

Algansee

Our little storage/work area is finally organized and has been very much appreciated the past few weeks. All craft items are clearly labeled and stored in the cupboards. We have a nice work table to prepare for our programs and have used it regularly.

Our Grab n Go kits for April were a beautiful Easter Bunny Bouquet, Fluttering Butterflies and Handprint Butterflies. Our adult craft was a Glob Painting and they all turned out amazing. Teens could make Shrinky Dinks and the Kids Craft was Duct Tape projects.

During story time I used books from the "My Spectacular Self" series. Colorful picture books that cover topics of Empathy, Resilience, Impulse Control and Tolerance. The children learned some breathing exercises to help them gain control of their emotions and I think that benefited the adults too.

New books continue to arrive and patrons are happy about that.

I was able to attend one evening of Kindergarten registration at Jennings School in Quincy. So great to be allowed back into the schools. Amazed me though how many people said, "Where's Algansee?" I may have to cause some sort of scandal out there so people know where Algansee is located.

We are working on summer programs and look forward to a busy summer.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Bronson

Through April I worked with four teens through the Bronson High School and the Connect Effect program. These four decided on locations they wanted to place Little Free Libraries in the area so the first step was getting permission from property owners. Next was deciding what the Little Library would look like. One of the teens family runs Little Hands Garden and was able to place one on their property using an unused metal toolbox (the kind you place in a truck) He made a stand for it and said his family had enough books they could fill it to get it started. We did purchase one from the official Little Free Library site and this one will be placed at Discount Foods. The rains slowed us down getting it in the ground. Another got permission from his father who owns the Strike Zone to place one in the lobby of the building. The fourth one will be placed by Ryan Elementary School since there are a lot of children living in apartments in that area. Each of these teens will be the steward of their library until they are ready to leave school and then they will find someone to continue the care of it.

The Construction Trades program at the Career Center expressed interest in working with us to build some libraries but the timing didn't work out. Hope to work out something with them this fall. On May 6 the whole group presented their projects to the community at a closing program ending this portion of Connect Effect. Very proud of the team I worked with. Sidney, Aricin, Nicholas and Haylie great job!

Our Grab 'n' Go kits for April included Weaving a Flower, How to Write a Sonnet, and a Clothes Pin Froggie. Kits went very quickly.

Crafts for the month, Adults made a Clay Pot Beehive and Kid's made Cupcake Liner Flower Wreaths.

During story time I used books from the "My Spectacular Self" series. Colorful picture books that cover topics of Empathy, Resilience, Impulse Control and Tolerance. The children learned some breathing exercises to help them gain control of their emotions and I think that benefited the adults too.

Anderson Elementary has asked for tours at the end of May and we have 8 classes signed up already.

A very busy month and now we continue to work on our summer programs.

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

Less than a month till school is out; and the moment we all have been waiting for... Summer Break! When summer break begins so does Summer Reading Program. Our staff has been working hard preparing for the kickoff event on June 2nd. With the weather improving so has the attendance in the library and with programs. Coldwater had a total of 4,398 people visited the library in April; which is a 39% increase from the previous year. The in-person computer questions/internet use was 278 for April and that is a 47% increase from last year. One of our most popular clubs is Anime night. Teens get together and share a cultural inspired snack; this month was Ramen noodles, and watch Anime. The Anime club meets on the last Wednesday of the month and in April had 16 in attendance.



Aviation History Program

For Earth Day the TAC teens and Coldwater BDL staff pitched in to clean up around the library. In addition, Coldwater gave out Tamarack Spruce trees for patrons to plant. Kids place continues to provide two story times each week and three themed grab and go kits each month. The grab and go kits are always a patron favorite and are a heavily requested item. Some of our kits this month include for Kids; May Day basket, Mother's Day finger painting, and Bird Feeder. Our teen grab and go is a painted, paper lantern; and for the adult's glass charms.

Some new things you will notice at the Coldwater Branch is the community puzzle table located on the second floor, in the Adult section. The new magazine holders also on the second floor in the Adult section. Teen Space received some new computers and Kids' Place is receiving new iPads. Finally, the building has been power washed and is prepped for exterior painting to start in the next few weeks.



Upcoming events for May!

- Harry Potter Movie Night, Yoga for Adults and Teens, Red, STEM- Make Your Name in Crystals, Red, White and Blue Wreaths for kids, Anime Club, Books and Brew Book Club, Walks and Talks Book Club.

Quincy

There have been so many exciting activities and new things happening at the Quincy Branch!

I joined the BDL family as the Quincy Branch Manager and I have to say the way BDL runs things is a breath of fresh air - it's been amazing so thank you! Also, after many years of wonderful service, Renee Hardy will be retiring at the end of May. Thank you for leaving your footprint on the Quincy Community, Renee! With that, we also have appointed a new Clerk for the Quincy Branch, Brittany Gemmill. We are very excited to help make an impact and serve our community.

