
DATE: November 3, 2022

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 Report – October 2022

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

The Tucson Festival of Books (TFOB) has been a major area of focus this month. Library members on the Book and Author Committee as well as the Steering Committee met several times to discuss the pairing of authors and the topics of conversation for the panels. Authors that the group decided to highlight for TFOB's Sneak Peek event next month, include Erika L. Sánchez, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, and Silvia Moreno-Garcia. Nuestras Raíces beyond excited and proud to be hosting these amazing Latinx authors. On a related note, I was happy to help the Dinner and Volunteer subcommittees of the Steering Committee find meeting room space for their upcoming meetings at a couple of our branches.

In addition to regularly scheduled check-in meetings with several of my managers, I had the opportunity to spend quality time at our Joyner-Green Valley Library. I was able to welcome and help settle in the new branch manager at that location. While this was a promotion for our new manager, she actually came to the library system with a wealth of managerial experience so it has been a smooth transition thus far. I honestly cannot say enough great things about Heather and her commitment to the Green Valley community.

Library Services Manager - Sharla Ronstadt

I managed a Detail Librarian III placement for the Miller Golf Links Library and assisted in the Detail Librarian II placement process at the Joel D. Valdez Library during this period. I acted as the Interim Manager, handling schedules, completing manager tasks, supporting branch staff, and working at the library until that placement was complete. In addition, I began supervising a new Librarian III Manager at the Wheeler Taft Abbett Library, providing coaching and support. I assisted the Trauma Informed Care and In charge Teams, attending meetings and helping with tasks as assigned. I completed the 1st of 4 sessions of the Public Manager Certification Program this month, attending weekly with several other Pima County and City of Tucson Employees. I also assisted the Substitute Librarian Supervisor as backup, making some timesheet changes and arranging a meeting with Library Service Managers to help clarify the communication process for future Substitute location changes.

Library Services Manager - Amy Rusk

This month a group of us - the managers of the Richard Elias-Mission Library and the Southwest Library (Vicki Lazaro and Maggie Dwenger), Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, the team lead for Many Nations (Sila Gonzalez), and I - met with the library staff at the Fernando Escalante Library on New Pascua to discuss our ongoing partnership.

In addition to monthly meetings with the managers with whom I work and the teams with which I work, I met with Christofer Cull, Internship Coordinator for the Pima County Health Dept. to discuss managing interns - as well as met with the Knowledge River interns working with PCPL to hear about their experiences. Members of the Kindred team and I attended the program, Amplifying Blackness in the Borderlands, which was held at the Sosa-Carrillo House.

With the Deputy Director of Public Services position open, I worked with various candidates to get ready for their interviews.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

Dewhirst-Catalina Library customers are slowly coming back for programs! We offered two all ages programs and one adult and one children's program in October with warm success. As we grow our Facebook and branch newsletter readership attendance improves. Crafting programs are proving quite popular while our first chess program had zero participants. A chess set out on the floor garners attention, so we will try a chess program on another day of the week. We are hoping for more activity in our homework help and tech help hours as well as the school year progresses and winter residents return in the coming months.

This month Dewhirst-Catalina Library handed out over 42 craft kits celebrating Mes de La Cultura month (a mini piñata) and the life cycles of both the dragonfly and the butterfly. The craft kits begun during the worst of the Covid pandemic remain very popular indeed as a way to bring home a smart and fun activity.

Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres

October has brought about relatively cooler weather and the most variety of programming options that we have had to date. Children and their families have not only had weekly *Family Storytime* but one week had the opportunity for *Yoga Storytime*. We still made space for weekly *Homework Help*; however, one week *Raising Nigerian Goats with Josh Banno* was a welcome respite in that space. Art and Art appreciation exemplified offering to teenagers through programs such as *Button Maker*, *Anime Screening*, *Teen Movie*, and *Teen Art Club*. Our *Teenage Advisory Board* started fresh with an entirely new cohort to replace graduating seniors. *Mapping Memory* and *Catch the Beat* challenged attendees to re-conceptualize creative writing and keep up with rhythmic drumming. While *Art in the Afternoon* reintroduced patrons to Van Gogh, *Frank Talks* reinvigorated dialogue on free speech. *Master Gardeners* rounded out the month with sustainable fruit cultivation for our region. In addition to consistent meeting room use by civic organization, homeowner's association, writers group and book clubs, we also welcomed Rex Scott and staff for a meeting with his constituents. We look forward to a promising autumn.

