



DATE: February 2, 2023

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: Marissa Alcorta

Deputy Library Director

January has been a month of working on logistics in terms of which Library Service Managers (LSM's) will work with specific Affinity Teams. Also working on assigning LSM's to various work groups that need admin support and facilitation. I have also been working as the hiring manager for two of our recruitments, Librarian I and Librarian III. This continues to be a month of learning and growing and strengthening those connections with the team I work with directly. I also have been helping with finding ways we can support the branches and their staffing coverage needs this month.

SUBJECT: Public Services Report – January 2023

Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe

Initial meetings with new team and individual manager meetings. Providing coverage to Ajo, Flowing Wells, and the Woods Memorial library. Continued work with substitute librarians to help provide coverage to branches. Meeting with Biblio Lotus, Many Nations, and Nuestras Raíces affinity teams. Continued work in library accounting to help staff with the many tasks of that department.

Library Services Manager - Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

January has been action-packed with great meetings that have set a very positive tone for the year. I had my first meeting with the new set of managers I will be supporting in my role as library services manager (LSM). I have also begun to establish one-on-one meetings with them.

As the administrative liaison for our Seed Library and Many Nations committee, I joined their monthly meeting. Fellow library services manager Alina Rowe and I will be working with the Many Nations committee. I am beyond excited to support and advocate for both of these amazing teams. I am also an active member of the Nuestras Raíces affinity team and cannot wait to share the all the projects and community collaborations that are coming.

Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos

January has been a month of transition as I have been meeting with Managers and visiting libraries to acclimate to my new role as a Library Services Manager. I have also been working to provide ongoing support to Workforce and Economic Development initiatives to avoid any disruption in services.

In January, I also worked at and coordinated each of the four Housing Waitlist sign-up events that the Library hosted, in partnership with the City of Tucson to assist community members with signing-up for the affordable housing lottery taking place between January 3rd and January 24th.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I am honored to be recently promoted to lead and support in the role of Library Services Manager for the branches of Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr., Dusenberry-River, Richard Elías-Mission, Miller-Golf Links and Southwest Libraries. In addition, I am the administrative liaison for the PRIDE affinity team. I have been actively connecting with all branches to familiarize myself with the Manager, staff and their patron communities. This has included site visits, video conferencing, assisting with staffing by covering shifts onsite and creating continuous, open communication channels.

<u>District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott</u>

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

Teens and adults at the Dewhirst-Catalina Library have a lot to do in January! TNT Tween and Teen Time has launched this very month for kids aged 11 on up. The meeting room is set aside for tween and teens to just hang out, get homework help, use laptops, play analog games including chess, or participate in rotating activities such as jewelry making, escape room challenges, collaborative games and more. Teens and Tweens have two afternoons a week, so if they miss Tuesday, they can come by Wednesday. For adults the long-awaited Great Decisions discussion meetings have begun again and run ever other week until May. They may also wish to attend a lecture by the Pima County Recreation and Parks Office about "Gardening for Birds and Butterflies". Our new periodical titles have begun to arrive for the 2023 year and are getting checked out. We are also excited to have on hand our new collection of Literacy Reads books (for middle or learning readers). We say, "Winter doldrums, what are those?"!

Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres

January brought with it much promise to Dusenberry-River Library. Civic Groups, Neighborhood Associations and Non-Profits use our meeting room as consistently as Book Clubs and Writing Groups. Our 1-on 1 Tech Help remains popular with our community. Art in the Afternoon has returned to a capacity crowds. An Author Talk from local author, Deb Ligget, illuminated local history. The continued interest in Master Gardener talks allowed us to follow up with Frank Talks: Water in the Southwest at the end of the month. Our Teenage Advisory Board met more than once to contribute to programming ideas to build on success of insightful ideas from last year. The meeting room still is a space for artistic expression, appreciation and enjoyment for teens with Teen Art Club, Movie Afternoon, and Games Galore. It is also available for Homework Help for returning students. We are incredibly hopeful for the coming year.

