
DATE: September 7, 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

SUBJECT: Public Services Report – July, 2023

July was busy with placement of a new batch of Librarian I's at various branches. We are excited to welcome these new staff, many from outside our library system. This will make a huge impact on the work that is being done at the branch-level. The public service LSM's and I also began to intensely review the Manager's Toolkit online resources, making sure it was up to date. We are hoping to role this out to Manager's and supervisors in the winter and have in person cohorts to build more team-building and connection between new managers and those that have been with our system. The potential for mentorship from this training is an exciting prospect.

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

I have had the opportunity to help cover shifts at some of the branches I oversee this month. This gave me a chance to check-in with staff at different service levels and see community use and needs in action. I was happy to see people coming into branches to pick-up their next read, check-out library seeds, print out important documents, attend a drawing class, pick-up a water bottle, and food, get job help, use the study rooms, etc.

As one of the administrative liaisons for the group, I was also able to help the Many Nations affinity team with a back-to-school event at the Tohono O'odham Nation. We gave out a ton of books from our deposit collections, ready to go crafts, and swag bags that included a wealth of information about library services. We left empty handed, and it was the best feeling!

Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe

This month I was able to provide coverage at a couple of libraries and met with direct reports for monthly meetings.

Worked on an ongoing project to review and revise assigned areas of the managers toolkit learning path.

Attended the webinar “Bystander Intervention” that presented tools to step in to diffuse possible harmful situations safely and effectively. The webinar’s purpose was to share how to prevent and deescalate potentially violent incidents to ensure the safety and well-being of self and others.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I spent the month supporting our organization by covering shifts for vacationing and ill staff at Santa Rosa, Dusenberry River, Miller-Golf Links and Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Libraries. I have continued providing training and support for our new Miller-Golf Links Manager. Providing in person and Teams video check-ins with Dusenberry-River, Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr., Santa Rosa and Miller-Golf Links Libraries.

Supporting branches by celebrating Summer Reading events and Megamania with branches, offering support and encouragement. Covering Miller-Golf Links on Megamania Saturday so that their staff could attend.

This month I am continuing to support PCPL’s Human Resources office by making reference check calls on job candidates and deciding placements for new staff. I am looking forward to bringing on new staff to PCPL.

Supporting administration by attending and/or participating in the Collaborative Action Team Meetings, Policy Review Team meetings, Budget Review, Advisory Board Meeting, Board of Supervisor’s Meeting, Follow up Guidelines Meeting, Serving Vulnerable Populations Meeting, Prosperity Initiative Working Group and Public Service Manager Meeting. Also currently working with other Library Service Manager’s on revamping our Manager’s Toolkit on the Library’s intranet learning path. This month I also facilitated the monthly Public Services Manager Meeting.

Supporting myself by continuing education with Pima County Health Department on prioritizing self-care, attending webinars on expert advice on the student mental health crisis, effective solutions for student and staff mental health and wellness, accessing tech help through Connect Arizona and more Ryan Dowd homelessness training. I continue to network by attending the REFORMA meeting dinner meeting, discussing ways to promote Spanish language in libraries. In addition, I participate in the monthly POWER (Professional, Outstanding Women Eating and Reminiscing) Dinner hosted by DaNel Hogan from the Waters Center for System Thinking, which is a great group of women in the community doing amazing things.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

Dewhirst-Catalina Library is seeing some success with a senior tea time gathering every other Thursday. Local seniors drink tea and reminisce on chosen themes and from there the conversation flows. Tea and cookies grease the wheels. Summer Learning programs for the kids continue to draw small crowds. Eight children and parents enjoyed some wooden train time and Lego Build programs in air-conditioned comfort. Dewhirst-Catalina Library has inaugurated our Reading Help sessions and so far the interest is weak, but school begins soon enough and homework help and reading help will be paired up. Teens and adults got crafty making felt bowls! Last, but not least, Dewhirst-Catalina now sports a Seed Library!

Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres

July will conclude Summer Learning for children, tweens and teens at Dusenberry-River Library while also establishing new partnerships oriented around adults. The 4th of July programming, in addition to honoring the solemn event, involved the creation of Independence Day Marshmallow Poppers. The Zoo to You program brought out a dragon lizard, boa constrictor and a hissing

cockroach to the amazement of patrons. Our popular Toddler Storytime program is now being followed up with Read to a Dog. Arts and Crafts were prominent features of teen programming. Make a Paracord Survival Bracelet manufacturing at the beginning of the month was followed up with Film Making, Acting, and Producing for Teens at the end of the month. Our teen volunteers contributed greatly to the distribution of Summer Learning material and dissemination of information about programs and library. A pause in certain adult programming for the summer led to incorporation of new psychology program, Normally Aging Brain, and home maintenance programming, TEP Home Energizer Workshop. Staff still made themselves available for 1-1 Tech Help. In addition to book clubs, writing group, homeowner's association, civic groups, hobbyist and students the meeting room was made available for a Red Cross blood drive at the end of the month.

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

This year's Summer Learning Program was a huge success at Nanini as thousands of free books went home with kids and teens and nearly every presenter event was filled to capacity. Weekly board games and Lego programs on Friday afternoons had great intergenerational attendance from entire families. Staff saw more families attending storytime and signing up for library cards than we had since pre-COVID times. Our teen services librarian welcomed 9 teen volunteers each week to help manage crowds.

The month of July wrapped up the summer months with programs like "Raising Nigerian Dwarf Goats" featuring real goats, yoga, and an intro to resin casting. August will bring a well-deserved break from programming for Nanini's children's services team while they plan for the fall-- and while our children's librarian goes on maternity leave after a very busy and successful summer.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

The library continued to be a community hub during the second half of SLP this month. Between storytimes, and presentations on crafting, dancing, gardening and much more, children worked on coloring sheets and read with caregivers in the children's area. Adults filled the cafe area, reading books or working on their laptops every day we were open.

We had several programs for adults this month — one in particular was a standout: Copper Tooling with Palette Up! was appreciated by participants who said they enjoyed the chance to have fun and be creative in this metal-art class. They gave high marks to the "friendly, engaging instructor" who demonstrated techniques and provided one-on-one assistance as needed.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

It has been a busy Summer here at the Eckstrom Columbus Library. Our community is taking good advantage of our cool and fun environment. We have been bustling in the Teen room with a full house each day and our TUSD snack program has been very appreciated.

We had our Preschool Story time graduation which was brimming with children and families better prepared to venture into the new world of kindergarten next month. Our other story times continue to please and will be starting back up after a short two-week hiatus.

Summer Learning has wrapped up and was a huge success for all. The children loved getting to browse the shelf for their forever books and the fun Summer programs were all a hit. We held our Youth Summer Camp which had great attendance and culminated with a fun Drawing Studio program where everyone's inner artist was released. Capoeira brought down the house and allowed for some energy release amongst our regular Tweens. The Zoo to You: Habitats program was a hit where the hedgehog, snake and tarantula delighted one and all.

Our English Language and bilingual job help continue to serve our community well, while our Yoga classes and new Eclectic Readers Book Club are also fun offerings. We hosted a bilingual TEP Home Energizer Workshop which provided great resources for our neighbors.

As we wait for the promise of rains, our abundant Summer days filled with youthful energy will wane and be replaced by the school year rhythm ahead.

Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller

July was a busy month for families at Quincie Douglas Library! We had a number of interesting programs for people of all ages. The kids enjoyed story time with Miss Brie, and also attended fun presenter led programming—the Drawing Studio held a painting class, and they will lead a Marvelous Murals class on July 28th. Teens attended three different crafts programs led by library staff—collage, button making and jewelry design. Adults loved the sequined barrette making session, and people of all ages were thrilled to learn about backyard chickens and take selfies with the chickens at the session led by Josh Banno's partner, Emmy.

Our take home breakfast pack program from the Community Food Bank has been a much needed part of the summer. In addition to the breakfast packs, we have been getting food from the CFB's pantry program. Customers have been very grateful for the food supplies available to them from the library. We've also distributed many cooling station items such as sunscreen, water bottles, hand sanitizer and more. Customers also mentioned how much they've appreciated a reprieve from the hot sun as they come in the rest, relax, read and learn at the library.

We had a summer youth intern this July, who helped out with shelving, bulletin board displays, and grab 'n go activity packs. We've also had two teen volunteers helping out with youth programming. We plan to have an adult volunteer soon—she will help with packaging seeds for the seed library program.

