

**DATE:** September 2, 2021

**TO:** Library Board, Pima County Public Library

Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Pima County Administration  
Friends of the Pima County Public Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Arivaca Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Esmond Station Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Pima-Green Valley Library, Board of Directors  
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

**FROM:** Karyn Prechtel-Altman  
Deputy Library Director

**SUBJECT: Public Services and Community Engagement Report – August 2021**

I visited the Oro Valley and Flowing Wells libraries in August, and attended a virtual meeting with the Arivaca staff on August 25. I also attended a tour of the newly built Sahuarita Library on August 11 and was awed by its size and beauty. When it opens this fall, it will be a busy, well-used and well-loved addition to the Sahuarita community.

Earlier in the summer, we anticipated we would be able to offer in-person programming starting in September. The dramatic increase in Covid-19 cases due to the Delta variant caused us to take a step back and pause in-person programming until January 2022. PCPL Branch Managers met on August 19 to have another discussion about the public use of meeting rooms and study rooms and decided to not open the larger public meeting rooms this fall. Libraries will be opening their study rooms with a two-person occupancy limit, wherever possible.

**Program Manager for Literacy and Connected Learning – Kendra Davey**

Thanks to funding and support from the Arizona State Library, PCPL was able to add a new literacy service for families with limited internet access. The service is a phone line with recorded stories. Each week, children can call in and listen to a recorded story in Spanish and in English. The service went live in July 2021. So far, we have received 153 unique calls and 246 total calls. We have been reading stories from the Steinheimer collection of picture books about the Southwest.

**Library Services Manager - Amy Rusk**

I am so grateful to the wonderful staff members who have been covering in Ajo these last few months while we hire a new manager. Staff promotions and staff transfers throughout the system have brought excitement and adjustments for everyone.

We have one returning and three new University of Arizona Knowledge River graduate assistants joining our staff this year! They will be assisting across the system – helping the Communications and Systems Office graphic design team and Seed Library, assisting the Latinx Program Manager in the Community Engagement Office, working with the Valencia Library staff and their new 101 Space, and apprenticing at the Dr. Fernando Escalante Library on New Pascua while serving as a liaison to PCPL’s Many Nation’s team. Also this summer, the Literary Arts office is onboarding three Program Collaborators in Residence, who will be working

with me, Beth Matthias-Loghry, and Margie Farmer to promote and provide support for the Tucson Festival of Books and other large cultural events.

### **Program Manager for Workforce and Economic Development – Ken Zambos**

Pima County Public Library's Career Online High School staff continues to successfully hold virtual programming. Seven new students interviewed and received scholarships for the online program. They are scheduled to attend the new student virtual orientation in late August to enroll in their online courses. Career Online High School staff are excited to welcome new students into the program as they celebrate new graduates. Nineteen students have graduated so far in the year 2021, and several more are on track to graduate in the next few months.

Hopes are high for the online program as staff and students continue working together to ensure successful outcomes. Career Online High School staff and students are thrilled about the life-changing opportunities these fully accredited high school diplomas will bring.

### **District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott**

#### **Dewhirst-Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf**

Circulation at Dewhirst-Catalina Library has remained steady, excelling that of at least eight other small branches on average each week. Staff are motivated by this (and just good customer service) to find the books our patrons enjoy and to hook them on read-a-likes! Dewhirst-Catalina gave out the most books for summer reading we have probably ever given out, but certainly exceeding the numbers of the past three years. Young patrons are still coming in to display a reading tracker and get a certificate of completion. The library and locally made craft kits were a hit with kids and teens too, so we plan to keep making some about every other week. We have begun a partnership of loose sorts with the Pima County Community Food Bank in Catalina to place our craft kits in their food boxes, so we are doing some outreach when outreach is otherwise very limited due to Covid-19.