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Nanini has expanded its storytime offerings again to include three age-specific programs for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and an all-ages program for families. Family storytime has continued at Richardson Park since early spring. This partnership with the Pima County Parks& Rec and the Flowing Wells elementary school has been a great option for families throughout the year, and the incorporation of physical play allows for kids with more energy to focus on

storytime activities once they've been able to take a play break. Ms. Georgia the children's librarian has cultivated a regular and large crowd using this unique format.

Nanini staff started a Saturday afternoon program in October with rotating, intergenerational activities like crafts and Legos. Continuing programs include Job and Tech Drop-in Help, citizenship classes, and the Teen Advisory Board which meets twice a month and is gaining new members each session.

Narcan doses and gun locks have been highly sought after by customers in the Nanini service area; gun locks are always given out within a few hours of being replenished, and Nanini staff have handed out over 25 individual doses of Narcan since the beginning of October.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

This month customers traveled into the past to learn more about their present in two popular technology classes — *Introduction to Genealogy* AND *Ancestry.com for the Beginner*. Additionally, Pima County Master Gardeners returned to present their popular *Garden Talks* series last month, and this month's participants were delighted to attend another *Garden Talk - 10 Steps to Better Citrus*.

Our Toddler and Preschool storytimes started in August and continue to be well attended. Participants particularly enjoy the take home craft each week. A mom let us know that her daughter loved the craft so much one week that she played "pizza party" at home for the rest of the week. Our Builder's Club for ages six to 13 has been wildly popular and a recent anonymous survey completed by 20 parents and children indicated that they felt the program was "Excellent"; some of the parents would like to more programs for children five to eight and the children's feedback was that they wanted to take the Legos home.

At the beginning of the month, the Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library held its Autumn Book & Jewelry Sale, raising \$14,853.80 during the four-day event. Nearly 40 volunteers were busy setting up, tearing down, cashiering, and more. Customers purchased not only great used books but also used jewelry.

During Fall Break, Oro Valley's 101 Space hosted a practice session and a tournament for Mario Kart 8 Deluxe. Nearly 100 young customers attended both programs. Kids and teens polished their skills two days before the tournament, and then competed for trophies during the single-round elimination tournament day.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

Eckstrom Columbus Library expanded our popular story time to include three days and three age groups each week. We are now offering Toddler, Preschool and Baby story times every week and seeing great attendance. Our popular Teen Circle continues to reach a diverse group of teens and tweens who gather to talk, craft, game and engage. Our ELAA classes are seeing high participation rates and our first Digital Learn in español class *Internet Basics* was attended at capacity. Our bi-lingual Job Help continues to help a steady stream of job seekers each week.

We held a very successful Frank Talk *Cornerstone of Democracy; the First Amendment* where 26 community members respectfully discussed democracy and the role of the press.

We continue our partnerships with Veteran's Job assistance and Pima County Mental Health Nurses who provide outreach services each week in our lobby.

Quincie Douglas Library – Marissa Alcorta

It has been a month of community outreach for Quincie Douglas Library staff! It's been a great way to make those essential connections with community and foster those community partnerships.

Staff helped with the PCPL outreach table a Tucson Meet Yourself on October 7. On October 8th our children's librarian did an outdoor storytime at Desert Haven Natural Resource Park off Kino Pkwy and 36th. This was part of a partnership the branch has been fostering with Pima County Natural Resources, Parks, and Recreation Department.

Our seed library staff member participated in two outreach events (October 15th and 18th) promoting One Seed: Cempasuchil (Marigold) at Mission Gardens and also the community garden in Barrio Hollywood.