It's been a busy July that flew past!

Sam Lena-South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

In July, Sam Lena-South Tucson library offered walk-in Job Search and Computer Help sessions. Customers who attended received help with resumé writing, online application help and assistance with related computer skills. Additional recurring community programs this month included Breakfast Time, family weekend meals, Toddler Storytimes, and Code Club. The library also continues to distribute COVID self-test kits, water bottles, and single-use packets of sunscreen during the summer season. Our branch has recently joined a systemwide effort to make menstrual product kits and incontinence packs available to the public, as well.

Summer learning book giveaways are another valuable resource that has succeeded in drawing community engagement in July. Special one-time-only programs offered this month are *Luar Bodyweight Fitness*, *Desert Gardening with Kids- Seed Sponges* and *Resin Casting Crafts*.

Sam Lena-South Tucson Library's long-time Children's Librarian presented her last few storytimes for devoted families. This month marks her retirement of 46 years of service and advocacy as a public librarian. Our team and community will miss seeing her daily at Sam Lena-South Tucson Library.

Santa Rosa Library – Victoria Villanueva

It's officially summer, and the heat is on! But fear not, because Santa Rosa is here to help you beat the scorching weather! Our library is well-prepared for the season, offering a range of amenities to make your summer more enjoyable. Step inside and experience the refreshing coolness of our air-conditioned space. We have plenty of water bottles available to keep you

hydrated and protect you from the intense heat. Plus, don't forget to grab some sunscreen to shield your skin from the sun's rays when you head back outside.

This month at Santa Rosa, we've hosted two fantastic programs that have attracted a wave of new users to our charming library. The Pom-Poms and Jitterbugs events have been an absolute hit! Children and adults alike have embraced the creative fun of making their very own pom-pom pets. Additionally, the small dancing robots have added a delightful touch of whimsy, twirling around and adding a touch of magic to the summer days.

But there's even more to discover at Santa Rosa! We're thrilled to announce the introduction of a new item to our library – blood pressure monitors. Your health and well-being are important to us, and now you can easily keep track of your blood pressure from the comfort of your own home. It's a convenient way to stay on top of your health and take proactive steps towards a healthier lifestyle. So, if you're curious about your blood pressure or just want to ensure your well-being, make sure to come and check one out today!

District 3 – Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Chair

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

Community members who relax in the shade of our front patio have been enjoying watching the plants donated to us by the Community Foodbank grow over arbors and up into trees. We had several starter pots without tags, so we have been unsure what we're growing. So far we have tomato's, zucchini, gourds, and melons of some type yet unknown. We wrapped up Summer Learning programs at the Arivaca Community Center with Magic Lessons from George McSly, which the kids loved. Each went home with a small kit of tricks to practice, practice, practice. The Children's Museum of Tucson came down to the library and presented The Wonders of Water. I timed this program to intersect with the beginning of monsoon season, and I think all the energy and intentional focus brought down a ton of rain!

Our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) celebrated their first Anniversary with a slideshow of their favorite accomplishments, and a lot of Root beer floats. They also announced their next project; this fall they will be helping create a large mural in downtown Arivaca.

Staff are excited to be supporting the Seed Library by packaging seeds and preparing them to be barcoded. It keeps us busy and out of the heat. Patrons have been working diligently on a puzzle, also while avoiding the heat. We've given many water bottles out this month, and we appreciate our water fountain with the bottle filler. This heat has been keeping some people away from the library, and for other people we are a refuge. July in the desert...

Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky

Summer Learning finished strong this month at Flowing Wells! Our events for kids, tweens, teens and families continued to draw crowds. Offerings included a 5th of July Party, Camo Craft, Mamma Coal music program, Seed Ball making, W is for Worms, and the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum for the younger set. For teens and tweens there was a Book Club, Watercolor painting, Anime Club, and Coding with S.Y.Stem. Patron favorites included the 5th of July Party (with over 80 participants), Mamma Coal music, and Anime Club.

At the same time we had several young patrons return their filled-in reading trackers, which gave them the chance to decorate a small paper house to add to our 'library neighborhood!' Staff and other patrons alike loved seeing each new little house that was created. All of that was on top of our regular literacy programming of two Storytimes and two Read to a Dog sessions each week!