#### **Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres**

August brought about new developments with Dusenberry-River Library. An hour extension in opening time has been much appreciated by patrons. A return to school has also meant a return of the youthful energy after school from the school across the street. Friends of the Library is back at our branch with their satellite installation that is constantly in need of replenishment. *Virtual Art in the Afternoon* continues a successful launch with another presentation later this month. Our partnership with Pima County One Stop produced a wonderful career opportunity for our teen intern. All staff prepared for the relaunch of *Homework Help* to coincide with the beginning of the new school year. We are looking ever forward during this time at the experiences and challenges that lie ahead of us.

#### **Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns**

Nanini staff have been happy to still have leftover books from the Summer Learning Program for kids and caregivers to take home as the school year is kicking off. Thanks to a generous donation to the Library Snack Program Fund (and with special permission from the donor), we were able to purchase thousands of backpacks with PCPL logos for kids to receive at each library. One young preschool-aged girl was especially excited to get her first backpack ever; she proudly put the backpack on which extended all the way to her calves, as it was almost as tall as she was.

Nanini is steadily seeing more and more customers each week while circulation is rising and book lockers are getting more use. We are lucky to have wonderful and enthusiastic patrons who write us thank you cards, drop off treats for staff, and tell us daily how happy they are to be back inside the library.

### **Oro Valley Public Library – Pam Park**

This month Oro Valley Children's room is cheerfully welcoming families with a Dog Days of Summer bulletin board display. Dogs of different breeds in funny poses are surrounded by book covers of dog books. We continue to see large numbers of family groups in the children's room, mainly browsing and reading but also using the computers. The Teen Zone room opened this month for computer use and study space and use of the room is slowly building. We have been busy creating new library cards this month with a surprising number of new residents in the community. Circulation numbers for Oro Valley continue to be the highest in PCPL, averaging 4300 items circulated weekly. The Oro Valley Friends' Book Shoppe that is within the library building has continued to draw interested shoppers and is well staffed by a cadre of Friends volunteers. The branch Heritage collection recently acquired some new books, which have been a welcome addition to this unique collection. This month we have had a couple of inviting displays go up in the library. The Oro Valley Historical Society set up a new display in their designated display space on the history of schools in the area. We also have a display on the branch art wall by local artist Anne McGinnis Breen.

### **Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Meggin Kitterman**

Summer Learning Program Survey data confirms that families appreciate the support of the Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library and staff. Wonderful survey comments included: "Awesome service," "kind staff," "excellent employees" and "it helps me read more!" In response to customer feedback, the children's services team committed to continuing the success of summer learning by preparing and offering learn at home activities throughout the year.

This month, two San Miguel High School student interns started learning and working at the Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library. What welcome additions to the team, especially since circulation numbers continue to increase. The interns are learning the work of library pages. They also help library staff with the book displays, crafts and learning activities—library offerings the community anticipates and loves.

### **District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz**

#### **Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Lu Guerrero**

The month of August at Eckstrom-Columbus Library brought an increase in visitors, particularly families with young children and teens. The annual after school snack program had a highly successful start and members of the community consistently pick up the weekly family pantry packs, as well. Many young community members also claimed their free PCPL logo backpack to mark the beginning of the school year.

The library's Lucky Day book display has been very popular this month. A customer commented specifically on the name of the display saying that she always has that exact though when she find books in the display to take home, "It must be my lucky day!." A display highlighting BIPOC authors was restocked on a daily basis throughout August.

#### **Quincie Douglas Library – Marissa Alcorta**

Nuestras Raíces Committee staff have been working diligently this last month to plan the Mes De La Cultura virtual event (Global Arts Showcase) happening in September. This is in conjunction with the Welcome to America committee and Arizona Public Media.

On August 7, Quincie Douglas staff helped AZPM coordinate the filming of two Mariachi and one Folklorico youth group. Their performances will be part of the Global Arts Showcase to air virtually on September 22nd. This event will also feature a local tile artist Carlos Valenzuela and a segment on the Frank De La Cruz Latinx/Borderlands Book Collection. This will be a great way to celebrate Latinx and Mexican American culture with library customers in a safe virtual

way.