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Intermediate-level English classes presented by Literacy Connects resumed in late January after being postponed due to COVID-19 almost 3 years ago. Nanini's English classes have always been very popular and 2023 is no different; there was a full class roster after the very first session. Other newer programs gaining popularity at the branch include Homework Help, Job and Tech Help, and Read to a Dog starring Sophie, a chow/retriever mix.

Nanini's Teen Advisory Board meeting was held after the 2023 spring semester began. Our Teen Services Librarian's outreach efforts at Mountain View High School last semester paid off and she will be working with teens who are eager to find ways they can support their community through their local library.

All 4 weekly storytimes at Nanini Library are bringing kids and caregivers back into the library, as many of the programs reach room capacity. Children's Services staff are looking forward to celebrating Love of Reading Week in mid-February and will be visiting some nearby schools in addition to featuring special events at the library itself.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

Oro Valley debuted two new staff-presented programs this month. The first, *Animal Crossing* Club House, built on the success of the game during the pandemic. The club allowed fans of the Nintendo Switch game to meet, strategize and compare notes. The second program was the Tween Graphic Novel Book Club. Participants this month read the graphic novel Wingbearer by Marjorie Liu. Many parents voiced interest for this club, feeling their children lacked chances for reading practice and socialization skills during the pandemic.

After the holiday break, many popular programs for kids and families returned, like the Oro Valley Builder's Club — "We're so glad you're back! We missed you!" several parents said. Every two weeks, the club aims to improve both STEAM and socialization skills. Typically, a majority of participants are girls; and each session is always fully booked. Read to a Dog also returned. Reading aloud helps new readers expand their vocabulary and improve comprehension. Sessions attracted dozens of readers, all of them of different ages. In fact, recently one reader was an ESL-learning teenager, practicing his pronunciation.

This month, all spots in Oro Valley's computer classes filled up fast, including the wait lists for Exploring Google Apps, Staying Safe on the Internet, and MAX Out Your Library Card (Bring Home the Library). All were one-day classes, to highlight popular Google apps, online safety, and knowledge of dozens of resources to access from home.

Sonoran Sleuths Mystery Book Club has met for almost two decades. Probably the longest running book club at PCPL, it even met during the pandemic when the group transitioned to virtual meetings. This month the club read Something to Hide by Elizabeth George. Many participants have said the group's lively discussions are among their favorite moments each month, connecting them to unknown books and writers.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

With the New Year, a new energy is pulsing through Eckstrom-Columbus Library. Our story times have resumed after a short holiday break and attendance is strong. We have been helping our patrons sign up for the City of Tucson Section 8 Lottery wait list, starting another

session of Literacy Connects Beginner English Classes, and moving forward with bi-lingual job help and twice weekly homework help. We are also hosting another popular Frank Talk - Water in the Southwest: Where Have We Been, and Where Are We Going? We invited teens and tweens to a Mystery Breakout Box event which proved challenging and fun for all. We are diving into a Code Club this month that will guide our youth through the steps of learning how to make websites, video games and apps. Our snack programs and COVID tests remain popular and much needed services for our community.

Quincie Douglas Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo

Quincie Douglas Library continues to see increased attendance at programs that were reintroduced in recent months, especially in our Toddler Storytime program. As staff see new and returning faces they are heartened to know that the library is still a destination of choice for parents whose children are acquiring literacy through interaction and exposure each day. Our children's librarian is also engaging deeply with the surrounding community and has visited a number of schools and other family environments to promote library services and introduce youth to the library as a destination for their exploration and learning needs.

The Quincie Douglas interior has seen some recent updates and improvements that have given staff more opportunity to promote community resources and collections in a visible and appealing way. Multiple new display units can now be found in the building with a variety of materials for our community to enjoy. One unit is solely devoted to community info sharing and has flyers related to housing, tax assistance and much more. The other two units are located near the fiction and teen sections and feature Lucky Day collections, New Books and Graphic Novels respectively. This change also presented opportunity to expand our Spanish language display space, to ensure we are calling attention to materials that are desirable for our Spanish speaking community.

Staff also contributed to overall system wide needs this month by assisting at multiple events related to the public housing lottery. This lottery is a lifeline for many families in the community and has been historically difficult to navigate. Our staff member volunteered to ensure Spanish speaking community members can get assistance at these events in hopes of securing housing, a valuable and rewarding work experience and a contribution to the community.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

We had a lively Book Club discussion on the book, Being Mortal, by Atul Gawande. Interest in Tech Help is growing; so far this month six patrons have scheduled times to receive help with their devices and to learn how to use various programs, apps, and platforms. A "new year/new you"-themed display was mounted with the title, "This year I will learn how to…" featuring how-to books on various subjects. English language classes taught by Literacy Connects returned on January 18 and will run through mid-May. We have a couple folks joining our weekly Citizenship class, as well.

We welcomed 40 readers to Read to a Dog in January so far and we're working with some new dogs (and their human friends) to offer additional days and times in the near future. Storytime is also filling up on Tuesday mornings with an average of 40 participants. We launched a Saturday afternoon Code Club on January 14 with a handful of kids. We look forward to helping them with their coding goals on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

Managing Librarian Betsy Langley participated in the annual Green Valley/Sahuarita Friends meeting and got a sneak peak at the Maker Space equipment purchased with Friends' funds for the new Sahuarita Library. We're very appreciative and excited to play around with the vinyl cutters and 3D printers!

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

The library hosted the PCHD's Community Health Mobile Clinic this month. The clinic provides free COVID and flu shots, reproductive health services and more. Staff took the branch Bookbike for a new monthly outreach to The Garden Kitchen's Second Saturday community classes. Attendees selected books and seeds available on the unit and heard about other relevant library services. Collection materials for the Seed Library's 2023 warm season have begun to arrive this month, and staff has dedicated time for re-packing and processing the bulk seed orders. Both the afterschool snack time and adult snack packs have been well utilized. The library incorporated the Literacy Reads Collection to our shelves. This collection focuses on the literary needs of beginning English language readers. Community members also continue to visit the library daily to pick up COVID Test Kits at our location. The library's faxing and copying services have seen a significant increase recently.

Santa Rosa Library – Victoria Villanueva

Happy New year from Santa Rosa Library! As the temperature gets colder outside, the distribution of COVID tests have continued to be an important aspect of the community that we are elated that we get to continue the service.

The library has taken a new approach to restorative practices offering children the option of community service in place of suspensions. We have found just working for 30 minutes a day on a task that helps the library, has not only improved behavior in many of our young patrons but has inspired many of their peers to want to help their friends in making the library a better place for everyone. We have seen many positive improvements in the day to day to the point that when it's time to close for the day many will help to clean up the space for the next day. We are so happy to have been able to establish a sense of community and personal accountability in our young leaders.

District 3 – Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Chair

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

The Caviglia-Arivaca Library started the year off with two weeks of special programming for kids. The most popular programs were How to Raise Chickens, complete with Chicken Poop Bingo; and, Wreck the Library where they were able to take apart cell phones, a car stereo, and various household appliances. The Caviglia Arivaca Library Book Group discussed Sworn Virgin by Kristopher Dukes while sipping tea and sharing Albanian Cornbread, which was a staple in the book. A patron's comment about the book group: "What a wonderful afternoon we shared, discussing our book club book, and enjoying your homemade Albanian corn bread! The best ever. And a cup of tea. No wonder we feel so comfortable at our library, and nourished. As M has said, it's like our second home. Yep! Thank you for being here. Where would we be without you and Jodi: the glass would be half empty, for sure."

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) provided much appreciated support during several of our kids programs over Winter Break. They have also been meeting weekly to develop an Escape Room ("Saving Aphrodite") for February. They had a blast coming up with the original concept, puzzles and clues. Now they are working diligently to turn the meeting room into the inside of Olympus. The Friends of the Caviglia-Arivaca Library have generously offered to be the first to try the Escape Room and give rigorous feedback to ensure maximum fun for future participants.