Beginner English Language Classes continued to have steady attendance this month, while Computer and Job Help went on a summer hiatus. Finally, we rounded out the month with a Red Cross Blood Drive! Summer is an important time of the year for donating blood, and we were proud to be able to host the Red Cross and keep everyone safe in our air conditioned Multi-Purpose Room.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger

During the month of July the Salazar-Ajo library saw an uptick of visitors using our facilities to cool off. Our gate count has remained high as patrons are using our space to read, browse the internet and partake in some of our programming.

This library continues to see a high demand for the community pantry and our patrons are often asking for additional resources such as water bottles and hygiene products.

Our annual Summer Learning program concluded with many happy library visitors finding their perfect forever books. Our Teen passive programming has been especially successful and our patrons have added some decorative flair to the designated teen space with collages and tiny tapestries.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

During the month of July we celebrated another successful year of the summer learning program with a special family event at the branch. Families were invited to drop-in to participate in STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art, Math) activities at different stations. Some of the activities that were provided were Suminigashi art and science, creating love bug clips, coding robots, building with legos and playing giant games.

Teen services focused on developing teen advocacy by redirecting Abbett's Summer Volunteering program into a Teen Advisory Board. Teens have already provided service to their community by offering six hours of service to the system-wide program of MegaMania. The last of the Take-and-Make kits was provided to the teens with 32 kits picked up. Teen Services also focused on preparing for the upcoming school year by refreshing the Teen Area's décor with new banners and posters, reorganizing the collection and creating additional community engagement opportunities. Staff will also attend an outreach event at the Leman Marana Academy of Excellence to inform students and families how to best utilize all of the library's resources, programs and offerings.

Adult Services had a terrific turnout for Samples and Stories from the Delicious Desert, including a couple who saw Abbett's Adult Services newsletter at their community's clubhouse, became interested in the program, and in the same morning drove to Abbett for the program at 10:30am. The presenters, The Desert Harvesters, had also just published the 2nd edition of their cookbook, Eat Mesquite and More: A Cookbook for Sonoran Desert Foods and Living. The presentation was well liked and patrons requested to have similar programs in the future.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

Many have argued that the library is irrelevant during these digital days and having access to digital information using your phone, but nothing could be the furthest from the truth because a Woods Memorial Library patron has debunked that statement, thanks to a patron who is now an author of his first book, *Starry Sky Adventures Arizona: Hike, Paddle, and Explore under Night Skies*. The patron stopped in to thank the Woods Memorial for being a place for him to come and do his research and produce materials for publishing. And he even gifted us his first book. A library memory that will last forever!

It was another! Ooh! and Aah! Event on July 8th at Woods Memorial with *Eureka Discoveries*. This time the science of polymer took center stage with slime making being one of the activities.

This event just didn't bring excitement to the eyes of our youth patrons, but it also brought excitement to the adult patrons as well; 60 patrons.

"If today is Tuesday, then what day will it be in 3 days?" a verbal assignment question given to the patrons in the Literacy Connect Language class. Learning English is hard! especially if it is a second language being learned. But this is not stopping a diverse group of patrons from different parts of the world, like Somalia, Mexico, Asia, and Europe, from traveling in Tucson's hot heat during the month of July from taking an English literacy class call through ELLA every Monday. but to see the eagerness in their willing to learning and the fun that they are having is making it worthwhile.

The *Summer Learning Institute* from July 10-14 at Woods Memorial has been a big hit with a tween group of 10 participants, a young patron when asked "Did you enjoy the program this week?" the young patron replied with "Yes" with a big smile. There was also a young patron that traveled far just to participate in the Summer Learning Institute, in his words "you would have to take two buses to get to this library." From where he lived.

With the *Summer Learning Program* ending, we have had over 550 kids total sign up at Woods Memorial Library to get a free book and track their reading for the Summer. For July, we brought in three excellent presenters and hosted a weekly *Lego Hour*, *Read to a Dog*, and story times in order to provide educational and exciting activities for kids. One parent, in our end of summer survey, said, "My kids love the tracker, the free book! And the state park passes when available... Our library is the best!"