Quincie Douglas staff helped facilitate the Seed Library's *Seed for Thought Book Club* on August 12. This virtual book club was well attended. The book discussed was *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, & Solutions for the Climate Crisis*. Staff have been very involved in systemwide programming and promotion of the Seed library, also helping write and translate a Seed Library survey that focuses on Latinx community members and promoting the services the seed library has for community use.

**Sahuarita Library** – Sam Hennig

Sahuarita Library hosted a small tour of the new library on Wednesday, August 11. Staff are acquiring supplies and materials in preparation for our much anticipated opening.

**Sam Lena–South Tucson Library** – Kelly Wilson

Sam Lena-South Tucson Library began handing out our grab-n-go snacks this month. We are slowly building up to our usual numbers with families and youth coming in more each week. We continue handing out left over Summer Learning Books and our Grab-n-Go activities as well.

We changed our *Activitree* passive crafting table into our *Re-Leaf our tree* activity where community members share their creativity by decorating and contributing beautiful art leaves to the Re-Leafing process. Our Saturdays are seeing new faces and families who search us out as an open Saturday location.

As the central Seed Library branch for the whole system, we hosted a Capstone Intern from the UofA School of Information this summer. As part of his internship, he reached out to underserved communities with a bilingual survey to assess how the Seed Library can better serve them. We are still receiving valuable feedback from his efforts. He also helped us reach out to partner organizations to spread the word of our overflow of culled seeds that we want to share. We were able to provide a large box of seeds each to the Kitchen Garden and Owl and Panther so far. We also continue to disperse activities, books and library resources through our neighbors at Galeria Mitotera who are hosting weekly community gatherings at their Gallery.

**Santa Rosa Library** – Ivonne Ramirez

For the back-to-school season, Santa Rosa Library distributed backpacks and school supplies for families in the Santa Rosa Neighborhood community. The faces of the preschool and elementary aged students lit up when staff handed them pencil bags stocked with stationary items. The children are happy to be back at the library and have been successful at following Covid-19 precautions like wearing masks indoors and eating snacks outside in the garden. We continue to reach adults and children experiencing food insecurity through the grab n' go afterschool snacks and the community pantry in partnership with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

The beginning of school has also increased circulation of library WiFi Hotspots for students returning to online school. Santa Rosa Library serves as the point of distribution for customers in need of library WiFi Hotspots, to support students in areas with limited or cost prohibitive access to reliable internet infrastructures.

**District 3 – Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Chair**

**Caviglia-Arivaca Library** – Jodi Ohlson

The Caviglia Arivaca Library has especially enjoyed the monsoon season this year, with the desert covered in green, orange, purple and pink. Flowers surround the library, and our patio is busy with the activities of butterflies, finches, hummingbirds, cardinals, cactus wrens, a rogue

group of cowbirds, and the recently named Edgar Rice Squirrel. We have had several out of town birdwatchers here enjoying the patio and the easy access to the Bueno Aires National Wildlife Refuge. When children come to visit, they enjoy the birds as much as the books and *obstacle course*. Folks continue to come in for Summer Learning materials. In addition to the *Grab 'n Go Kits*, we created multiple activities such as: *Make Your Own Solar Oven*, *Where's Waldo Word Puzzles*, and *Happy Birthday Maisy Party Kit*. Youth of all ages come in and go straight to where all the kits are, looking for new ones to take home and try out. While we consider learning outcomes and appropriate age ranges as we create the activities, the kids do not seem to notice. They grab everything new to their eyes and unpack them like gifts, regardless of the intended learner. Additional summer reading and Back to School materials were shared with The Arivaca Preschool, The Arivaca Parks and Recreation Afterschool Program, The San Fernando Elementary School, and several local homeschooling families. Our *Arivaca Community Kindness Puzzle* continues to grow on the front of the building, and we continue to distribute puzzle pieces throughout the community.