Our Digital Navigator has been a great resource for patrons and community members. This month she is signing people up for a Certified Nursing Assistant program that will provide

transportation to and from Arivaca for the entire six-week training program. Transportation is a significant issue in Arivaca, and offering this extra support will pay great dividends to the individual who is guaranteed job placement after completion and the aging population of rural Pima County who are in desperate need of home care services. We are both grateful and proud to host this program at the library.

Starting the week of January 23rd, The Caviglia Arivaca Library returned to our pre-Covid Tuesday through Saturday schedule. Our first Saturday open, the community hosted The Arivaca Music and Memories Festival at the Old Schoolhouse Park. The Festival was a great draw with a significant number of locals and out of town visitors popping in to say hello. Festival performers, Mama Coal (musician) and Face Painting by Vanya, were generously funded by the The Friends of the Pima County Library. Staff were also on site all day, offering information about existing services and upcoming programs alongside some fun crafting and free book giveaways. The TAB group spent the entire festival playing GIANT games with children of all ages, and we were able to offer prizes thanks to a generous donation of toys from the Sahuarita Green Valley Military Officers Association of America.

Flowing Wells Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo

Flowing Wells staff are excited to see the return of English Language Classes for Adults starting this month. Classes will happen twice a week and we have instructors and space to host both beginning and intermediate level classes. We have had many customer inquiries and are anticipating high enrollment numbers at our location.

Flowing Wells has reintroduced gardening and sustainability programming with some engaging offerings. In January we hosted a program titled "W is for Worms" which gives customers all they need to begin a worm bin. In addition to worms, we are offering a Beginning Permaculture program for those looking to add sustainable practices to their home gardens and landscapes.

Our young adult services librarian has worked with Gail Rhodes to present a Frank Talk for teens focused on the importance of a free press in a democratic society. The event will help teens to learn about first amendment rights, freedom of the press and engage them in a critical look at media in society. Our teen librarian promoted the event to all library branches and to a number of local schools to ensure access for teens across Pima County.

Woods Memorial Library – Victoria Salajko

This month saw a surge of customers using our library. More people are requesting job help, are using our computers, and are attending our programs. We now have four dog teams providing beginning readers with opportunities to hone their reading skills on Wednesdays after school and on Saturday mornings.

We are also increasing our outreach to our community in the following ways: 1. Starting this month the Amphi Neighborhorhood Coaltion will be holding their monthly meetings at our library and including us in their news; 2. Our Children's Services team has contacted the principals, school librarians, and reading specialists at 9 area elementary schools; 3. A 3rd grade class at Satori School up the street, has begun monthly visits to the library on Friday afternoons.

Salazar-Ajo Library - Daniela Buchberger

The Salazar-Ajo Library has seen many returning and new winter residents and our "Try Something New" - display and Best Sellers are flying off the shelves. Many of our visitors have offered lovely feedback about how wonderful this library is. We often hear very positive

comments about our own local DVD collection and the Seed Library as well as how well maintained and inviting the library is.

We have started our Wednesday afternoon programming and have seen a lot of eager participation from visitors of all ages. This month we focused on paper crafts and will continue with creative exploration and even some library presenters.

Library staff has made a very intriguing set of take and make activities, including a very successful Grab and Grow kit for children to take home and journal scientific observations. Families are really enjoying the learning opportunities and happily retrieving the newest ones each and every week.

We continued to offer COVID and Flu vaccines in January in partnership with the Pima County Health Department and the community was able to take advantage of this free service.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

Wheeler Taft Abbett Library has welcomed the new year with multiple new programs for our patrons. In Children's Services we recently added several programs including a baby story time, playtime, and toddler story time on Tuesday mornings, and Read to A Dog on Wednesday afternoons. There are two dogs with their handlers who will alternate coming each week.

