



Algansee

Summer programs are up and running in Algansee. We have a "search and find" game in the library and anyone locating one of the ten farmyard critters gets a piece of candy. Tuesday story time started and between the two sessions we had 20 in attendance. We have had several patrons who just discovered the library in Algansee. Looking forward to them coming back and taking part in our activities. The Summer Reading Program is slowly picking up more people as word gets out.

Plans are underway to move the staff desk to the south end of the room to open the room up more for people to move around in. The Wood family is having a ceiling fan put in the large room which will help keep that area cool.

I attended the Algansee township meeting and gave the monthly report. Algansee Township has a web page now and they added a link to BDL and our activities.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Bronson

Eleven classes of kindergarten, first and second graders came to hear about the library. They were all very excited to visit and learn about the fun programs happening this summer. It was fun to see how many bugged their parents and actually got them to bring them back in to get cards, join SRP and check out books. It was wonderful seeing all those children and teachers in person again.

Summer Reading has been gaining steadily and we are adding new readers daily. Our story time, movie and teen/tween programs start this week. We have a "search and find" game going inside the library where people look for a critter, locate and capture it and bring it to the desk for a piece of candy. This game keeps bringing them back day after day. (Discount Foods of Bronson - 5 lb. bag of assorted candy for \$4.99!)

Attended the Bronson Township meeting to give a quarterly report.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

As summer approaches, we've been seeing increased traffic here at the Coldwater Branch. We kicked off in-person programming with Loud Library, an outdoor musical event featuring area artists Craig Brown, Casey Rowe, and Matt Biolchini that was organized by Public Services Clerk Ben Lyon. The diverse crowd included patrons of all ages, and over a hundred people attended this event! We will be following up with another instance of Loud Library on July 1st.

Teen Services Coordinator Lindsay Villa led local teens in the first of several writing club activities. The teens did individual writing exercises as well as a round-robin-style group activity. This weekend, Lindsay and the teens will be meeting in Rotary Park for a casual nature hike to take advantage of the great weather. We also have book page trinket dish craft kits available for teens, and, later this month, we'll be offering a cyanotype paper activity kit.

For children, Public Services Clerk Angie Richards and Kids' Place staff have put together exciting new grab-and-go kits for every week of the Summer Reading Program. Each week has a different animal theme that ties into the 2021 summer reading theme "Tales & Tails," kicking off with a set of bird-themed kits: feather sensory kits for young children, an owl craft for ages 2 to 6, and a bird feeder kit for ages 6 to 12. We are also offering cicada-themed activity kits for families to educate patrons about the emergence of the 17-year periodical cicadas this year.

We've coordinated with Coldwater Recreation to bring library programming to Heritage Park this summer. Every Tuesday from June 15th to July 13th, we will be joining a wide variety of presenters in the park near the rec center. Our first guest is Officer Zenia the bloodhound and her coworkers from the Branch County Sheriff's Department followed by the magical Mr. Jim and his Balloon Animal Kingdom.

On June 23rd and July 21st, the Coldwater Branch will be hosting the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency mobile vaccination clinic. BHSJ staff will be offering free COVID-19 vaccinations for adults as well as children age 12 and up who are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

We are closing in on the completion of RFID tagging at this branch! Tagging of the adult fiction is nearly finished, and juvenile nonfiction and the DVD collection are in progress.

Submitted by Keeley Briggs

Quincy

The RFID project has been completed at the Quincy Branch. We touched each and every one of our approximately 20,000 items.

Flag Day was an opportunity to hand out small flags to all ages, a patriotic Hershey candy bar and a pamphlet on Why is the flag is folded 13 times (courtesy of State Representative Andrew Fink upon my request). Many books on flag etiquette and patriotism were displayed to commemorate the holiday.

PCI (peopleconnectinstitute.com) offered a webinar on 'Tips for Virtual, Outdoor, In-Person Programming During COVID-19 Children, Youth and Family' was filled with great ideas and topics for future reference.

Following the Friends successful book sale, Tri-State Cleaning did a thorough job in our building and Clear View window cleaning is scheduled in early July. Our branch will be shining like a new penny!

Many children have signed up for the “Tails & Tales” Summer Reading Program and some have received their first few activity badges. One young girl completed all the activity badges in the first week. We all seem to have those exceptional, eager, overachievers.

We anticipate weekly backyard events and the return of the infamous Pet Parade the Quincy Branch had for many years. It is looking to be a great start to the summer, as we have seen many more children and families in the last couple weeks, making us reminiscent of 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

Union Twp.

The Union Township Branch has officially gone to the critters! As you saw at the May meeting, we have animals all around the building in anticipation of summer reading and all our programming will be animal themed including story times, craft kits and passive programming.

Our SRP will consist of a new craft kit every week during the program with each week featuring a different geographical area such as forest, farm and desert. In addition, we will be offering monthly teen and Old Time Craft kits along with special occasion kits (ie Father’s Day card). With the craft kits being our main focus, it was decided that each participant would receive an art supplies kit as their registration prize. Each bag contains a pair of scissors, ten crayons, two pencils, a pen, several bookmarks, an animal shaped eraser, a pencil sharpener, 6” ruler, and a glue stick. We are hoping they will appreciate their art supplies on our craft kits!



The reading program will start with the BDL game board through the Beanstack app with ten activities for the participants to do.

There are prizes for every completed activity including snacks, bracelets, and lots of books! After the participants have finished with the BDL reading program, the Union Township Branch has additional literary activities for them to do. The Summer Reading Challenges is a list of 13 different projects to do. The participants are asked to complete ten for a \$10 gift card to Union Station. If they do any more than the ten, they may select a new book from our collection of prize books. The activities feature different areas of the library with ways to appreciate them. For example, there is a prepared Animal Information Sheet for them to fill out using our new World Book 2020 Encyclopedia series. Magazines, poetry, and the nonfiction collections are also promoted. Other projects included in the Challenge are art, photography, poetry, Union’s Grab ‘n Go kits and writing. So we are ready to have fun this summer at Union!

Speaking of craft kits, we had several appreciated including a Mother’s Day card, Paracord Keychain, Memorial Day puppets, and Hand Quilting was the Old Time Craft offering. The Lit Kit was Flat Stanley: The US Capital Commotion and the families received small American flags and parachute guys along with the patriotic activities. The Spice Club offerings were Paprika and

Parsley. We also joined the rest of the branches in promoting 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten for the littlest BDL patrons.

I am continuing to work with other organizations in Union City to provide programs and activities during the "Celebrate the St. Joseph River" Day. I will be demonstrating hand spinning and we will have a Storywalk along the sidewalk on the north edge of Heritage Park. To promote the celebration, we will be offering craft kits during the month that require water or are related to the river. I will share more details closer to the event!

I am still appreciating the Shenandoah University Children's Literature Conference and enjoyed presentations by Jarrett Krosoczka, Oge Mora and Juana Martinez-Neal.

Thank you for your support!

Julia Baratta, Branch Manager, Lucille E. Dearth Union Township Branch

