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**DATE:** December 1, 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 and Community Engagement Report – November 2022**

**District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott**

**Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf**

Dewhirst-Catalina Library was fortunate to be able to host a number of Friends-sponsored and staff-initiated programs in November. It feels good to stretch those programming wings again! Staff-led programs included Homework Help, Tech Help hour, and Chess Club. The Friends-supported programs were for various ages. For kids and teens we had a collage art program and robotics level 2. For adults we presented programs on how to keep a healthy brain, tree care, and birds of the southwestern deserts. Attendance is lower than before the pandemic, but word of mouth and our Facebook page are reaching more people and snowbirds are returning to the area. Staff are excited to begin the process of preparing for the next year and even more programs for our patrons. We also expect to be able to do more coordinated work with our partners the Catalina Food Bank as it expands and the Catalina Recreation Center.

**Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns**

Nanini had several hundred voters show up on Election Day for same-day voting and to drop off their mail-in ballots. Weekly Homework Help sessions have become more popular as word spreads in the area, and staff are busy brainstorming upcoming programs to start in 2023.

The nonprofit organization SaludArte will be connecting with Nanini visitors in an effort to increase participation from the 85741 zip code. SaludArte is working with the Health Department to create public art in each County Supervisory district. The art will be based on COVID-19 and its impact on different communities throughout the County. SaludArte staff shared this important information from a Health Department study about Nanini's service area:

*In District 1, we are considering targeting the 85741 zip code because it has the highest rate of COVID-19 cases within the district, the highest percentage of people living with a disability, as well as the highest percentage of people 65 and up who are living below the poverty line.*

### **Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks**

In November, Oro Valley was an Early Voting, Emergency Voting, and Election Day center. Voting brought many visitors and staff saw an increased demand for new or renewed library cards. We are also seeing a return of our many winter visitors for the season, as evidenced by our burgeoning reserves shelves.

Arizona Humanities presented *Chiles & Chocolate: Sweet and Spicy Foods in the American West*. Participants learned how food can be portals into culture — conveying a range of cultural meaning, essential in many rituals and customs, focusing on the rich and savory history of local favorites, and how they evolved and spread to all corners of the world. Another popular adult educational program, *The History of Honey Bee Canyon* was presented by local historian and author Jim Williams. The Oro Valley Historical Society hosted the program with the library to a full audience, who would love to see more local history programming with additional seating on the patio, weather permitting. Additionally, customers could choose from various computer classes, on topics of digital photography and buying new technology. New technology is an investment and this class filled up quickly; we plan to offer it again in the future.

Read to a Dog returned to Oro Valley Public Library this month with a soft launch. The program provides new readers with non-judgmental listeners. For many kids, that setting allows them to experience stress-free reading, to relax and have fun. When all the elements of the program are working together, students can move closer to becoming successful readers. We held a basic self-defense and awareness class for tweens and teens, which was fantastic. Parents complimented the instructor, Cesar Vinueza, as funny, charming and really knowing his stuff, in English, Korean and Japanese. He used several of the parents in his demonstrations, which was popular with the kids.

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

#### **Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson**

November brings a little chill to the air and the festivity of once again hosting *The Living River of Words: Youth Poetry Art Exhibit*. It is wonderful to be surrounded by the creativity and Earth Wisdom of our young community members at this time of year.

We have increased our weekly programming to include three storytimes per week, two afterschool snack days, Job Help, Teen Circle, Homework help and Crafternoons. We are also hosting *Beginning English Classes through Literacy Connects* which have been very well attended. Along with our staff programming, the generous Friends of the Library brought our Teens and Tweens some creative fun with *Try it! With Acrylics, Jewelry Design: Bali Beads, and Greeting Cards with Ignite Your Creative Spark*. *Toddler Yoga Storytime* was a big hit with parents and children alike. Tour de Biblio started their Fall bike ride here early one morning on their way to Himmel and Martha Cooper Libraries in a healthy, community event for cycling enthusiasts.

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

The Quincie Douglas branch has been busy this November with outreach visits, programming, art exhibit, displays and more. On November 2, Día de los Muertos, Library Associate Escarlen Chavez hosted a sugar skulls/calaveritas workshop, where participants decorated sugar skulls and learned about the meaning behind celebrating the Day of the Dead.

