

Alganssee

The beginning of August was a quiet month for us with many of our patrons preparing for the Fair. We were able to assist a local 4-H Club with preparing decorations for the stall curtains. It was well received by the community and we hope to expand in joint efforts with the 4-H clubs in the area next year. We also saw an increase in prints as the start of the school year came closer. Many of the Amish teachers came in to utilize the new copier. One young boy came in with his Aunt. He was eager to check out the first book in the Dick and Jane series. He rejoiced that he would be ahead off the rest of the class, since it is his first year.

We wrapped up Summer Reading Program and handed out the prizes. I had sent a postcard to notify one of youth SRP prize winners that she had won. She came in so excited to have a book of her very own. I got to explain to her what a narwhal is and where they are from. I'm sure she will have the most unique show and tell for school. :-)

We did some rearranging in the adult sections. Being able to display more books has increased the checkouts of the Archie Comics and New Fiction and Non Fiction titles.

I was able to work with the owners of Book Haven in Quincy to expand our Louis L'Amour and western collection at a discount rate. There had been many request from the Amish and English patrons for those novels.

We are excited for the upcoming fall programs that are just beginning. Our Tuesday Tales and Little Explorers groups are learning about farm animals this month, while our big kids are exploring chapter books. Last week's story time on the history and selection of graphic novels was a lot of fun. Then the kids created their own comic sheets. The creativity and variety was interesting to see. Our Adult Craft had all seats filled and we are beginning to see some teens at the Teen Crafts each week.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling



Bronson

Our Fall programs have had a great start with patrons attending and bringing friends along to enjoy the events. Kids Craft, Adult Craft, Toddler Time, Friday Tales, Homeschooling, Tween/Teen and our after school story time.

Steve's Homeschool program lost nearly all of the families who had attended last year, families moved away or their kids started public school. His first session had 3 children but the next week we had four new families come and had 21 show up for duct tape fun.

Attending the school Open Houses paid off by having a class of 7th and 8th graders walk to the library and get library cards and then check out books to take back to school with them. This was also big because it happened during September Library Card sign-up month.

The Media Center is getting used again after school which is great to see.

Our Friends group have been helping get the craft ready for the District wide Family Fright Night in October. We appreciate them helping cut out 300 bat wings, 300 bat heads and painting 300 mini spoons! If we would have had to do all that we would all be BATTY!

Submitted by Lynnell Eash

Coldwater

In Coldwater, we are jumping into new programs. The schedule is extremely busy and you can find something for everyone at the library.

September is library card sign up month and we are offering a drawing for patrons that sign up or refer a friend for a library card.

On September 1st we held our annual Spray Painting Event. Children, teens, and adults got to unleash their creativity by using different objects for stencils to design one-of-a-kind works of art. We also held a Take-and-Bake program for all ages. Library guests signed up for a demonstration on how to make a lasagna, then were provided with all the elements to recreate at home.



In August 5,740 people visited the library, that is a 37% increase from August of 2021. We also added \$2,990 in books to our collection. The Heritage Room had 63 visitors and has sent the local newspapers to Central Michigan University for microfilming. The parking lot was re-stripped at the end of August.



In an effort to spread the word of library events and services a table was set up at the school open houses for Larsen, Lakeland, and Legg Middle School. Jefferson and Pansophia were provided with informational handouts and stickers to promote the library. In addition, the library had an informational table at The Pride Festival and will have a table at Apple Fest.

A few upcoming events: Chair-ity Auction and Book Sale; for the Coldwater Friends of the Library, Saturday during Apple Fest. The Clothes Pin Wreath on Thursday, September 15th and story times every Tuesday and Thursday.



Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

Quincy

August was a very productive month, even with the pause we had with our branch programs. It was definitely a nice "break" getting prepared for fall.

Here is a summary of some of things that have been accomplished this month:

- We got all of our grab and go kits put together and ready to be handed out for September, October, and November. I love being organized and feeling one step ahead, so this feels great!
- Kimberly and I started organizing\cleaning out the branch a little bit, trying to tidy up and be able to know where things go.
- The Quincy Friends and I had a table at Quincy Daze. I was able to talk with quite a few different people about some of the things the library has to offer like story time, faxing, and our fall programs. This was a very fun event to work!
- Brittany and I attended Jennings Elementary School open house. It was so fun to see all of the little kids excited for school to start. We talked to a lot of the parents about what programs were coming up and quite a few took library card information home with them.