The Teen/Tween Thursday Movie Mania program is going into its second month with a more dedicated group of attendees. This program provides teens and tweens the opportunity to engage with their peers and also with staff by suggesting movie titles to be played. In January we also opened an opportunity for teen volunteers to return to the library, working on creative projects and physically assisting staff with set-up and take-down of the room after Thursday movies.

Our Adult Services staff are reintroducing a familiar program, the film discussion group, now called Film on Fridays. The group views an assigned movie on their own, and then get together to discuss the film. The first movie up for discussion is One Night In Miami, a "fictional account of one amazing night where icons Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X, Sam Cooke, and Jim Brown gathered discussing their roles in the Civil Rights Movement and cultural turmoil of the '60s."

<u>District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy</u>

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

The first monthly session of Teen Crafternooners took place on Monday, January 9. Teens made an origami drawer with lucky stars, and they enjoyed some refreshments and socializing while creating. One teen made an origami Pikachu that was so popular it will be a craft option for February. Later, the teen even made a tutorial for the craft and sent it to the librarian.

Apropos of the parking lot expansion project going on outside, the first storytime theme of the year was Construction! The kids were captivated by the big machines outside, and they loved listening to stories about them too.

A patron, happy to be getting a library card at age 93, told staff, "At my age, there's not much else to do but read." He has been visiting the library every few weeks since then to replenish his supply. In other news of patron happiness, through great teamwork with Kirk-Bear Canyon Library staff, a Gibson-Esmond Station librarian was able to track down a highly sentimental bookmark a patron left in book.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

Joyner-Green Valley Library is bustling with patrons and activity as more winter visitors continue to arrive in the wake of the holiday season. This month's Music @ Your Library program featured a guitar trio, The Slow Lane Cruisers, whose entertaining performance of John Prine songs paid tribute to this American singer-songwriter of country-folk music. Patrons appreciated the music as well as the stories shared by members of the band. In addition, Pima County Parks and Recreation Department joined our Children's Librarian for a special Family Storytime called "The Amazing World of Insects and Spiders," much to the delight of our youngest patrons. Our community's large contingent of art lovers enjoyed another installment in the Tucson Museum of Art Docent Talks; on this occasion, the presentation focused on the public art created as part of the Tucson Streetcar Art project.

Joyner-Green Valley Library continues to be a place in which community members can find assistance in a variety of areas. Our staff-led, twice weekly, drop-in Tech Help sessions continue to support our patrons in their use of technology, particularly the growing number of folks availing themselves of PCPL's collection of eBooks available through the Libby and Hoopla apps. In addition, two different community/civic partners were onsite at Joyner-Green Valley Library in January. The Pima County Assessor's Office hosted two sessions during which they assisted seniors completing their Valuation Protection applications, and the Certified Health Insurance Navigator from the University of Arizona Center for Rural Health held weekly sessions to assist those enrolling in health insurance.

Finally, I have a correction to make. Our intergenerational workshop, "Introduction to Seed Saving," was not led by a representative of Native Seeds/SEARCH, as I stated in December's report, but rather by a library presenter who is a graduate of that organization's seed education program.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Linde Furman

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library had a busy January with many customers visiting to return their holiday reading and pick up new and exciting books to explore. We also saw the beginning of our Great Decisions program, which filled up very quickly! We're pleased to be able to bring this program back to our community in 2023. COVID-19 test kits also continue to fly out of the branch as we work to continue meeting this need for our customers.

Our branch's new Sensory Program for children ages birth-5 has seen great success this month. It was a featured news story on Tucson's KGUN 9 and was also featured in other publications in the area. We are pleased that our partner in education on this initiative, Autism Society of Southern Arizona, was able to join us in communicating the efforts behind this program to the whole community. We look forward to watching the program grow over time.