In lieu of an in person book group, we have been featuring a new title every six weeks and having many one on one- six feet apart conversations with readers. Our *Arivaca Reads* title for August/September, *The Deep*, has been popular and has brought about thoughtful conversations among patrons. No debates on this title-everyone who read it loved it.

#### **Flowing Wells Library – Ingrid Trebisky**

The Library's hours now include a six pm closure Monday- Thursday. The Pima County Health Department set up a table twice this month to share community resources on Covid testing and vaccines. *Community Food Bank Super Snacks* for the new school year began this month. Along with this, blue and green backpacks with the Pima County Public Library name and logo were very popular giveaways for youth going back to school. There are still leftover books, pencils and erasers from the *Summer Learning Program* given to youth. It is very gratifying to hear the amazement and appreciation for all the stuff they get to take away besides checked out items.

Staff continue to stay busy, and find fun and interesting things to do. Some things this month were setting up *Staff Picks* book recommendations on shelving endcaps, eye catching pirate book display in the children's area, and a *Friday Tropical Day* dress up following up on Amber's Q & A suggestion. On a more serious note, many staff took the training for delivering doses of Narcan that are now available at Pima County Public Libraries thanks to the Pima County Health Department. Staff feel the responsibility of helping homeless people who remain in the library during open hours, and others facing eviction, or filing with DES. Once again, it is gratifying to hear thanks from customers for services provided.

#### **Woods Memorial Library – Em Lane**

Woods branch accommodated one youth intern and four teen volunteers this July. They helped with Page duties like sorting and shelving books, and the youth intern participated in the Summer Virtual Volunteer Interviews where teen volunteers interviewed youth from local arts organizations and asked about their experience at summer camps. You can see all the interviews here: <https://www.library.pima.gov/blogs/post/creative-ventures/>

The community puzzle was a big hit at Woods Memorial Library. Kids, tweens, teens, and adults alike participated by decorating a piece to fit into the collaborative community puzzle. The kids especially liked choosing where their puzzle piece should go on the board—often by their sibling's or friend's piece. A five-year-old girl wanted to make a new piece every time she came to the library and never seemed to run out of ideas for new designs!

Book circulation and numbers of youth and adult visitors to Woods increased in July and August. We were excited to see the faces of some longtime customers coming back and we are

welcoming lots of new members as well. Our hours shifted to 6pm most evenings and this allowed some people to come who were having trouble accessing our library because of their work schedule.

#### **District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy**

##### **W. Anne Gibson Esmond Station – Mary McKinney**

A patron who had been coming in regularly to sit alongside the window wall while using his laptop stopped by the information desk on his way out. He stopped to say, “I really love this library.” He explained that he was taking classes, “too many classes,” and he had been coming to the library to work on them. He told us that the environment was just right. He said he had just finished his last class, and that the next time we see him, he would be coming in just for fun.

##### **Joyner-Green Valley Library – Victoria Salajko**

Joyner-Green Valley Library Staff have been getting ready to begin offering holds pick-up service after hours, with our newly installed blue pickup lockers. The lockers are located to the right of our entrance, and will be available for use starting on September 1. Staff have been spending the month of August training on the new procedures for this added service.

To celebrate the end of summer and to acknowledge our community students returning back to school, staff created a Back to School Pictures activity. Visiting kids used provided supplies to create a picture about going back to school, or draw a self-portrait. Our bulletin board filled up with these unique creations.

This month, Joyner-Green Valley Library also became a distribution location for Narcan nasal spray, which can be used in the case of a known or suspected opioid overdose. This is part of a PCPL-wide partnership with the Pima County Health Department. We keep a small supply of Narcan on-hand, and can distribute it to patrons who ask. The PC Health Department will supply us with additional doses as needed.