Very excited to see what we can accomplish in the next month!

Submitted by Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood!

I'm in the process of receiving a huge order from Amazon - lots of craft supplies and odds and ends that we'll be needing for the end of the year crafts and the beginning of the new year as well.

I ordered 30 Noah's Ark Babies for a program we'll be doing during Christmas break. So my programming budget is just about spent.

I'll be attending UC's Fire Safety program October 8th and was able to purchase a few fun things and crafts for the Sherwood table. I'll also be attending Family Fright Night that same day as a Fortune Teller! It'll be a fun but busy day for sure!

I attended the UC middle school open house on Aug 18 - I think I talked to almost 400 people that night! It was great.

We had an adult craft (flamingo sand jars). We had 4 people sign up, and two people actually showed up. It was a small program, but still we had a lot of fun.

Also we're starting our BYOY (bring your own yarn) adult program this month - hopefully it'll be well received.

Story time is continuing on Thursday mornings.

Until next month -

Respectfully,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

August was intended to be a break from programming but obviously, not a total break! We were hopping throughout the month with many projects in the works and plans for the future...

Both Andrea and I worked at the Branch County Fair in the BDL booth and enjoyed the experience. Traci from Sherwood and I covered the Union City Middle and High Schools, respectively, during the annual school open houses. I attended the Union City Council meeting, Union Twp meeting and met with the Union City Fire Auxiliary to plan for the Fire Safety Day.



I said that we would be working on new services for our patrons and we have done that! The Union Township Branch now offers potholder looms and round knitting looms in our Library of Things. We are very excited about the possibilities of items that we may have in the future and am planning with our patrons in mind. The next "things" we will be offering are cake pans and baking dishes. Very excited about these new items to check out!

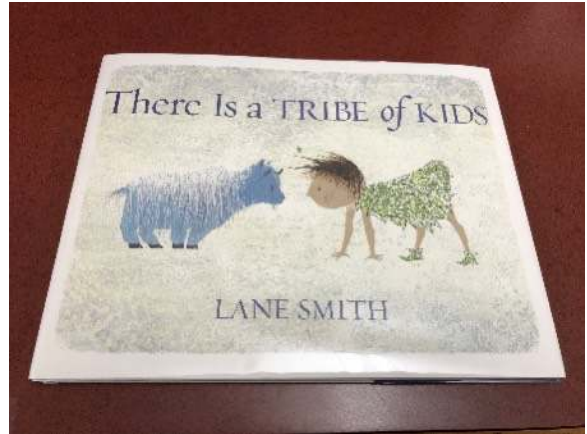


The next month will be very busy at the Union Township Branch as we participate in a number of community activities and events. September 24th will be the annual Farm to Fork event in Union City and the library will have an Old Time Kitchen Tools display with the option for the patrons to guess

what the name of the tool is as well as what the tool is used for. I am working with the Society for Historical Preservation in Union City to show some of their items in the display. There will be between 15-20 items for people to look at and appreciate.

On October 1st, we will have a Roots and Shoots Live! event at the library in the form of a plant swap. Fall is a great time to divide perennial plants and we are looking forward to sharing with the community! Everyone is invited to bring plants from their properties and they can take whatever others bring. This will be an annual program here at Union.

October 1st will also be the start of Union's participation in the Cultivating Community event. We will be featuring handmade textiles representing various cultures in our Fiber Arts/ Textiles Trunk Show. A StoryWalk® will be set up along the sidewalk with the book There is a Tribe of Kids by Lane Smith during the month as well.



Fire Safety Day will be held on October 8th with various fire trucks on site, a water hose challenge, the county smoke trailer, crafts, games, donuts, and the opportunity to meet the local firefighters!

This is an important program that showcases the essential services that the local fire departments offer.

Fright Night will also be on Saturday, October 8, and Union Twp will be represented with games and candy corn!

Thanks for supporting our work!

Julia Baratta

Union Township Branch Manager