Staff made displays in honor of Native American heritage month, and also attended webinars highlighting indigenous authors through Arizona Humanities in Action. We have two local artists with works on display—Eldon Ward and Mike Krebbs. Eldon Ward paints vibrant paintings on recycled materials such as old doors, and Mike Krebbs paints beautiful nature scenes.

Children's librarian Brie Chillious participated in an outreach event at nearby Desert Haven Park, partnering with Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation. It was a free bilingual event with kids' activities, nature walks and more. The focus of the event on November 12 was Ecological Restoration.

We hosted presenters Martha Underwood, who taught an adult class how to make beautiful bracelets, and the Drawing Studio, where the instructor taught children how to create blue footed booby paintings—they loved it!

In our garden, okra and marigold seeds are being harvested. Our seed library was also replenished with more seeds gotten from the Sam Lena South Tucson Library.

Teens have a *shout out board* in the teen area where they answer a prompt on butcher paper. This month's prompt was *What are your goals for the future?* We also held our core programming of storytime, homework help and job help. We gave out many food items from the Agency market program at the Community Food Bank.

#### **Sahuarita Library** – Betsy Langley

We hosted the Brain Bus on November 16, an outdoor educational program for all ages facilitated by the Center for Neurosciences Foundation. Around 40 participants engaged in family-friendly activities focusing on the five senses. We're also seeing a steady group of regulars at our weekly Storytime, Babytime, What's Up Wednesday craft activities, and the Read to a Dog program for young readers.

Eighteen participants in the English Language class taught by Literacy Connects highlighted the end of their fall session with a fun potluck lunch. It was exciting to see the group bond over time and come together to celebrate their accomplishments. We have a couple folks attending our weekly Citizenship Class taught by an instructor from Pima Community College. Participants are learning about the process of becoming a United States citizen, studying U.S. history and government for the examination, and preparing for the interview. Eight patrons read and discussed *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas this month in our monthly book club for adults.

On Friday, November 18, we held a guitar concert by Peter Biedermann, a solo fingerstyle instrumental guitarist based in Green Valley who blends elements of American, European, and world music influences. The program also included some of the history and evolution of original fingerstyle guitar playing.

#### **Santa Rosa Library** – Victoria Villanueva

Santa Rosa is ready for fall! We have made displays for Native American Heritage month and a display to celebrate gratitude for the coming holiday. The weather is cooling down and our garden has been yielding their harvest! Our community has planted an abundance of beans that patrons have happily been able to pick and show off the fruit of their labor! We also had a great visit from the children's museum with over 35 Participants that got to express their feelings and read *It's okay to be different* including a self-portrait activity. We truly appreciate the children's museum for coming and helping us connect with our young patrons.

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

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

Flowing Wells Library is collaborating with Pima County Workforce to provide a Community Resource Navigator available to help patrons at the library. Ana Camarillo, the Community Resource Navigator, has become a popular resource for both English and Spanish speaking patrons to receive extended one-on-one help finding and applying for community resources

such as rental assistance, eviction prevention, home repairs, job help and more. Both patrons and staff have made positive remarks about the benefit of this collaboration.

The Haunted House was a great success with 87 attendees and 15 Flowing Wells Library Teen Advisory Board members running the event under Teen Librarian supervision. The Red Herring Show was very popular with a number of families attending, and patrons were also able to attend a *Wis for Worms* workshop taking home a worm bin constructed out of re-purposed materials.

Staff are excited to have an outdoor enclosed patio that was recently constructed. It is a beautiful, safe space for staff to enjoy during lunches and breaks.

#### **Woods Memorial Library – Victoria Salajko**

Woods staff enjoyed a presentation from University of Arizona nursing students about mental health resources in the community served by the Woods Memorial Library. Librarians Matt and Heather were particularly delighted to make connections with the nursing students in conjunction with the Youth Health Action Team and the Synapse Affinity Team.

Woods staff processed about 400 new library card applications for students from nearby Amphi Middle School this month. A conversation with the school's librarian sparked the influx of applications. We are excited that so many young people are connecting with the resources the library has to offer.