Our month of outreach was rounded out with a Halloween bash on October 15th, with staff dressing up and handing out candy, books, and other PCPL swag to all the trick or treaters at the Trunk or Treat event at the Quincie Douglas Center. According to City of Tucson statistics, approximately 5,000 people participated in the event that evening.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

Twelve participants joined us for the Desert Museum's Drawing Desert Life program and it was really neat! They brought in an owl and a tarantula and gave really clear directions on techniques participants could use to draw each of them. Our What's Up Wednesdays continues to be very popular. We average about 40 people each week, with families working on various craft activities. We've also got a core group of engaged Storytime families with mostly two to three year-olds and we're noticing the kids are getting to know each other better, so that's fun to see. The Babytime and Read to a Dog programs are also bringing joy to community members.

Teens and tweens love our study rooms! They've figured out how to reserve a space and use the Miracast system to connect their phones to the screen to watch shows or browse the internet. Sometimes they actually study or just hang out, laugh and talk, and eat yummy snacks. It's wonderful to see them so at home in the library.

Our Adult Book Club group read *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean and had a lively discussion. We also offered a Gentle Yoga class for adults where participants learned about mindful movement and yoga poses for strength, flexibility, and balance. English Language learners are in their fourth week of classes taught by Literacy Connects volunteers and the group seems to be enjoying their time together.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

October marked the beginning of the library's *Crafty Wednesdays*, scheduled co-currently with our afternoon snack program. Children get the chance to challenge their creative potential and take home a fun craft to share with others. Toddler storytime continues to draw families in weekly.

Sam Lena- South Tucson Library hosted two stand-alone programs this month. *Tucson Repair Café* partnered with us to invite attendees with items in disrepair to learn how to fix them with guidance from volunteers. Another well-attended program this month was Flight School: Aero Yoga and Creative Movement; youth and staff from the John Valenzuela Youth Center delighted in joining the fun.

October provide staff with consistent opportunities for outreach, as well. Staff were present at the Santa Cruz River Farmer's Market, providing information to the public on Seed Library services and more. Our branch Book bike staff and volunteer rode out to stock and maintain

neighborhood Free Library sites around Barrio Libre. La Galería Mitotera partnered with staff to offer a craft mask-making activity during their Día de muertos Ofrenda at the end of the month.

Santa Rosa Library – Victoria Villanueva

Santa Rosa Library is ready for fall! We have decorated and created new book displays to celebrate the cooler weather.

Santa Rosa is also preparing for the return of our annual Zombie Prom at the end of the month where patrons will get to do some fun activities as well as get ready for Halloween with face painting and mask making.

Santa Rosa has had an eventful month with program presenters from the return of the mini goats, to Yoga Story time, and a Tie-Dye Kick-Off. We are so excited for all the events we have planned for the rest of the year.

We are also happy to be one of the branches that get to continue pass out Covid tests to the community. Daily we have seen patrons come in just for a Covid test but stay for all the fun we have to offer.

District 3 – Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Chair

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

The Caviglia Arivaca Library began October by hosting *Arivaca Community Health Day* to introduce the new *Telehealth program* the library will be offering. Many local community non-profits were on site, as well as the Lions Club, University of Arizona Nursing and Telehealth Departments, Pima County Public Health Department, the Pima County Public Library and Bookmobile. We had live demonstrations of the Telehealth equipment, COVID vaccinations and boosters, vitals checks with Nursing Students, and stuffed animal surgery/repair by the local Preschool. Our Teen Advisory Board was essential to the success of the day, helping with games for children and assisting vendors with set up and break down. It was a grand community wide effort, on a lovely day in Arivaca.

The *Teen Advisory Board* also sponsored a month long *Halloween Poster Contest*, which had posters submitted locally and from the children at the Arivaca Preschool, Sopori Elementary and San Fernando Elementary. In addition to our *Annual Day of the Dead Shrine*, Library Associate Madian Romero created a wonderful *La Catrina Workshop*, which educated participants in the history behind La Catrina figurines while making them over the course of two days using Paper Mache and recycled materials.

Flowing Wells Library – Ingrid Trebisky

Staff have been making a number of library cards for school visits. The entire 4th grade at Homer Davis Elementary School received a library card, and visited the library for a tour and story time. Carden School also had three classes visit. The children's and teen librarian participated in Literacy Night at Robbins K-8 School. Students were excited to receive book giveaways and library cards.

