

## Alganssee

We kicked off the 2023 Summer Reading Program with an Ice Cream Social and Yard Games while the Friends of the Alganssee Library held a used book sale. It was well attended and I look forward to having another next year. We have been reading books about kindness at our Story Times to go with our theme "All Together Now" and testing our ability to play with various disabilities. The kids have amazed me with their creative thinking to make sure everyone plays.

We created some beautiful cupcakes, cards and rocks to cheer up others and learned how to tie dye t-shirts. The adults made picture frames from recycled cardboard and patriotic wreaths with lots of chatting and jokes coming from the other room.



While enjoying Popsicles on the Porch we have been reading the nominations from *My Dog, My Hero*. The kids will be voting on their favorite nominee at the end of July.

Our outdoor Friday shenanigans have been a blast. We made our own homemade bubbles and had fun blowing them with random kitchen utensils as the bubble machine filled the yard with bubbles. The kids raced through the Obstacle Course and then began creating a fairy village in the yard. We narrowed down our fastest Soap Boat racers and the final show off was jaw dropping. One of the kiddos hit the boat just right with her squirt gun to have it race all the way to the finish line.

Our big event for the summer was sponsored by the Friends of the Alganssee Library. Mike, with Pint Sized Polkas did an amazing job and had the kids participating on stage, singing and dancing. We are still hearing some of the songs, especially the *Chicken Dance*, being sung by the kids.

We currently have 29 adults, 46 children, 15 early readers and 6 teens enrolled for the summer reading program. Many of the kids have been in redeeming prizes from the treasure box for completing activities. The Friends group has volunteered once again to give each kid who completes the challenges a bag of school supplies.



We have seen an increase in faxes and notary services this month. I am happy that people are utilizing the free services at the library. We also have the Quincy Schools Food Service Department here each Thursday from 11:30-12:30 with a weeks' worth of free breakfast and lunches for any of the area residents with children under 18. This will continue through July, with the last distribution being on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

## Coldwater

The Coldwater Branch has been an extremely popular spot in June. We hosted some very popular programs such as: Succulent Planting, TikTok Dancing, Nerf Wars, a Field Trip to the Firehouse, Birding 101, and a history of Gene Stratton Porter.



In June, we purchased \$2,000 in books for the library. We also had 6,123 people visit the library. We have also purchased two birdwatching kits for our Library of Things. The birdwatching kits include a journal, Birds of North America Field Guide and binoculars all in a waterproof backpack. Keep your eye out for new furniture; we have received most of our new furniture and it will be placed in all public areas of the library.

**Upcoming Programs:** Monarch Mania, Garden Delights, Flashback Game Night, Anime Marathon

and Storytime.



*Succulent Planting*



*Field Trip to the Fire House*

Submitted by Christina Holibaugh

## Sherwood

Greetings and Happy Summer from Sherwood!

It's hard to believe the summer is half over and the end of SRP is right around the corner. This year the Sherwood branch has 26 participants. 5 adults, 11 children, 4 early literacy and 6 teens. We've had a handful of finishers, but I expect that number to go up as we draw nearer to completion.

We had an adult program in June with Bobbie Mathis as our program host. We did canvas painting. I had 10 people register (max capacity), 2 were no-shows and 3 canceled at the last minute so we were unable to fill the empty slots. Nevertheless, it was great and all who attended had a wonderful time and Bobbie promised she'd be back again soon for another painting night.

I'm looking forward to getting a clerk back in here so we can get our programming back to where it was before April. It's been a long summer without one!

The first week of August we are set to begin some renovations. I've been in contact with our moving company, Mulder's, as well as Longstreet Living to coordinate our carpet project. I'm still trying to get a painter to commit to the floor painting that we're hoping to finish in conjunction with the rest of the projects going on at the same time.

Our village council has approved a building makeover this fall. We have contracted a local company to come in and reattach our overhangs that have slowly been pulling away from the concrete blocks. We will be getting new doors all the way around and the building will be changing from white to potentially a couple different colors of gray with a maroon stripe around the middle. It's been many years since this building has had any intense maintenance done so it may turn out to be a bigger project than what we are expecting, but we're prepared for whatever we encounter. There will also be several new support beams installed out front to help keep the new overhang from sagging back to where it has today. The rest of the summer and on into fall looks to be a little busy around here. I'll keep everyone updated with projects as we move along and will definitely be taking before and after pictures.

