Some of our best programs in July were; "Loud Library," the indoor concert series that became increasingly popular throughout the summer. The last "Loud Library" with Sissy SpaceX drew a crowd of 64 people. This is definitely something our staff and patrons both enjoyed and we will continue in the future.



Sissy SpaceX

The second program in July I would like to highlight was the video game truck and hamster balls. The company, "Big Tyme Fun," was at Heritage Park. This program allowed families to get together and play some of the newest game systems in a controlled environment and roll around in a huge clear ball.

I am so thankful for our library guests that give us such amazing feedback and support. I only heard good things about this year's programs. Here in Coldwater; I am so grateful to have such an amazing, talented, and intelligent staff. They all worked so hard to make this the best summer reading experience I've been part of.

We are all looking forward to the fall and stay tuned for a long list of amazing things!

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

Well, that's a wrap. Summer Reading is officially over. And everyone survived 😊 We had so much fun this summer!

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

- Summer 2026 was one for the books. We had SO much fun at the Quincy branch. Reflecting back on it will always make me smile. The excitement on the kids' face when they walked in and seen all of the dinosaur decorations – literally everywhere, hearing all the stories of different books everyone was reading, to handing out countless prizes – for completing a reading challenge, finishing up the summer reading program, or a grand prize winner. New this year the Quincy Friends group handed out backpacks with school supplies in them for completing the reading program this summer and that was motivation enough for a lot of parents to push their kiddos to finish. We had many kiddos come in daily – if not daily, then weekly – to do our different scavenger hunts we had throughout the summer. I'm very grateful for our "Unearth a Story" this summer. 🦖
- Our last two final programs this summer were such a blast. We did fossil making out of clay with Megan from the MSU Extension. The kiddos had a stencil they used to make their clay models on, then moved them to cardboard and made a whole picture on the cardboard. The kids loved this project! We also had make your own wooden dinos. They got to decorate their dinos how they wanted and put them all together. They are the kind of dinos you can take apart and put back together again. The kids ended that program with lots of hands on dino play under the table downstairs making up their own game. They all loved it!
- Our final Summer reading count: We checked out 2,300 items, gained 21 new library patrons, and answered 883 reference questions. We ended the summer reading program with a 55% completion rate, which is super awesome! Even more exciting though, the patrons that signed up for summer reading during the 8 week program (6/8-7/25) all completed – which means we had a 100% completion rate for those 8 weeks!!

- We have been doing so much fall program prepping, getting ready for a fun spooky season! With school starting back up soon, I've also got a good jump start on my storytimes for Jennings and Little Orioles!
- We have having a back-to-school scavenger hunt for the two weeks before school starts. The Quincy Friends group donated some super cute prizes for the kids that complete that scavenger hunt – a slurpy style cup with a fun swirly straw and straw decorations, a bracelet, keychain, pencil, and a couple stickers. The kids think they are awesome!
- You always know summer is coming to an end when fair is here. I was honored to work a fair shift this year on the bookmobile. It was quite a busy spot even though kids day activities were happening elsewhere during my time slot.
- We are ready for our school open houses! We're headed back to Jennings Elementary again this year and we were invited to attend Little Orioles Preschool open house this year as well! Excited to see some familiar and hopefully some new faces! Happy back-to-school time!



Check out the newly released fall event calendar and see what FUN, FREE, program you want to attend! There are SO many good ones all around the county! We hope to see you there!

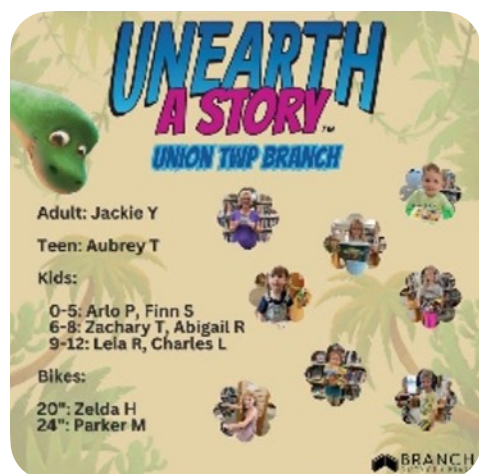


Submitted by Sarah Strong

Union Twp.