Flowing Wells teens have been conferring with the teen librarian to plan and execute a Haunted House event in the community at the end of the month. This is a teen led event with the teen librarian acting as an advisor and mentor. The Code Club morphed this month into Teen Tech Time that includes video gaming and Connected Learning kits.

It was very exciting to have an *Arizona Humanities Frank Talk* this month on *A Free Press: Cornerstone of Democracy* at the library. The parking lot was full of cars, and the registration for

the class was full. One attendee showed up recently asking if there would be more talks like that, and said they loved Flowing Wells Library, and would start coming.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger

There is a high level of poverty and food insecurity in this community. The Ajo community is really embracing the Library food pantry. Visitors to the library are able to obtain Emergency Food Bags provided by the Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture. The library often finds itself requesting additional bags due to their popularity. Over the last seven months, more food has been added through both the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and through community members donating food. It is available every day during regular business hours.

The library was able to participate and perform outreach at the International Sonoran Desert Alliance's Pomegranate Festival. Community members were able to collect materials describing the Seed Library and also the winter seeds provided by the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

The Salazar-Ajo library hosted another vaccination event for the community and the Pima County Health Department was able to support it by providing more Covid Test kits to the community.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

During the month of October, Abbett staff and patrons excitedly welcomed the return of adult programs, Yoga, Drawing Studio and Master Gardeners. Patrons have also mentioned how excited they are for the program about Raising Chickens that will take place later this month on October 21. To get in the spirit of the season staff have created a spirit week next week where each day staff have a chance to come up with and wear creative themed costumes.

Children's services staff have planned a special Halloween themed story time, and will also be having a special Halloween parade for all of the children and families who attend next week's Pre-school story time. Staff will also visit a local pre-school for a special Halloween storytime outreach event.

Tween and Teen Services staff are also planning a special Halloween Event for tweens and teens next week that will give participants a chance to touch zombie brains, witch's fingers, and many other frightful delights.

Woods Memorial Library – Victoria Salajko

Woods Memorial Library added a weekly Storytime for Babies in October! So far, four families have attended, and we look forward to serving more. Staff is offering Storytime flyers to parents they see in the library, and Children's Librarian Meg is marketing both of our Storytimes to Literacy Connects, Head Start, and to Preschools in our area.

Our Read to a Dog program is expanding to two days a week in October. Tomi – (Golden Retriever) and Susan (Human) are launching a weekly Wednesday after-school option on October 12.

Staff members Maggie Madriz and CeCe Mendoza also represented PCPL at the Literacy Connects Hispanic Heritage Fiesta. They facilitated a bilingual Storytime, and gave away about 400 free books.

Interns from the grant funded Health Action Team helped seniors with their technology issues during Senior Tech Time on Saturday, October 22. The interns also met with PCPL CSO employees Renee Bibby, Carolina Caples, and artist Catherine Eyde to help the interns get

started on the Bookmark Project, where each will design a bookmark to be printed and distributed system wide later this year.

Some of this month's highlights from the Adult Services team include the English Language Adult Acquisition Classes hosted here at Woods is up to 25 attendees. We hosted our first inter-generational program, Senior Tech Time, where seniors could come and work through tech challenges with help from the youth participating on the Health Action Team. Additionally, our Adult Services Librarian CeCe Mendoza participated in an outreach even at the DREAM fair, on October 19.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

Artwork collection, *Color Me Happy!* by a local sixteen-year-old artist was on display the month of October. She said, "I hope to bring color and joy to others through my paintings and inspire others to do what they love."

Read to a Dog began on October 4 with Matisse, a Wheaten Terrier, who loves liver snacks, listening to stories, and spending time with kids who happen to think he's the best ever! In honor of Read to a Dog, pet photos posted in the lobby celebrated our best friends.

At the end of their three-week break from school, kids attended Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum's Meet the Neighbors presentation.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

Year-round customers and winter visitors alike were welcomed into the Joyner-Green Valley Library this month with a wonderful slate of programs. On October 5, the Tucson Museum of Art presented the first two of fourteen *Docent Art Talks* that are scheduled, two per month, October through April. The very next day the Tucson Audubon Society kicked off their five-week series of weekly presentations, *Habitat at Home Workshop Series*, with a presentation entitled, *Backyard Ecology*. It was followed by three more sessions on southern Arizona plants, irrigation, and pollinator gardens. The *Docent Art Talks* in particular were perennial favorites pre-pandemic so their return was highly anticipated.

Two different meditation programs, *Meditation for Everyone* and *Mindfulness Meditation & More* resumed their weekly meetings, and our monthly Page Turner's Book Club, which has met in person since June, read and discussed their October selection, *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women*. In addition, the six-member Bountiful Bluegrass & Roots Band performed as part of our *Music @ Your Library* program to a filled meeting room back in June and they returned this month to give an encore performance! Their repertoire, a mix of traditional American Bluegrass & Roots music and progressive country, continues to be a crowd pleaser.

The Joyner-Green Valley Library community really cares about its library staff! Patrons bid a fond farewell to Sam as he wrapped up his nine-month detail position as branch manager here and warmly welcomed me as the branch's new permanent managing librarian.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Linde Furman

Bear Canyon finished out an exciting October with many community groups and other county departments enjoying and utilizing our meeting spaces. We are pleased to now offer brand new meeting room tables in our large meeting room that are both beautiful and accessible, making room set up modifications simple and swift for any group using the space.

Our staff have been busy preparing for our first Sensory Program next month and community members are already getting excited for our first session on November 15. Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library have been very generous in funding this inclusive and thoughtful new program that considers the needs of neurodiverse children in our community.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Angharad Daly

Ready Set School continues to be a great success. We are wrapping up the program this month! Six families have attended each week. One little boy excitedly explained to staff how much he loves “library school”! During the October 18 program, the children explored balancing objects using wooden balances and different weights. A child who has been shy about participating in activities on other weeks really came out of her shell for this activity and tried out several different combinations of weights with her caregiver.

Library Program Instructor Sam Hammed's Digital Literacy Help program continues to see strong demand. He is consistently booked for all sessions! The community is very grateful that we offer such classes. This month, Sam has helped with everything from email basics to resume creation.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Murphy-Wilmot Library's Youth Services staff visited nearby Leman Academy of Excellence for an October parent's night. The event's target audience was children who are struggling with reading. Over one hundred children and their caregivers received bags with library information and goodies. Many applied for their first library card. We look forward to supporting Leman Academy of Excellence students throughout the school year.

The demand for Narcan has increased at Murphy-Wilmot Library. Staff handed out approximately 10 doses in just two weeks. One of the individuals requesting doses was a retired first responder who wanted to have it in his first aid kit should he need to provide aid. The man was very grateful that Narcan was being distributed at libraries.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Melissa Salazar

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library has started having presenters this quarter, starting with Kidz Art: Family Fairytales on October 17 4:00pm-5pm. This event allowed kids to be creative with art and use their imagination. Our next event for this month is Cool Capoeira for kids where participants learn Afro-Brazilian Capoeira music and dance, and fitness arts. They will also learn its roots, culture, history, songs in Portuguese, and traditional percussion instruments. Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library also continues to distribute Covid tests that our community is able to get as they need.

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library continues to have the presence of two Sheriff Deputies, which continues to help the drug issues we were having in our public restroom. The El Pueblo Center now has an *El Pueblo Emergency Alert* for the different agencies to notify each other of police activity in the center, or lock downs needed, and general safety notification for the different agencies. Now that the temperatures at night are getting colder, people experiencing homelessness have begun starting fires to keep themselves warm. On October 18, Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library found large scorch marks from a fire reaching up into the windows on the southwest corner of the building where the emergency exit is. Due to this, there was a strong smell of smoke in the library that day.

El Río Library – Jeff McWhorter

We have had another eventful month at the El Río Library. Patrons continue to show up for Job Help, Homework Help, and our Craftacular afternoon programming. We now do a craft session for adults alongside our regular program for youth. Community members expressed interest for an adult craft program, which we happily accommodated and we hope we can entice members from the nearby El Río Senior Center to attend as well. Youth are also spending more time in the library of late. A regular group of tweens comes in daily to use the computers, read and put books on hold, play board games, and make crafts. These youth have also taken an interest in our small garden outside. This month they planted kohlrabi, amaranth, radishes, and One Seed Pima County marigolds. Every day they take turns watering their little garden. Sprouts are not the only payoff from our patrons' library undertakings. This month two patrons accepted job offers due in large part to the time they spent at the library working with El Río staff on completing online applications. Lastly, El Río staff took library materials out into the community this month by participating in outreach events at Tucson Meet Yourself, Tucson Organic Gardeners Plant Fair, the AZ Trees Please Community Garden fall festival, the 25th Anniversary of the LGBTQ+ Services Committee with author Benjamin Saenz, and a UA School Garden Program Green Academy event. To top the month off, this morning we found an anonymous aloe plant with a smiley face sticker addressed to us in the book drop.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