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Vicki Lázaro

Happy New Year from Richard Elías-Mission Library. This month we have seen an increase of our community members spending time in the library. We see people enjoying a book or magazine in the comfortable chairs, teens gathering at our new teen resource shelves, Positivity Post Wall and in the study rooms, families in the children's area and people of all ages strolling the bookshelves and using the computers. In Children's Services, our Storytime attendance has increased exponentially and kids are enjoying our creative Grab and Go kits onsite and at home. In Adult Services we offered English Language Classes in partnership with Literacy Connects, a presentation from the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area and we continue to assist people applying for new employment in Job Help. In Young Adult Services, our four new

Pueblo High School Volunteers began their introduction to the library to gain job and interpersonal skills.

Mission also continued to provide much needed resources to our community such as snacks for kids and adults, COVID-19 tests and Narcan kits.

Southwest Library – Maggie Dwenger

The New Year brings in excitement for our upcoming year of presenters and programs. We have also begun revamping our space, with a soon to be updated art wall and a new garden structure that will help our plants grow in both the winter and summer months. We continue providing COVID test kits, which patrons are incredibly appreciative of. Surrounding schools, including Johnson, Lawrence, and the Southwest Family Resource Center, have reached out to the library to participate in their respective "Love or Reading" events in February, and we are excited to do so! Staff are preparing story times and other activities at all three schools in the hopes to promote library resources and get kids excited about books, reading, and learning.

As always, Grab-and-Go snacks have been vital to our younger patrons and with new, kid-friendly packaging they are even more excited about coming into the library to not only use computers and the collection, but also get a snack. GED and Homework Help continue to bring in new patrons interested in receiving help with their studies. We are excited about starting a busy season of library presenters and preparing a Crafternoon program starting in April!

Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez

The New Year started with a bright offering of new programs for all ages. The Valencia Library programming team prepared for the return of Create Club, and kicked off with a lego-club-meets-STEAM project building Lego Volcanos. Valencia Library also saw the return of Teen Thursdays, with open-ended activities, soon to include a new laser cutter, recording studio, and sewing machines in Valencia Library's new 101 Space – Maker Studio.

Our work with community partners continues to impact our reach in the community. With the participation of several Head-Start programs at one of the storytime Wednesdays this month, we welcomed 51 people between the youngsters and their grownups. Library Associate Thania shared several stories that invited the group to practice deep breaths and mindfulness exercises that can help us navigate the experience of big feelings, supporting the development of early literacy, socioemotional development, and a love of the library.

Two big success stories made their way back to us this month. The first is from a 20-year-old University of Arizona student who used to come to Valencia Library with his mom and siblings when he was 9 years old. His mom shared with a library staff this month that "...he still remembers coming to Create Club and was talking about an activity the other day. You can still see the joy in his eyes and hear the excitement in his voice when he talks about it!" This family was first introduced to public library and the Valencia Library during the first grade library card campaign over a decade ago.

A second success story came from an eager and dedicated community member working at the food vending department of a local wholesale warehouse. A library staff member saw them at their work, and the community member was so excited to see this library staff that she came out from behind the cash register and gave the staff a big hug. She expressed that she was so grateful for all the patience and support that the library had provided while she worked on the application for this job. The community member had come the Valencia Library every day over the course of many days to do a job application, to work on the food handler's courses, and to get support on learning the computer tech that it required. Staff shared: "When she came in the

first day, she did not have an email address, but she was dedicated and patient and kept coming back until she got everything done."

These stories demonstrate that the reach of library programming and community partnerships in the community endure long after the library visit is over and visibly impacts the lives of community members in the long-term. Valencia Library continues to make a positive impact in our community and are happy to share in the successes and challenges of our community members. We are looking forward to a fruitful 2023 with the support of the partners, leaders, and greater community.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Joyner Green Valley and Sahuarita Libraries

<u>Green Valley Library</u> – Family Storytime, Seed Growing Garden, Makerspace Equipment

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Arivaca Library - Mama Coal, Face Painting by Vanya

Columbus Library - Code Club

<u>Flowing Wells Library</u> – W is for Worms, Beginning Permaculture, Toddler Storytime and Playtime

Green Valley Library - Family Storytime, Seed Growing Garden

Quincie Douglas Library - Toddler Storytime