##### **Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Linde Furman**

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library staff had an amazing summer serving our community. So many Summer Learning Program giveaway books were distributed to our families that it made us all dizzy with happiness. At the end of July, staff were treated to a special pie meet and greet event with Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library. The entire staff was very grateful for the sweet treat and the opportunity to spend time with the Friends and together. In recent days, we have made many library cards and have seen an influx of new customers and those returning to the library after going years without a visit to see us. It is wonderful to welcome new and returning members of the community into the library. We are also very proud of an article one of our staff, Belen Lindsey, recently wrote that appeared on the PCPL website. It details some of the very important reasons everyone should visit the library and why our services are so important.

##### **Miller-Golf Links Library – Kassy Rodeheaver**

With school starting back up, the Miller-Golf Links staff have handed out all of the Pima County Public Library branded backpacks we received to children. A family of three came in to the library to get their backpacks and were able to get pencils and erasers from the treasure chest for their school supplies. They had been to two businesses and had been unable to find any before their visit to the library, so they were very happy to get the library's school supplies! Another parent gave us feedback as well: “Everyone was so friendly and my daughter loves the library. She has always loved to read but now she likes to share, too. They (the library) have been so great through the pandemic, adapting and offering creative programs.”

Miller-Golf Links has recently been supporting youth workforce development through the Pima County Youth Work Experience Program and the San Miguel High School internship program by training three high school students how to do the work of library pages.

**Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny**

Murphy-Wilmot went a different route for our Back to School display this year and focused on Indian Residential Schools and their tragic history. The discovery of hundreds of children's graves at schools in Canada recently put these schools and Native American voices in the spotlight. Staff put over 40 items on display for this topic, including Children's, Young Adult, and Adult genres. The vast majority of these items focused on Native Americans telling their story in their own words. The display was very popular; halfway through the month, there were only 8 books left on it.

Murphy-Wilmot Library hosted the Living River of Words 2021 traveling exhibit in our children's area for the month of August. The exhibit is administered by the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Environmental Education Department. Fifty pieces of art, photography, and poetry were created by local children who shared the beauty of local watersheds such as the Santa Cruz River. A few entries were from children and teens that live in the Murphy-Wilmot area. Patrons of all ages enjoyed the colorful images and thoughtful messages about our environment. Additionally, 50 Nature-to-Go craft kits related to the exhibit were provided for children to take home to encourage awareness and interest in nature and art.

**District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva**

**Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Irina Delone**

The artist responsible for two of the paintings that adorn the walls of the Frank de la Cruz – El Pueblo Library, Victor Escobedo, visited the branch this month and donated books to the Frank de la Cruz collection. Mr. Escobedo reminisced with staff about creating the pieces in 2002 and donating them to the library that same year. He remembered that Frank de La Cruz was the manager at the time and was the one who got the art grant from the Mayor of Tucson to finance the artwork.

**Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross**

Our gate count has been increasing as more and more customers are returning to the library to check out materials, use computers, and ask great questions. Here is just a small sampling of a few favorite interactions from last month:

A woman dropped off a loaf of cranberry bread for staff to enjoy, thanking us for being present through the pandemic. A man was thrilled to find a Canadian atlas so he could find a route to drive back home to Alaska. A freshman from the University of Arizona who had just arrived in town announced that getting a library card was first on her list of errands. A young student checked out a pile of books about ancient Egypt, while his dad asked for a chapter book about pirates they could read together. A preschooler, dressed in a homemade cape and feathered cap, as well as his facemask, wanted to read picture books about superheroes – who were dressed just like him.

**Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Tenecia Phillips**

Main Library staff gave out over 300 books to young readers in the month of July, as part of PCPL's Summer Learning Program. The total number of books given out during the program was over 900! Our branch currently has two San Miguel interns working with us. The interns are assisting with shelving, shelf reading, labeling seeds, and making buttons for different teams throughout the library system. Since we are not currently able to do in person programming due to the rise in COVID cases, Main Library staff are providing other programming opportunities for

children and teens. Children can get Grab 'n Go activities to do at home and teens can pick up activities in the 101 Space. Activities for teens includes coloring pages for teens, origami paper and instructions, Sudoku, and a teen survey geared toward helping staff determine which programs teens might like to attend in the future.

