

Algansee

We are getting back into our normal routine. The Reading school bus is getting here forty-five minutes sooner than last year. With both Quincy and Reading matching up drop off times, we will be able to start after school programs a bit earlier. The copy machine has been busy helping the Amish schools prepare for the new school year. Seven school houses utilized us for prints in the past two weeks.

Amber made great use of our program free month to help plan the upcoming adult programs and give the supply room some much needed organizing. I took time off to volunteer at the Branch County Fair. I've also been preparing for our upcoming fall programs and getting our winter programs scheduled.

I met with the Friends of the Library to finalize plans for the Not-So-Spooky Library event. Each room will be a different adventure into a story with activities and treats. We will be exploring The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Magic Tree House, Hansel and Gretel, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, Goosebumps, Harry Potter and celebrating Winnie-the-Pooh's 100th birthday. The Friends will have their fall book sale at the township hall. We are seeking more volunteers for the trunk or treat that Saturday, October 10th from 2-4pm.

September is library card sign-up month. We added many new library card holders to our branch this summer and hope to see this trend continue. Our summer attendance was up 33% from last year.

The adult craft classes for September and October filled to capacity in only two days of registrations being open, so we are adding seats and moving the classes to the township hall to have enough space. It is good to see so many people utilizing our services. We've had patrons reserving the program room as a meeting space.

We've reached my goal of doubling our large print and graphic novel physical collections. I am pleased with how much more we can offer our patrons. Thank you all for your support in moving to our new building. It has made a positive impact on our community.

Submitted by: Teresa Shilling

Bronson

We've kept busy here in Bronson! We visited four area schools at the end of August and touched base with 510 students and parents collectively, giving out event guides to as many households as we could. We're hoping to hear from some of the early education teachers soon about how we can provide supplemental materials for their classrooms

We've had a great start to our autumn programming. Our Writer Workshop is already off to a very lively and fun start. Storytimes and pop-up events with the day-care next door are in full swing.

We're already planning for our winter programming, and it's been a great, collaborative experience here with the staff as we create and fine-tune our ideas together. Steve and Jessie have been a wonderful support as I've navigated my first full month here in Bronson. It's been a great experience talking about programming and changes for the end of this year and next year as well.

Submitted by: Alisha Morris

Coldwater

The Coldwater Branch had a nice month off of programs in August but we were still extremely busy with preparations for back to school open houses. With help from multiple staff members we were able to do a few firsts. One being driving the Bookmobile to Legg Middle School's open house. The second being welcomed at Jefferson Elementary's open house. In addition, we visited Pansophia, Max Larsen, and St. Charles for their open houses. We were able to spread the word on our upcoming programs, provide some fun freebies and highlight our fantastic free services for students. Our fall event guides were passed out to local businesses and at the back to school open houses.

We started September with a "Jump Back Into School" program. This was a free all ages program with an inflatable obstacle course and a pencil case full of back to school supplies. These items were purchased with a generous donation from our Coldwater Friends Of The Library. All month long we have some fantastic programs: tie dying, doll head necklaces, homecoming lab, book clubs and new for movie fans, a movie club.