Hello August!

Summer Reading has officially wrapped up—and what a busy, fun-filled season it was! From engaging programs and exciting prizes to our Dino-mite performers, it was a summer to remember. Be sure to check out our Summer Reading winners—great job to everyone who participated!



A special shoutout to our Summer Reading sponsor, the Union Township Branch Friends of the Library. Their generous support made it possible to provide prizes and bring in two fantastic performers. We truly appreciate all that you do for this branch and the community!

A heartfelt thank you to our clerk, Meghan Babbitt, for her hard work and dedication over the past two years. Her creativity, organization, and commitment have made a lasting impact here at the library. We know she will do amazing things in her next adventure! The Friends Group and staff hosted a small send-off celebration on August 7th to wish her well as she begins her next chapter in library land.

Welcome Kelly Hulce!

I'm excited to share that the Union Township Branch clerk position has been filled. Please join us in welcoming Kelly to BDL and to the Union Twp. Branch! If you're in the area, stop by to say hello and introduce yourself. Kelly brings a wealth of teaching experience, creative ideas, and so much more. I'm looking forward to all the great things we'll program and create together!

Friends Group

The Friends Group will host their annual Back-to-School Backpack giveaway on August 19th from 1–3 pm. Backpacks will be filled with school supplies including pens, pencils, a folder, composition book, name tag, and even a water bottle—just in time for the new school year!

Looking Ahead

As back-to-school season approaches, we're taking a short break from programming this month. On August 20th, I'll be at the Union City Middle School Open House—stop by to say hello, grab some goodies, and learn about our upcoming fall programs!



Upcoming, please join us for a free online author talk featuring David O. Stewart on September 1st at 2 pm. In this engaging session, Stewart will discuss his book *The Democracy We Must Keep* and share a deeper understanding of American democracy and how it began and why it still matters. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with the author. This program is offered in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium.

Please Register here - <https://libraryc.org/uniontwpbranchdemo>.

Garden Club Donation

A big thank you to the Garden Club for refreshing the flowers out front and adding three beautiful new planters. They've made a lovely addition to our space—be sure to check them out!

Have an amazing month!

Submitted By Maria Rathbun

Outreach

Greeting from the bookmobile at the fair! The Branch County Fair is always an Outreach highlight during the year with lots of fun (and fair food)! We gave away bookmarks shaped like cold treats (ice cream, popsicles, and cold drinks), highlighters that look like candy, and bubbles for the kiddos. We once again participated in Kids' Day festivities on Tuesday and provided a craft activity: Pocket Pets! Kids took an empty tin down the table and picked out paper "habitat" cards (grass, flowers, rocks, sand, water, etc), a little plastic critter, a small square of fabric for a blanket, a tiny food item, and a tiny "toy" (a button, glass stone/bead, or a pompom) for their pet. At the very end of the table, kids could use stickers to decorate their Pocket Pet tins. A total of 221 kids and parents came by for the activity!



At the Bronson Polish Festival Parade

There are a couple of small schedule changes coming into effect soon. The bookmobile has added a new facility to its schedule: Lakehouse Assisted Living. This was a request submitted by facility staff, and our first visit will be Wed. Aug. 26th. The following Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, will be our first visit at another new location: Dollar General in California Township. We are changing the stop from the Township Hall in California to the Dollar General. We've not had much luck with visitors at the Township Hall, but we are hoping to see more come by since they may be already making a quick stop at the Dollar General. With the new school year starting up soon, we have finalized a new classroom schedule with Pansophia Academy. Pansophia now has its own separate day, allowing us to spend the entire day there (9AM - 3:30PM), spread out classes, and give students more opportunity to browse.

Upcoming events: Legg Middle School's Open House (Aug. 19th), Touch-a-Truck event hosted by Side Street Beer Bar (Aug. 22nd), Apple Festival (Sept. 19), Union City's Farm to Fork (Sept. 26th)

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence