

DATE: June 2, 2014

TO: Library Board, Pima County Public Library
Board of Directors, Friends of the Pima County Public Library
Board of Directors, Friends of the Pima-Green Valley Library
Board of Directors, Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library
Board of Directors, Friends of the Arivaca Library
Board of Directors, Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library
Pima County Public Library Foundation Board

FROM: Melinda Cervantes
Library Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – April and May 2014

Budget

On Tuesday, May 20, the Board of Supervisors tentatively approved the Library District FY15 Budget in the amount of \$37,202,853. Final Budget adoption is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2014. The Board of Supervisors will set the primary and secondary property tax rates in August 2014. Included in the FY2014-2015 Budget is a moderate Library District tax rate increase and borrowing nearly all of the remaining available monies in the District fund balance; the remaining fund balance will be less than 1% of the Library's operating budget.

Partnership/Grant/Donation News

- Friends of the Pima County Library donated \$50,000 to PCPL. We thank the Friends for their continued support of the Library's Summer Reading Program, ReadStrong, Family Literacy, Southwest Books of the Year, CreateIT and many other programs and services.
- The Library was recently awarded two LSTA Grants (1) *Acceleration Room: An Entrepreneurship Space at PCPL* (\$65,000) to create a pilot for an active learning space where people can find participatory classes on entrepreneurial thinking and support for starting a business and (2) *Talk, Read, Sing, Play* (\$20,000) that will expand story time, early childhood, and parent engagement services.
- PCPL was one of 30 finalists for the IMLS National Medal for Museums and Libraries, the highest award in the nation that recognizes libraries. While not selected as one of the top 10 award recipients, we are already winners, and we have a lot to be proud of at PCPL. The 2014 winners of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service are:
 - [Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N.Y.](#)
 - [Chicago Public Library, Chicago, Ill.](#)
 - [The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Ind.](#)
 - [Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, Las Vegas, Nev.](#)
 - [Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, Mo.](#)
 - [Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, Conn.](#)
 - [North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, N.C.](#)

- [Octavia Fellin Public Library, Gallup, N.M.](#)
- [Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, Okla.](#)
- [Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, Mass.](#)

The Pima County-Tucson Women's Commission held its awards luncheon and ceremony on May 9, 2014. Six Library employees were nominated and one, Caitlin Burns (Santa Rosa Library), received the Women in Government Award/Unsung Heroine Award. Unsung Heroine Award Nominees included: Sofia Blue, Quincie Douglas Library and Karen Greene, Joel D. Valdez Main Library. Leadership Award Nominees included: Mary Sanchez, Eckstrom-Columbus Library, Leanne Yoder, Murphy-Wilmot Library and Danica Stoner, Geasa-Marana Library.

Staff Retirements

- Gloria Federico, Circulation Supervisor, April 4, 2014 (40 years)
- Eddie Dembowski (aka Mr. Eddie), Children's Librarian, Nanini Library, April 18, 2014 (25 years)
- Tom Farmer, Business Librarian and Supervisor, June 6, 2014 (36 years)

Reaching Out

I have made it a priority to become familiar with our community partners and leaders throughout Pima County. Recent opportunities included:

Community Organizations

Friends of the Pima County Public Library Board
Literacy Connects Executive Board and Building & Governance Committees
Pima County Bond Advisory Committee
Tucson Festival of Books Steering and Authors Committees
Champions4Change
Blue Marble Institute
DKA Associates
Habitat for Humanity

Workshops, Seminars & Events

IMLS/MacArthur Foundation Reception and Learning Labs Grant Presentation
2014 Women in Government Awards Luncheon and Ceremony
25th Annual LULAC Youth Leadership Conference (Educator's Awards and Scholarship)
Eller College of Management 2014 Executive of the Year (Janet Napolitano) Luncheon
Friends of the Pima County Library Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
MEC Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon
National Library Legislative Day, Washington, D.C.
Public Library Association (PLA) Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, D.C.
Urban Libraries Council E-Rate Advisory Group, Audio conference
PEW Internet Study Presentation by Lee Rainie
IMLS Webcast: Learning Spaces in Libraries
Fifth Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. Wheeler Taft Abbett, Jr. Library

Community Leaders

Gina Murphy Darling, President & CEO, Mrs. Green's World
Dot Kret, President & CEO, DKA Associates

Bill Leedy, Interim Executive Director, MAC
Joan Clark, Arizona State Librarian
Brenda Brown, Chair, AzLA Legislative Committee
Nancy McClure, CBRE
Cheryl Langer, Library Advisory Board Member

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FROM: Karyn Prechtel
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Public Service Report - April 2014

Pima County Public Libraries celebrated Earth Day, National Poetry Month, and El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros in April. Staff also participated in National World Book Night and showed their appreciation for library volunteers at several Volunteer Appreciation events. We were also proud to host our first Homeschooling Fair for families exploring educational options. And as one attendee stated “Libraries are a homeschooler’s best friend!”

District 1 – Supervisor Ally Miller

Dewhirst – Catalina Library – Bethany Wilson

The Dewhirst-Catalina Library has begun prepping for a new quarterly event to begin in May. “**Saturday at the Drive-In**” will allow toddler and preschool aged children to enjoy a movie and a snack in our meeting room while sitting in their own “cars.” Work has begun on the cars this month and we are very excited to see how they turn out. Through the help of our volunteers, we have six cars (made of cardboard file boxes) currently under construction and they are looking mighty fine!

Oro Valley Public Library – Ruth Grant

On Saturday, April 12 the Oro Valley Library and the OV Friends of the Library hosted its annual **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**. Over 100 community volunteers attended: library volunteer presenters, library volunteer shelvees, teen volunteers and others, as well as volunteers for the OV Friends Bookshoppe One and Bookshoppe Too!, volunteers for the semiannual book sales, and volunteer advocates, and volunteer OV Friends Board members. Mayor Satish Hiremath, and two Town Council members were in attendance as well. OV Friends Board President Rick Johnson gave the keynote address about the changing role of the OV Friends organization now that the library is with the County, and Managing Librarian Ruth Grant spoke about how the library and the community not just survived the transfer, but is thriving. The evening was a celebration of all the

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talent, time and effort that our wonderful volunteers contribute each and every day. It was a very fun and healing experience for all attendees.

District 2 – Supervisor **Ramón Valadez**

Eckstrom-Columbus Library –
Mary Sanchez

On April 11, Eckstrom-Columbus staff presented an adult craft program at the **Freedom Recreation Center**.



Approximately 18 adults, many from the senior club, painted beautiful designs on terra cotta clay pots. Columbus staff was also able to provide info about other upcoming library programs for adults, such as Tai Chi, drawing & computer classes and job help. Several participants were surprised the library offered such great programming and said they would be coming to the branch more often.

Our incredibly dedicated **AARP Volunteers** finished providing free Tax-Help at Eckstrom-Columbus library on Tuesday, April 15. They stayed an extra two hours on the last day to serve as many tax filers as possible, which ended up being 59 people that day alone! Over the course of three months, AARP provided 22 tax-help sessions at Columbus to 962 people who needed their services.

In celebration of **El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros** (Children's Day/Book Day), Eckstrom-Columbus hosted a “We're All Superheroes” Program on April 19! Children created their own comics and made their own super costumes including masks and cuffs. They participated in hero training and captured a photo using the library's green screen! The first 50 kids received their very own cape, sewed by super volunteers from the Green Valley Library!

Quincie Douglas Library – Sharla Darby

On April 13, eight people attended a talk by Geraldine Connolly, a docent of the University of Arizona Poetry Center, entitled **The Power of Poetry**. After a brief talk about how poetry happens and how it can be made to happen through writing practice, Gerry led participants through several writing exercises that spurred some really interesting results!



Later in April, the Quincie Douglas Library hosted four more fun programs for customers of various ages on topics as divergent as non-chemical control of insects and martial arts skills. We had an especially eager crowd of children, teens, and adults for our annual “Build a World” program on Earth Day April 22. At this event participants are encouraged to create imaginative worlds (past, present, or future) with craft items that are all recyclable, reclaimed, or repurposed. If you can tape it, glue it, suspend it, or staple it, then it can be added to a futuristic farm, cityscape, or urban park environment.

Sahuarita Library – Michele White

The Sahuarita Library will celebrate **El día de los niños/El día de los libros** (Children's Day/Book Day) with the puppet show “Oink Oink” presented by Gwen Ray of Hanuman Puppet Theatre. Gwen's presentations are always enjoyed by both the young and old!



Sam Lena – South Tucson Library – Marissa Alcorta

On April 6 Branch Manager Marissa participated in **Cyclovia** by volunteering with the **House of Neighborly Service (HNS)** and **SAFOS Dance Theatre**. Marissa is a newly appointed member of the HHS board representing the library. She helped with the Colorthemural.com project during Cyclovia, which is a community mural art project sponsored by HNS, SAFOS, Local artist Mel Dominguez (a library partner) and Carla Turco. Community members participating in Cyclovia could stop at the Mural (set up on the bike route) and paint a part of the mural. It was a great turnout and the finished mural will be displayed at HNS as a commemoration of the center's 50th anniversary of service.

South Tucson will celebrate **El Día de los Niños** on April 29 with the interactive program, Fly Away, presented by Marge Pellegrino. Children will listen to the story *Abuela*, by Arthur Dorros, craft some wings and take flight, and end the program by writing a letter to someone they love. It should be a nice, interactive program for children and their families.

Santa Rosa Library – Susan Husband

On Wednesday April 23, Santa Rosa Library is participating in **World Book Night**. During this celebration of reading books are available to give out to community members. Family activities will include book related events, crafts and a gardening activity. Parents and children from the Family Literacy Program are expected in addition to neighborhood residents.

Every Saturday University of Arizona Honors Program students provide a program for our neighborhood kids that includes games, snacks and learning more about our world. We have signed up to participate in the **Global Art Exchange for Peace**. This is an international program founded here in Tucson, whose purpose is to promote world peace. Every other year groups and individuals can be paired with another person or group to exchange a piece of art they have created which expresses our desire for peace. We have learned that our exchange partner is Remuera Primary School in Auckland, New Zealand. We are excited about creating our art. During the last week in April we will be sending it to the Remuera Primary School.