Submitted by: Christina Holibaugh



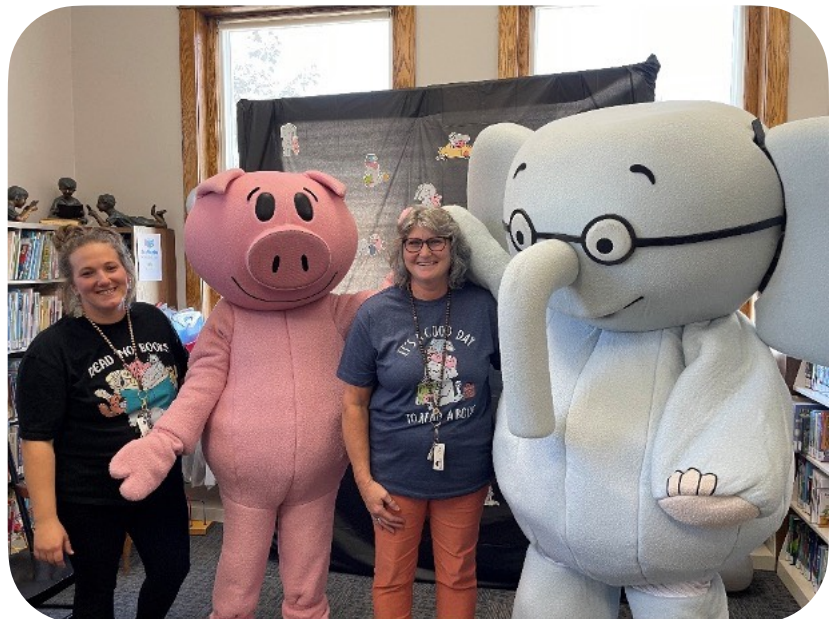
Quincy

It's hard to believe that summer is over and we're hanging on to the last few days of warm weather. But now onto my favorite time of year ... FALL! Or as some like to call it the "ber" months.

While we took a "break" from programs in August, we were still super busy and gearing up for a great set of fall programs and fun things to do in the library -

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

- We attended Quincy Daze and had some nice conversations with people as they came and checked out our booth. The kiddos especially loved being able to take a book home, along with some stickers, a smelly bookmark, and a fun pencil topper. This event is always so much fun!
- Piggie & Elephant stopped by the Quincy Library to meet some of their fans! We had just shy of 100 people come to meet Piggie & Elephant in 2 hours. We had some yummy themed snacks, 2 crafts, 3 games, and endless pictures of fun! A huge thank you to Rachel, Wava, & Terry for volunteering to help at the event & Meagan for coming over to take pictures! What a great turnout and so much fun! Be on the look out for the character day ... who do you think it will be this time?!



- I tried something new to see what kind of attendance and feedback I would get in the Quincy community. I hosted a book talk called Books, Coffee, & Conversation and we held it at Refuge Coffee House. The book we read was The Pumpkin Spice Café by Laurie Gilmore, and in the book, they talked about a pumpkin spice latte often – so Refuge made us just

that to sip on while we talked about the book. We all had really great conversation and those patrons would like to see a monthly book club here in Quincy.

- We hosted our annual stuffy sleepover at the library and as always we had a BLAST! Those silly stuffies did some crazy things - they played with legos, puzzles, scanned their faces on the copier, stuffed themselves into the gumball prize machine, and of course we read lots of books! This one is definitely a crowd favorite!



- Storytimes are back in session at Little Orioles Preschool and Jennings Elementary. It's always so exciting getting back into the school and seeing what kiddos you have in the classrooms that I get to visit every week. Needless to say, I think the kids and I are equally excited for story times this school year!
- We put in a really cute fall book in the story walk. The story we changed it to is: "The Pumpkin Thief" by Alice Hemming. Even though it's a children's book, it's a short walk with a cute story and activities to do on each page. If you haven't had a chance, be sure to check the story walk out *before snow flies* (sorry to use the "s" word here).
- I want to extend an extra "thank you" to my Friends group for being so supportive of all my crazy ideas but also for going the extra mile this summer with giving away backpacks to school aged kiddos with school supplies. I had countless patrons and kiddos so excited (and it gave them that extra push to finish the program this summer) that we were offering such nice prizes. Plus supplying the super fun prize for completing the back-to-school scavenger

hunt of a fun cup and straw, bracelet, keychain, stickers, and straw topper. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I hope you and your family are able to visit your favorite fall spot, a pumpkin patch, and the best cider mill you can find.

We have SO many awesome programs throughout the district for September, October, and November – be sure to check out our event calendar to see what fun activities you can participate in for FREE!