Himmel Park Library has hosted Writer in Residence Adam Rex this fall and his one-on-one consultations have been extremely popular. Each week, four new timeslots open up for reservation, and these slots are usually filled in less than an hour. Once, it took only three minutes! One customer was so excited by the prospect of working with Adam that he picked a special outfit to wear to his consultation. In addition, several aspiring teen authors set up appointments with Adam. The parent of one of these teens said that she has noticed her teen's writing skills strengthen as a result of these sessions. She wanted to thank PCPL for selecting him, as he is really good at what he does.

Himmel Park hosted a three-day STEAM Camp for tweens during the October school break. Activities included a polystyrene plate printing activity to explore negative space and layering, a watercolor and plastic painting to learn about color mixing and layering, and an activity led by community partner MOCA related to exploring pigments and learning about the current Plein Air exhibition. All who came enjoyed themselves and learned something new!

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Em DeMeester-Lane

This month Joel Valdez Main Library hosted a reception for local Teen artists. Teens from across the County submitted their art to be juried by local artists and instructors. All participants' art was displayed this month in the gallery space on the first floor of Main. Over 40 teens and their families attended the reception where awards were distributed.

Early October was Tucson Meet Yourself and although Main is currently closed on Saturday and Sunday, we were still able to contribute to the annual festivities. Through a partnership with the Health Department, we were able to lend our Lower Level Meeting Room space for vaccination due to inclement weather. The Welcome to America committee was also able to do outreach on Friday which was very successful and a fantastic opportunity for staff to be able to get back into the community.

As part of a larger look ahead at what role the County plays in issues of food security, a small group of staff, including our children's supervisor, were able to work together to secure funding and acquisition of snacks for adults. Throughout the pandemic, one of the libraries greatest achievements was providing some relief for those experiencing greater food security needs. This acquisition marks a transition into continuing this important work as we move out of the

pandemic while these struggles remain. We are relieved to have a reliable food source to offer our customers in need.

Martha Cooper Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo

October was a month of fun and engaging programs at Martha Cooper Library. Storytime has begun to have a dedicated contingent of attendees coming on a weekly basis to engage with early literacy through songs, rhymes and reading.

During Fall Break for most of the nearby schools staff hosted a number of engaging programs for kids and families to enjoy during their time off together. Spooky Crafts was a staff led program with crafts like fuzzy spiders, eyeballs and other spooky and creative activities. Ben Franklin and the Levitating frog was a fun science program with lots of interesting gadgets to explore. Our last fall break program was a Balloon Fun program where kids made a myriad of fun balloon objects like hats, swords and other fun and goofy takeaways. Participants had a great time and only a few projects ended up popping.

As we lead up to our impending closure staff and the library communications team are busy getting the word out and helping our customers to identify alternate locations. Customers, while sad to see us closed, are excited for the changes and improvements that are coming to their beloved local library

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Vicki Lázaro

This month, the Richard Elías-Mission Library has worked towards strengthening our sense of community and collaborating with local partnerships to provide much-needed public services. In partnership with the University of Arizona's College of Public Health, the Richard Elías-Mission Library hosted the Primary Prevention Mobile Health Unit offering health access services via the mobile units targeting issues such as nutrition, obesity, diabetes, reproductive health, child health, mental health, HIV/AIDS, addictions and domestic violence. This is just one of several health service initiatives that our library branch has participated in this month, including COVID self-test and Narcan distributions.

Through our partnership with Literacy Connects, the library has begun to provide English Language acquisition classes for adults. This class is twice weekly. Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation used our meeting room after hours as a hub for a community forum on the bike trail.