Woods Library also received a delivery of an additional freestanding book display unit. Book displays have been receiving a lot of attention from library patrons, and need to be refilled throughout the day. This month's displays feature materials to celebrate Native American History Month, cook books and gardening books, Spanish Language materials, new materials, as well as genre-specific materials to enhance browsing. This additional stand increases the book stand space by 33%, allowing the librarians to leverage their creativity even more.

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

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

A bear, a wolf, and an angel walked into a library... It was *almost* November when a favorite annual tradition returned to the library: The Costume Parade! There was also a princess, a sloth, a skeleton, a mouse, and Wonder Woman! Stories and songs came first, followed by a parade for treats (pencils, bookmarks, stickers), no tricks, around the library. The kids loved it!

Tweens and teens attended a hands-on robotics workshop on November 15. They learned the engineering principles of robotics as well as how to solder as they assisted with building a robot. The session also featured the Finch 1.0 robot designed at Carnegie Mellon University. The Finch responds to light, temperature, and obstacles.

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

Bear Canyon had a wonderful and busy November. As an early voting and primary election site, we saw lots of new customers visiting our location who arrived to vote and were also inspired to sign up for library cards while they were here. We hosted a traditional Tohono O'odham Willa music program in celebration of Native American Heritage Month and our Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library hosted a book sale in the lobby on the same day.

In addition, we held our very first Sensory Program for children ages birth-5. This program is for all children, but was specifically developed to serve neurodivergent children such as those with autism, ADHD, or other sensory processing differences. Children and their caregivers can enjoy

a variety of sensory experiences at different stations. The space has many features such as sand and water tables, light tables, and a special calm down space in a separate area if any children need a quieter space. Thank you to our Friends for funding this amazing program.

### **Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny**

Murphy-Wilmot was a hub of election activity in November. In preparation for the election, our meeting room was used to train hundreds of poll workers. On Election Day, 920 people voted at Murphy-Wilmot. Voters appreciated the convenience of voting at their public library and many took the opportunity to get a card or grab a book. We were pleased to serve our community in this way and enjoyed the interactions with customers exercising their right to vote.

Murphy-Wilmot is delighted to resume our partnership with the University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Program. University-trained speakers provide educational lectures to the community monthly. The November topic was *Cool Season Vegetable Gardening*. We are grateful to the Master Gardeners for enhancing our community's food security and sharing the joy of urban gardening.

### **District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva**

#### **Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Melissa Salazar**

Frank de la Cruz-El Pueblo Library has been busy this month with our Presenter Programs. On November 3, we had the Reid Park zoo present, *Zoo to you: Habitats* where children can explore how animals survive in the desert, rainforest, and savanna habitats, we had 30 participants attend. We also had *Kidzart Family Fairytales* where children were able to create their one-of-a-kind, take-home masterpieces. Additional program presenters we had for November is Capoeira which is an Afro-Brazilian dance-like martial arts. Frank de la Cruz-El Pueblo is also getting ready to start our storytime in January, and to prepare, our Children's Library Associate Brianna Veldaor went to Drexel Heights Community Center November 4 for a story time outreach and music with the Lil Reckers program for preschoolers. She read a desert themed book titled *There Was A Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea* then danced the Teddy Bear Song and the Hokey Pokey. The children were very enthusiastic with the story, following along with the rhymes in the book. They enjoyed dancing with the teddy bear props and practicing their dances with their teachers. Brianna will also be visiting this group at the Drexel Heights Community Center again on November 18 for another desert story time with the story *Who-o-o's Awake in the Desert* and some more songs.

Frank de la Cruz-El Pueblo Library continues to have the presence of Pima County Sheriff Deputies which continues to help the drug issues we were having in our public restroom. Their presence also helps make the staff feel safe while working. Frank de la Cruz-El Pueblo Library also had more security cameras installed on the premises, two more interior cameras and nine more exterior cameras, making a total of 13 cameras on the premises all together.

#### **Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross**

Himmel Park Library has been hosting an Intermediate English Language Class in partnership with Literacy Connects this fall. Our Adult Services Librarian recently gave the students in the English Class a tour of the library. The students were very excited to learn about all the library has to offer, especially resources in their native languages, programming for children, seeds, and Culture Passes. Out of the three students who attended the tour, two already had library cards, and the third was eager to sign up for a card.