Until next month - best regards!

Traci Counterman,

Sherwood Branch Manager

## Union Twp.

Hope everyone had a wonderful 4th weekend and spent some time with family and friends! Union has very busy this past month!

- Summer Reading Program is ongoing and we have kids coming in daily to pick up their weekly prizes for completing their challenges. We are at our half way mark with Summer Reading and we have a total of 137 patrons signed up. (Adults 22/4 completed, Teens 26/ 2 completed, Kids 78/ 10 completed, and Early Literacy 11/ 1 completed) We are giving out books, footballs, bookmarks, free McDonald happy meal coupons, princess wands and activity booklets with crayons. When the patrons finish, they also receive a nylon backpack with prizes inside.
- A2 Magic Show on June 22 was a huge success with 60 patrons attending! All the kids laughed and thought the magic tricks were super cool.
- Community Unlimited visited the library June 20th & June 27th with over 40 kids and 5 teachers. The kids checked out and returned books, worked on a summer scavenger hunt, DIY Photo craft, and outside activities such as Giant Connect 4, Cornhole, and bowling. The kids also got to take home their beans that they started growing on their first visit at the library.



*A2 Magic Show*



- Edward Jones came and spoke to adults about future financial savings.

- Kids had a great time with the stencil canvas bags and really was creative with their bags. All of them were so unique!



- Lego Club is very huge and we have had over 20 kids each time we have had the program.
- Our numbers daily have been over 80 a day most days and some days over 100 with patrons picking up holds, kids playing games on the computers or board games we get out for them, adults faxing and printing, and kids picking up prizes.
- We had Union City Police Department come and judge our coloring contest and they had a hard time judging because a lot of them were so good. We really appreciated them coming down and taking part in the judging.



- We have sent items over to get cataloged for the Library of Things. (Ex: Rock tumbler, loom kits, fruit pickers, fishing poles, binoculars, telescope and more to come.)

### Upcoming Programs

- Mr. Jim Cup Stacking on July 11th.

- Southern Michigan Bank and Trust will be hosting a Financial Literacy for Ages 5 - 15 on
- July 27th.
- Summer Reading Wrap Up party on July 31st.
- Partnering with Friends of the Library to collaborate back to school backpacks with some school supplies. We will have a meeting the first week of August to stuff the bags then have them available right as the kids go back to school at the end of the month. Friends of the Library will be ordering all the backpacks and paying for all the school supplies and keychains to be placed on the bag as well.

Andrea and I are keeping really busy over with summer programs, Community Unlimited visits, book orders, future programming ideas, moving items around and now making room for Library of Things. A BIG shout to Andrea and my volunteer Dusty for helping me in so many ways. Really appreciate you both with your great ideas and teamwork!

Submitted by Maria Piper

## Outreach

My first pop-up library at California Twp. Hall was 6/21 with assistance from Christina. Our only attendance was Mike, who unlocked the building for us and stopped by, and a couple passersby who asked if we were selling books, but this was about what I was expecting for our first visit. On the way back to Coldwater, we stopped at two nearby convenience stores who were willing to post signs advertising the pop-up library for us. Our second visit went about the same. We did, however, have one person who briefly stopped to browse! My expectation for the pop-up at California Twp. is that it will slowly increase in the number of users as we prove that I will be there on a regular basis and others spread the word.

I received Outreach agreements from both Butler Twp. and the Coldwater Lake Association, so I will be adding those to the schedule soon. I have yet to hear back from Kinderhook Twp., I've made contact with Girard Twp., and I am still attempting to work out something in Gilead Twp. Another area I wanted to make stops at was somewhere around Bethel, but my original location's contact was not interested.

Fair week is just a short time away! I've called the MSUE office and asked if they would be willing to mention in a weekly email blast, which goes to all of the Branch County 4-H clubs, about the activity kits I will be handing out at the fairgrounds. I called the Fair office and was given an estimated number of **716** 4-H'ers exhibiting at the fair this year. That is a lot, so I will be making 360 kits to hand out.

Submitted by Cheryl Lawrence