Here is a summary of a few of the exciting activities going on at Quincy:

- The front steps that had to be repaired are now complete and they look wonderful!
- An Amish school brought in their preschool students for story time, which had 18 kids. Then they brought their teenage students in, which had 28 young adults, and Renee gave them a tour of the library. It was wonderful to have such large groups come visit the library!
- We had 5 volunteers from Quincy High School come volunteer and helped around the library. They dusted some of our bookshelves, washed our lego table and windows, swept the handicap parking area, and organized the Friends of the Library bookshelf for the book sale coming soon. We are very thankful they chose the library for their community service project day.
- Last but not least, we are getting geared up and excited for the Summer Reading Program kickoff on June 2nd.

Looking forward to much warmer days & sunshine ahead!

Submitted by Sarah Strong



Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood:



We're gearing up for SRP 2022, and have all of our supplies ordered for the summer.

We have 135 octopus craft puppets ready for the kick off of SRP at Heritage Park.

We're planning on a festive Shark Week (if they ever tell us when Shark Week is this year).

We've got Dynamic West coming for a program this year. They'll be doing their Caribbean Steel Drums performance.

Toddler story time is going great! We have attendance every Thursday morning.

Our programs are consistent. We don't always have a huge crowd, but we always have attendees!

Book and movie ordering are going well. I'll be using more of the Shamulus trust to order more talking books. The VOX books are popular, so I'd like to add to our collection.

We have many great programs coming up in the near future - please check our calendar of events. All are welcome to attend!

Until next month,

Best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



Union Twp.

We kicked off April with another scavenger hunt based on Easter and it was a hit! The patrons are enjoying the opportunity to learn more about the library along with “finding” the pictures. For May, we will have a bookmark scavenger hunt celebrating Children’s Book Week. Because of the popularity of the hunts, I prepared two of them so the children will have more opportunities to participate.



It was also Financial Wellness Month so we had several programs relating to money and budgeting. Brendon McCarthy from Edward Jones came to share a presentation on budgeting (4/5). For Storytime, we played with a coin machine and made paper wallets with money to practice with. The monthly Lit Kit was Count on Pablo and included word problems involving money in the activity sheets.

Our other craft kits included Patriotic God’s Eyes for Old Time Crafts (4/4), an Easter Basket for the Children (4/11), Fidget Bracelets for the teens (4/18), and Fruit Loop Bird Feeders for Creating STEAM (2/25). Dried Onion was the Spice Club selection and the library smelled really good after I packaged those! Our seasonal activity/coloring sheets continue to be appreciated.



The Roots and Shoots Seed Library has been visited and many packets of seeds have left the building, heading for gardens throughout Union City. The Fortunate Farms guys brought us another load of seed packets to hand out so a big thank you to them for their support! We have given out literally hundreds of packets and look forward to harvest time when hopefully some of them will come back in saved seeds! In May, we will be having a Roots and Shoots Live! program when we do container gardening (May 24 @ 5pm).

We celebrated **Drop Everything And Read** Day on April 12, Beverly Cleary’s birthday, with goodies and fun books to read aloud. We also hosted two teen programs in April with Miss Sandi.

I attended the Union Township meeting on April 12 and shared updates with them.



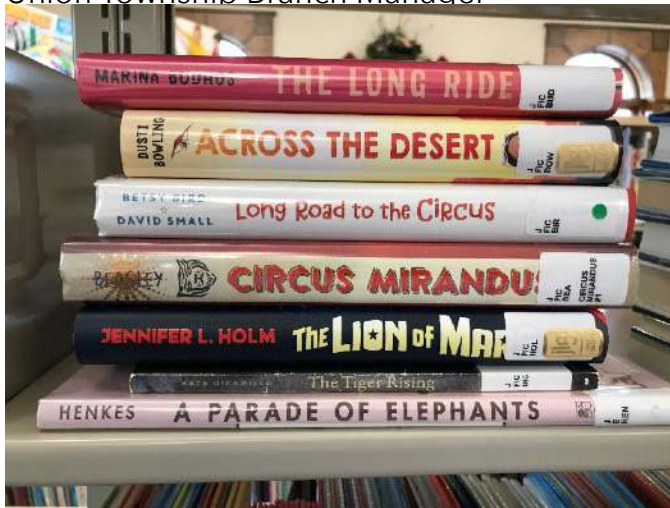
Miss Judy said her farewells on April 29 as she retired from BDL and working at the Union Township Branch. Many people stopped by to wish her well and I have had several express regret for having missed it. She is still planning to participate with the Friends group and support the library in that way. We are looking at

conducting interviews for the new clerk in the morning of May 16 so a new face should be appearing here soon!

Thank you for reading my report!

Julia Baratta

Union Township Branch Manager



Some samples of Spine Poetry created at the Union Township Branch for Poetry Month!