On November 17, Himmel Park Library will host presenter Catherine Eyde, who will lead a card-making program for teens. The teens will create homemade cards for our Books on Wheels customers, who receive library books via bicycle delivery. The youth participating in the project

will not only receive service credit for school, but they will bring joy to some of our homebound neighbors.

**Richard Elías-Mission Library** – Vicki Lázaro

This month, the Richard Elías-Mission Library has continued to build community and offer important information resources to all ages. Mission Library hosted early general election activities and this certainly increased our gate counts.

In November programming, G.A.S.P!, our tween and teen weekly game, arts and snacks program; we had fun with henna tattoos, jewelry making, and book making. Our Children's programs celebrated Dino-vementer, Native American Heritage Month and Being Thankful, with activities such as a dinosaur scavenger hunt, coloring pages and harvest pumpkins. Family Storytime continued on Wednesdays where children of all ages were welcomed into the meeting room for stories, songs and crafts. Our Pop-Up Planetarium program was enjoyed by all ages.

We continued to use our newly dedicated Teen display shelves to host a display for manga style books based on recommendations from young adult patrons and have a *Fall Into Reading* display presenting books with fall colors on the cover page. Mission Library continues to gather feedback and suggestions from teens for our displays. Our newly organized teen community resource area is getting attention and offering great resources for homework help, job help and health resources for teens. Our dedicated teen table is also getting some attention and much needed input such as what titles to put out on our manga display.

In adult services, through our partnership with Literacy Connects, the library continues to provide English Language acquisition classes for adults. This coffee and conversation class is twice weekly and there is news we may be adding more classes soon. Mission also hosted a Grant Writing class that gained good feedback and a visit from some scaly creatures from the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum.

In partnership with the University of Arizona's College of Public Health, the Richard Elías-Mission Library hosted the Primary Prevention Mobile Health Unit for a second time. This month we have also been giving out hundreds of COVID self-tests and a few Narcan distributions.

Richard Elías-Mission Library is busy planning for a celebration in December. It is the long overdue naming dedication of the library that has been delayed due to COVID-19. This December celebration honoring Richard Elías will include speakers, mariachi music, folklorico dancers, food and refreshments. In addition, during the celebration, the Mission remodel plans by Line and Space Architects will be presented for the community to see.

**Southwest Library** – Maggie Dwenger

Fall continues with fun activities and regular programming at the Southwest Branch. Fall library presentations, especially geared toward children and families, have been popular at the library and we have enjoyed seeing people come in for fun activities like puppet shows, face painting, and crafts.

For Native American Heritage Month Southwest staff worked with the Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library to provide information and children's activities that highlight Pascua Yaqui history and culture. We look forward to continuing to find ways to connect with the Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library over the next year.

Regular programming of GED Help and Grab and Go Snacks continue to do well with several GED help participants passing exams and over 100 snacks given away already this month.

### **Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez**

October's literary-themed pumpkin decorating contest spilled over to early November. And the winning pumpkins, featuring Garfield the cat, Mike and Scully from Monsters Inc, and the Very Hungry Caterpillar found new homes through the Valencia pumpkin raffle. One of the winners was from a storytime family, who were excited for the win and agreed to pose for a photo for the Valencia Library Facebook page.

The library collection and bookspace is also getting spruced up. The Valencia Library circulation team and library page team have been working on a major shifting project to create more room for displays to feature new books fresh off the presses. Additionally, our new book display themed after the current world cup soccer tournament features a bright and lively assortment of children's non-fiction titles related to the participating countries from around the world and biographies from some of the renowned soccer legends.

Valencia hosted a very successful author visit this month, with local author David Damian Figueroa, who was referred to our location by Marissa Alcorta from the Nuestras Raíces senior leadership team. We had 32 people including various families with children join in for a special author-led storytime and book-signing event. The event was quite the success! And it opened the conversation to connecting with local authors for similar events in the library and the community.

### **Activities funded by Friends Groups**

#### **Friends of the Pima County Public Library**

Arivaca Library – Ice Cream Social, Free Book Giveaway

Columbus Library – Try it! With Acrylics, Jewelry Design: Bali Beads, Yoga Storytime, Ignite Your Creative Spark: Greeting Cards

Himmel Library – Catherine Eyde, card-making program

Oro Valley Public Library – Self Defense Class, Ignite Your Creative Spark: Collage Art Making, Self Esteem & Bullying Prevention Workshop