On the heels of the *Summer Learning program*, Woods Memorial is revving back up its Storytime program with... *Family Storytime*. Oh! How exciting to see the little patrons with their family members enjoying stories and even getting in a little dancing to Storytime songs that have been selected by Woods Memorial, birth thru 8 Librarian Maggie.

Farm hand puppets and the Old McDonald had a farm song was one of the many fun interactive activities that got the baby patrons moving on July 14th, the start of *Baby Time* Library hour at Woods Memorial. It was a musical time for the baby patrons.

Finally, among the most popular programs at Woods Memorial library for children of all ages, as well as some adults, *Read to a Dog* our Wednesdays sessions have been well attended and continue to be so. Over the past four weeks we have had an awesome and enthusiastic group of children participating totaling 54 participants with an average of 13 kids per session.

Cities are truly happy only when all residents are welcome, comfortable, and safe. Tweens brought family and friends to create a Happy City at the Woods Memorial Library on Wednesday June 21, Thursday June 22, and Friday June 23, 2023, 1:00 to 4:00pm, with total participation of 66 people over the 3-day summer camp. Participants learned about Universal Design, public safety, food deserts, local governance, transportation, importance of outdoor spaces, and other features of a community that create a sense of place. Activities included building a 3-D city, exploring places and spaces in literature and meeting police officers, firefighters, politicians, and other neighbors who play important roles in the safety, governance, and unique character of Tucson, and help make Tucson a Happy City.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

A serpent, a mummy, a robot, and a sheepish a-baa-minable monster ate some scary books. As part of the Summer Scares display kids and adults were invited to bravely reach into the

monsters' mouths to choose a scary book to read and rate. Over 77 were checked out in just the first few weeks.

There were two activities offered for some extra summer fun. First, vacationers were invited to send postcards from their summer destinations. Over 25 postcards arrived from more than 12 states and Washington D.C. One even came all the way from Israel! Second, paper quilt squares artistically colored by kids make up the community quilt covering the glass doors of the meeting room.

Tucson Fire Department firefighters gave a presentation for kids that included showing their gear, a fire engine, and an ambulance.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

Joyner-Green Valley Library endeavors to support the work of our community partners whenever we can. This month we became a new host site for one such partnership between PCPL and Pima County One-Stop. On Tuesdays going forward, customers can work one-on-one, here in the library, with a Community Resource Navigator, getting assistance with a variety of tasks such as applying for a job, obtaining legal services for evictions, completing a digital application for rental assistance or home repair, and finding childcare, among others. Joyner-Green Valley Library's partnership with Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc. (PPEP, Inc.) and the Amado Community Alliance (ACA) continued with two additional informative programs, *Marijuana 360* and *The Amado Youth Center, The Power of Parents, and People That Care*. In addition, Joyner-Green Valley Library hosted an American Red Cross Blood Drive on July 26 in our large meeting room.

Speaking of the large meeting room, it was filled to its capacity of 84 people for our July 11 program, *Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum: Meet the Neighbors*. Experts from the Museum spoke about the great variety of plants, animals, and ecosystems in our region as well as the importance of this biodiversity. Attendees of all ages enjoyed meeting a kangaroo rat, a king snake, and a desert tortoise. The latter animal friend freely roamed the meeting room, and after the event, one young participant delightedly declared to service desk staff that "the tortoise chased after us!"

Not too long ago, a Joyner-Green Valley Library patron mentioned "summer boredom" in a request submitted to our Suggestions Box. The phrase initially brought to mind the grumblings of kids and teens during the dog days of summer. In this instance, the patron wisely suggested that the library also hold arts and crafts programs in the summer specifically for adults—a good reminder that grown-ups, not just kids, benefit from stimulating diversions and social interaction. On July 12, a library presenter taught 17 adult patrons the basics of resin crafting using silicon molds, liquid resin, and tiny objects like dried flowers, glitter, and beads. The participants spent a fun and interactive hour creating an assortment of ornamental items, including earrings, pendants, paper weights, and decorative magnets . . . and several asked what craft we would be offering next!

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Melissa Salazar

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library had a full schedule of programs this month, on July 6, we had our Family Storytime and we had 85 people in attendance. On July 13 we had our Bilingual storytime, which was in Mandarin Chinese, which brought in 78 people in attendance. We also have our Sensory programs which is geared towards neurodiverse children and features a calm down room if some children feel overstimulated. This is one of our popular programs and requires registration to attend. We have two 45 minute sessions, and all together, there were 61 people in attendance. For adult programming, we had our Kirk-Bear Canyon Library Book

Club held on July 27. This book club holds open discussions about their current book, and they are currently reading *West With Giraffes*, by Lynda Rutledge.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Anna Lawrence

Summer Learning at Miller-Golf Links has wrapped up with around 700 youth signing up to participate, and even more books given away. All summer programs have been well-attended, including our Slime Day, where all 29 participants got a little glittery and sticky, our two bath bomb creation events, and Unscrewed Theater for adults. A new toddler story time in addition to our preschool story time means more children get to listen, learn, and have fun!

Adult patrons are excited about a few upcoming programs, including a new monthly book club starting at the end of July! The books and theme will be chosen by the attending members, and we look forward to many wonderful discussions. Also on the horizon is a robot building workshop that has had a full registration for several weeks already. The waitlist is growing, so we might see part two in the future!

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Murphy-Wilmot served as a critical cool space for our area's most vulnerable residents during the recent heatwave. Those experiencing homelessness, group homes residents, and families struggling to keep their homes cool conveyed their gratitude for having a safe and comfortable space to escape the extreme weather. Dozens of our customers took advantage of our water station services daily. Many expressed the crucial role the library played in allowing them to survive when local shelters were at capacity and turning away those seeking assistance.

Got fun? Yes, we do! Kids had lots of fun participating in Murphy-Wilmot's July youth programming. Ninety-two people saw and learned about our reptilian neighbors during a Desert Museum presentation. Over one hundred children participated in our weekly Lego and Code Club. Dozens got creative during weekly Crafternoon programs. An intergeneration audience comprised of teens and adults escaped the summer heat by spending an afternoon creating steampunk jewelry. Hundreds of children and their families attended weekly storytime and babytime programs. It was a busy and successful summer!

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – John Muñoz

Customers this month attended several Summer Learning Program events, offered in collaboration with the nearby El Pueblo Activity Center or Senior Center. Vivianne Uyeda presented a two-part series for chair yoga at the Senior Center. Vanya Marinkovic presented both *Balloon Making for Kids* and *Beautiful Bracelets for Kids* — the former at the Activity Center, the latter at the library.

Finally, the library hosted both *Raising Mealworms for Kids* and *Raising Nigerian Dwarf Goats*. By introducing rarely seen farm animals to the service area, we hope to combine children's natural affinity for animals with knowledge of the nature of farm animals, and how they contribute to food systems.

El Río Library – Jeff McWhorter

This month at El Río Library we are celebrating Disability Pride month with a special display of books for all ages in English and Spanish that explore disability. We continue to distribute free breakfast packs for patrons in collaboration with the Community Foodbank of Southern Arizona and Covid-19 self-tests through the Health Department. They fly out of the door every day along with our remaining free summer learning books. Storytime, Craftacular Tuesday, Origami Club, and Job Help all keep receiving regular attendance. Our garden in front is a bit beleaguered after the heat this

month, but we harvested cherry tomatoes and our tepary and squash plants are enduring (kudos to climate-adapted, native seed varieties).

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

Himmel Park Library patrons continue to appreciate all the library has to offer. Our customers look to us as a place to find what they need to stay healthy and safe in the summer heat. Steady daily gate counts indicate that customers are spending time cooling off in our air conditioning. Our giveaways of water bottles, sunscreen, and COVID-19 test kits in partnership with the Pima County Health Department disappear rapidly. Wireless printing also continues to be in demand, with one customer calling it a “truly great service” and admiring the quality of their prints. This month our featured display for adults is a “Lemonade Stand.” Customers are invited to take home a book that has never been checked out and then vote on whether the book is a lemon (did not enjoy) or lemonade (a good book). Our Adult Services Librarian has received a positive response to the display. Several books have had a chance to circulate, and one patron said that they wished the display would stay up all year. Finally, a new library card holder was excited to learn they could place items on reserve to pick up at Himmel Park Library, saving them the long, hot trip across town to another branch that they had been planning. We really do have something for everyone!