Submitted by: Sarah Strong

Sherwood

Greetings from Sherwood!

I returned for the last half of August and it was very quiet without programs.

This month, we're back to the grind with our programs and Story Times and attendance has been very good so far.

We have signed up a new library card or two so far for Library Card Sign Up month.

We are currently weeding our shelves to make space for new materials.

I'm nearing the end of materials ordering for this year and already looking at next year's release dates with great anticipation.

We have many great programs coming up soon. Please check out our event guide, we'd love to see you here!

Until next month best regards,

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

Falling Back into Programming Mode!

Although August didn't have any programs, there were still plenty of projects to keep us busy. Some of the highlights included weeding the library collection, attending the Union City Middle School Open House, and training for my new clerk, Kelly Hulce. Kelly and I have been busy moving sections around and created a new home for our holiday books. Our book sale area is getting a new look and since we have been working on it more patrons are buying some great new book selections for their own personal collection.

This month, we have a full calendar of great fall programs! Events include the All Booked Up Book Club at the Broadway Grille in Union City, International Dot Day, our Curiosities & Keepsakes Series, Hispanic Heritage Month Repujado (Embossed Tin Craft), DIY Flipbooks for National Comic Day, and Foraging 101 with Val Rossman. There is something for everyone!

Our first Death Café event was held on September 3rd and was led by Kristen Steckbauer. A few patrons joined us for a two-hour conversation about death and dying. It may not be a subject that everyone feels comfortable discussing, but sometimes it can be helpful simply to listen and hear what others are going through. You may even discover that many of us experience the same emotions at different points in our lives. If you are interested in joining us, our next Death Café will be held October 1st at 5:30 p.m. here at the Union Branch.

This month, we are also signing up for the annual Scarecrow Contest, sponsored by the local Garden Club. Kelly and I have some great ideas planned for this year's scarecrow! Beginning October 1st, take a drive through Union City to check out all of the wonderful scarecrow displays created by local businesses, and be sure to vote for your favorite.

Looking Ahead:

Bevin Cohen's The Art of Herbal Tea Tasting Experience October 29th at 1 p.m. Registration is required. I will also be finalizing my winter programs by the end of the month and beginning preparations for Roots & Shoots, our annual spring event.

Submitted by: Maria Rathbun



Outreach

Everyone is back to school, including the Bookmobile! We just had our first visit for the year at Pansophia, and will soon have our first visit at Waldron. This year, the Bookmobile will be at Pansophia for a full day from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This gives more classes more time to come in and browse, and library staff have a 10-minute break between classes to straighten things up and re-shelve. During our first visit, we saw a few classrooms who did not visit last year. We changed a few existing classroom cards to match a new teacher's name. One of our teachers from last year now has a 6th grade class, and he brought his students to the bookmobile at the end of the day so they could each get a Library 1 card! All in all, we saw 155 kids come to the Bookmobile, each and every one excited to pick out a book!



We received a request over the summer from a Bronson School teacher about the bookmobile possibly visiting the high school. The school has a library, but lacks a librarian, making the library currently unusable for students. As of writing this, the teacher I spoke with over the summer returned the Outreach Agreement signed by the school's principal just yesterday. I will start working out the finer details of our visits as soon as I am able.

In the meantime, please welcome Bill, our newest Bookmobile Driver! We are still in the process of onboarding Bill and will start his official training very soon.

In other recent Bookmobile news, we were chosen to receive a \$500 grant from the Lois Lenski Covey Foundation. This is a grant I have applied to before, which grants funds to bookmobiles for the purchase of children's materials. My goal is to use this grant to supplement my materials budget in 2027 so I can continue to purchase great books for kids and young adults while allocating more of my budget toward adult materials.

Upcoming events: Apple Festival (9/19), Union City's Farm to Fork (9/26), Halloween parades in October.

Submitted by: Cheryl Lawrence, Outreach Manager