District 3 – Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Chair

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Leesa Jacobson

Library Associate Coey Stern followed up last month's presentation on growing succulents with a hands-on workshop called **Creating Succulent Mini Gardens**. Participants were provided with materials, plants, and plenty of modeled instruction—and each one left with their own mini garden creation and a big smile.

Arivacans came together to nurture their “inner poet” during Poetry Month in a **Poetry Writing workshop** given by Tucson poet Norah Booth. Fun and feedback were the watchwords as both beginning and experienced poets shared their work and left inspired to keep on writing.

Friends of the Arivaca Library hosted the Library's annual **Star Party** on a clear April evening. It was a real family event, with all ages enjoying the numerous telescopes set up by the Sonoran Astronomical Society from Green Valley to view Mars, Jupiter, and many deep sky objects.

Flowing Wells Library – Karen Greaber

Programming highlights for April were the Silken Thread puppet play in honor of **Día de Los Niños** and our inaugural Minecraft program for teens.

Geasa-Marana Library – Vicki Ann Duraine

In April, Geasa-Marana Library played muse for community storytellers by featuring a month-long series of classes sparking creativity including a bookmaking class, a community poetry read, and a self-publishing workshop. Those suffering from writer's block could attend a Taste of Tai Chi class for center and balance.

Local families celebrated **El Dia de los Niños/El Dia de los Libros** with flowers and butterflies during a presentation of La Mariposa puppet show.

A special education class from Marana Middle School visited Geasa-Marana. Many got library cards, checked out material and sent us a lovely thank you note! Sam continues visiting Marana High School Teenage Parent Program to read and hand out literacy materials to the teenage mothers and their babies.

Nanini Library – Kristi Bradford

April saw the retirement of Nanini children's Library Associate **Mr. Eddie** who has been providing highly entertaining and literacy, science, math and history enriched storytimes to children (and now the children of those children) of the Northwest side for almost 28 years! Many well-wishers, and their kids and grandkids stopped in and attended storytimes during Mr. Eddie's last few weeks.

Very powerful photographs, mostly black and white, provided by **Canyon del Oro High School's Advanced Photography** students, have been a draw for many this month in the Nanini Library's lobby. In sharp contrast, but equally powerful, are the wonderfully playful and colorful drawings displayed throughout the children's area, done by the preschoolers at Sunshine School.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Linda Lam

The Salazar-Ajo Learning Lab is quite busy. In addition to the Certified Application Counselor from the Desert Senita Health Center helping a steady flow of persons enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace, many individuals have been using the lab to get signed up for insurance before Open Enrollment ends. Also, the Lab has been there to assist home school students with their assignments, some of them becoming regulars. Of course, there are always plenty of other students using the Lab for Homework Help. Jobs, careers and skills-building remain popular for customers as well.

Southwest Library – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros celebrations are big at the Southwest Branch Library! In honor of Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros, the Southwest Branch Library hosted *Crumpled* by Puppets Amongus on Saturday, April 5. The shows presented by Puppets Amongus continue to be a big draw for our community. It's always nice to see the children's area packed with families.

On Saturday, April 26, the Southwest Branch Library will participate in the Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros celebration at the **Ili Uusim Mahtawa'apo/Head Start Preschool** of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The festivities will include a blessing, storytelling, a science program, and lunch. The Southwest Branch Library will be sponsoring *Fire and Ice* presented by Mad Science. This is an annual collaboration between the Southwest Branch Library and the Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

On Wednesday, April 30, the Southwest Branch Library will co-host a Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros celebration at the **San Xavier Education Center**. The festivities will include a puppet show by Puppets Amongus, a book giveaway, and light dinner. This is an annual collaboration between the Southwest Branch Library and the San Xavier Learning Center Library.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Cat Strong

Librarian Mira Domsy worked with a team of about 6 people and 14 authors on the science fiction and fantasy programming track at the **Tucson Festival of Books**. All of the science fiction and fantasy programs were well attended, some even filled past capacity, and the authors were all very pleased to be in attendance.

The Abbett **teen WRITE Club** is slowly but steadily growing, and the teens are beginning to submit their writings to the library to share. Several teens submitted 7-word short stories, and one has even submitted the short story she wrote as a club writing exercise to be posted. Mira will create a Tumblr, <http://abbettwriteclub.tumblr.com> to share teen work.

Mira Domsy captained a library bed race team at the **Marana Main Street Festival: the Ravenclaw Racers**. All five participants wore costumes and were complimented by many attendees who were Harry Potter fans. There was also a library table at the Marana Street Fair and a librarian and a volunteer gave away books, flyers, bags and other freebies, while answering questions about the library. Everyone who stopped at the table was pleased to see the library represented, and several people were literally overjoyed to go home with free books.

Teen librarian Mira Domsky worked with the Abbett teen advisory board and Kendra Davey to put together a **Divergent movie release party**. There was themed food, games, crafts, and even some very nice prizes provided by Summit Entertainment.