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Linde Furman/Mikel Stone

In July we welcomed multiple new staff members to the Joel D. Valdez Main Library. We are so excited to see our staff growing! New staff include Kara Mills, a part-time Librarian transferring from the Flowing Wells Library; Jessica Meisner, a Librarian II; and Amber Kleefeld, a Librarian I. Our new staff will be working together on some initiatives, such as vulnerable populations programs and services, and helping with Seed Library projects here at Main.

Pardon our dust! Main’s renovation project is moving right along, and the newly painted breakroom and totally redesigned staff workroom are open to staff again. On the first floor, our new public computer area is taking shape, and we expect this to be open to the public before the month is out. The next phase of renovation will see a new and spacious meeting room where our old computer area was housed. Stay tuned to hear more exciting news in our August installment.

Our Letters to Incarcerated Individuals program received a glowing and grateful letter from one of our incarcerated reference customers. It is noteworthy that his letter of thanks counted toward his five-letter annual limit. He took this rare opportunity to reflect on how much enrichment and joy this service has brought him and is the second time he has written us with heart-felt thanks.

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo

Local children’s book author Daniel Vandever will be featured at Storytime this month and will read his books *Herizon* and *Fall in Line Holden*. Vandever’s books are told through the lens of the Native experience, encouraging children’s creative thinking and originality while presenting topics of historical and cultural significance. In his newest book Vandever presents a tale full of transformation with the hope of creating a future of inclusivity and empowerment.

Richard Elias-Mission Library will be hosting our second blood drive inside the library this July. This program connects two essential services: libraries, and blood donation, to increase blood donation when it is at the lowest, summertime. The drive will be an all-day event and community members may register ahead to help the American Red Cross to reach their goals.

Kids and families have many options to escape the heat and engage at our location this month. Offerings include a Puppet Show, Family Flicks Friday, Face-painting and Balloon Making, Bracelet Making, Capoeira, Nigerian Dwarf Goats, and a special visit from Mama Coal. We

hope to bring community members together in a creative space where they can enjoy the library and express themselves.

Southwest Library – John Muñoz

Snacks & Meals was an indispensable program at the Southwest Library — this summer, hundreds of children and families received free food, including many who could be living in food-insecure households. Over the past two months, a majority of customers who visited Southwest also picked up food kits. Many PCPL locations participated as snack sites. The snacks were provided in partnership with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, the Arizona Department of Education, and the USDA.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Murphy-Wilmot Library- Desert Museum, Steampunk Jewelry

Dewhirst-Catalina Library-Felt bowl making

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Vivianne Uyeda presented a two-part series for chair yoga; Vanya Marinkovic presented both *Balloon Making for Kids* and *Beautiful Bracelets for Kids*; *Raising Mealworms for Kids* and *Raising Nigerian Dwarf Goats*.

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Storytime, Crafternoon, Dwarf Goats, Bracelet Making, Capoeira, Puppet Show, Family Flicks Friday, Mama Coal, Face Painting and Balloon Making
Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Uyeda Yoga, Drawing Studio art, Reid Park Zoo to You, Martha and Zac Underwood Chess, Capoeira

Quincie Douglas Library – barrette making with Nathalie Mornu; the Drawing Studio (2 programs); Raising Backyard Chickens—Josh Banno.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – *Luar Bodyweight Fitness*, *Desert Gardening with Kids- Seed Sponges* and *Resin Casting Crafts*

—

Salazar-Ajo Library – Whatever Wednesdays –Wonders of Space – Tucson Children's Museum, 3-D Greeting Cards, DIY Stickers, Plant Based Tattoos with Vanya Marinkovic, Balloon Animals with Vanya Marinkovic

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library -Mamma Coal, Children's Museum Tucson

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – *Samples and Stories from the Delicious Desert* presented by The Desert Harvesters

Friends of the Green Valley Library (Green Valley & Sahuarita)-Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum: Meet the Neighbors, Resin Casting Crafts, Imagine a Garden Storytime, Music @ Your Library, Page Turner's Book Club, Poet's Corner

Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library - Imagine a Garden Storytime; Yoga Storytime; Afro-Brazilian Dance; Green Teen—Gardening; Copper Tooling with Palette Up!: Kidz Art Drawing Program (twice); The Magic of S.T.E.M.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and MAGIC!); Zoo to You: Habitats; Growing in the Desert: The History & Culture of the Tohono O'odham; CSI: Oro Valley.