### **Martha Cooper Library** – Tara Foxx-Lupo

As the school year gets into full swing Martha Cooper staff are seeing more kids and families visiting for books, resources, computers and homework assistance. Staff are on hand to help as needed with homework and research help and families are happy to have this help. Kids and families can also pick up a snack bag, a craft activity and some of the free books from our summer learning program. The Martha Cooper branch has given out over 1000 books through the summer months this year to help build the home libraries of our local families.

A new offering at the Martha Cooper location is part of a community wide effort to educate about the dangers of opioid abuse and to provide resources for those struggling with opioid addiction. Whether an individually or a relative, anyone can now request Narcan to have on hand in case they face an overdose crisis in their lives. The doses are injected nasally and are available to anyone who asks. In an area with high poverty, unemployment and addiction rates, staff hope this life saving resource will benefit those who need it.

Staff continue to work to create an inviting public space while other services are on pause. This month we added an ocean themed back to school display, which has brought joy and amusement to many and encourages readers to *Explore a sea of books*.

### **Richard Elías-Mission Library** – Alina Rowe

In August, the Richard Elías-Mission library continued to offer snacks provided by our partners at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. One day early in August a teen came into the library 15 minutes before closing to ask for a snack. Staff member Jesse provided the teen with snacks and a brand new backpack, the teen was excited and gave Jesse a fist bump and a “thank you” as he walked out.

The Richard Elías-Mission library gave away many new backpacks to many children and shared a box of backpacks with the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Library.

We had two patrons, a toddler and their parent, who love the library. They have consistently shown up at five on the dot and rushed to get their holds and check out a few books from the shelves. The parent has expressed that they have difficulty arriving any sooner. On August 5, this family arrived at 5:10pm and stayed for a half hour enjoying the library. The parent expressed gratitude that we had extended our hours as their child explored other sections of the library, including the art fixtures in the building.

We had a grandparent come in to the library and drop off thank you cards for Alina, one of the staff members who provided recommendations for their Grandma/Granddaughter book club. They were very appreciative and happy that their granddaughters were able to become more fluent in their reading and enjoyed the book recommendations that were provided.

### **Southwest Library** – Angie Grischkowsky

August has meant kids returning to the library after school to decompress, socialize, use computers, and get free Snacks. It's never dull when the after school kids are around! The start of the school year means that we also have Snacks available again – 5 days a week during our open hours. We have been spreading the word and getting Snacks into as many hands as possible.

We continue to see patrons trickling back to us after our long closure. We can always tell a long-time customer when someone says, "You're open!" with delight and surprise. We are happy that we can be here for our patrons again.

**Valencia Library – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch**

During the months of July and August, Valencia Library collaborated with Pima County's Health Department to offer COVID testing and vaccination. This was a concerted effort to reach the Latinx and BIPOC communities on the south side of Tucson, which experience lower testing and vaccination rates. Valencia Library was happy to be a point of accessibility to the community for these essential resources. Valencia Library is hopeful that the second vaccination event at the end of the month will be as successful as the first with over 35 people being vaccinated.

The Valencia Library patio garden is growing! The hibiscus and marigolds are blooming, the tomatoes are ready to eat, and there is even a baby watermelon. While there is no public access to the patio yet, there will be in the future. In the meantime, the public is encouraged to check out seeds and start their own garden. Additional Valencia Seed Library programming this month, included a distribution of Octopus agave pups and l'ittoi onions (part of a seed kit) thanks to the generosity of a donor and the Community Food Bank, respectively. Side note: While picking up the seed kit from the Community Food Bank, our talented library associate, Thania, ran into a former storytime family. The mom thanked Thania profusely for the wonderful experiences she provided to her little boys, now young men, at storytime. She was especially grateful because she firmly believes that Thania's storytimes really helped one of her son's, later diagnosed on the autism spectrum, with his language development. It was an incredibly heart-warming moment that served as a reminder on the importance of our work.