We are focusing our energy on G.A.S.P!, our weekly game, arts and snacks program; in October we had fun with Cyanatopes and Sugar Skulls. As younger siblings have accompanied most of the tweens and teens attending this program, we are opening the program up to ages five+, acknowledging the demonstrated needs of our patrons.

Family Storytime officially started in October; on Wednesdays families and children of all ages were welcomed for stories, songs and crafts. Passive programming included a Paper Bag Scarecrow, Spiders on a Stick and a giant Halloween Word Search. Children's spooky drawings were hung on display in our art gallery.

Richard Elías-Mission Library created a community ofrenda and invited community members to bring in photos in remembrance of their family, friends, and other loved ones. On the ofrenda, staff have also dedicated a special space to the memory of Richard Elías, branch's namesake. This space includes a framed photo from District 5 Supervisor, Adelita Grijalva, who visited the branch this month.

In October we continued to use our newly-dedicated Teen display shelves to host a display for LGBTQ+ History Month as well as one featuring Reproductive Health for Teens. We also have a

newly organized community resource area with resources for teen and a little room for an extra book display. In October, this included a display for the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Teen Top Ten and another for YA Horror. We are experimenting with having a dedicated Teen Table with a passive activity; this month we are featuring Zines kits from the UA Poetry Center and writing prompts from the National Writing Project's WriteOut Initiative.

Southwest Library – Maggie Dwenger

The Southwest branch is gearing up for Fall library presenters starting this week with a number of fun activities for all ages including story times, crafts, and educational presentations. Our first event, a story time with the Desert Museum, was incredibly popular and patrons noted that they were excited for the almost biweekly events through December. We also continue our regular programming of Homework Help, Grab and Go Snacks, and GED help. Already this month we have had nearly 15 participants in GED help and over 100 snacks given away to children under the age of 18.

Southwest staff continue outreach and connecting with the community through meetings and presentations. This includes a meet and greet with District 5 Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, monthly meetings with the staff at the Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal library, and an informational presentation at a local elementary school.

We have also recently integrated Legos into our collection and have had fun inviting younger patrons to play and create, making for a lively library environment!

Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez

This month marked the return of regular in-person storytime programming at Valencia Library. Thania from the children's services team presented beautiful set of activities based on an item from our very own picture book collection *Amara's Farm* by JaNay Brown-Wood. In this story, Amara takes her pet and the reader along on a quest for a pumpkin on the farm using vocabulary for math concepts and science thinking, comparisons and rich imagery of different farm fruits and vegetables. There were 31 participants, comprised of 9 families with some familiar faces and some first-timers. By the end of the storytime, the new friends forgot about being shy. The kids and their caregivers got a chance to read, to sing, to dance, and dive right in to sensory and science activities with marigold and leafy vegetables from the Valencia Library garden and literacy extension activities with pictures and colors and self-made art about the farm!

Some of the parents and caregivers decided to spend some time in the library after the storytime was finished and looked through the library collection, pick up an event calendar for the branch, and were able to take advantage of the Food Pantry and children's snacks provided through the ongoing food programs.

The same day, Valencia Library hosted an afternoon painting program with library presenter Dolores Haro and saw some families from storytime come back for the painting program. The seamless interaction with storytime families, library programs, and the use of the collection and the resources available is a perfect snapshot of the current offerings at Valencia Library and the collaboration between the community members, customer service staff, and programming at the library.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Columbus Library – Henna Tattoos Presented by Vasilika Vanya Marinkovic, Reid Park Zoo to You Habitats

Flowing Wells Library – Haunted House, Arizona Humanities Frank Talk, Teen Tech Time, Family Storytime, Toddler & Baby Play Time

Himmel Library – Yoga presented by Vasilika Vanya Marinkovic

Martha Cooper Library – Spooky Crafts, Ben Franklin and the Levitating Frog, Balloon Fun

Oro Valley Public Library – Children's Museum: Messy Science, Mask Making, Counting Storytime

Quincie Douglas Library – Bookbinding programs, Pygmy Goats Program, Toddler Storytime

Santa Rosa Library - Tie-Dye, Yoga Story Time, Norwegian Miniature Goats, Mask Making