

DATE: February 1, 2024

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 – January

This month, the focus has been on working with Branch Managers and staff to implement the hours changes that many of our branches are moving towards. As part of this shift there are also many internal logistics that need to be addressed, such as marketing of hours to public (CSO), changes in our delivery and deposits, changes in custodial services, and also changes in Vet Sec guard schedules. I've been working with multiple staff in various departments, as well as LSM's to communicate these changes so that branch staff have what they need to make the hours changes. The changes will go into effect January 29th and overall, we have added 33 hours across the system.

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

To start the new year right, the library's Many Nations team participated in a workshop presented by the Native Wellness Institute appropriately called New Year, New You! It was a wonderful opportunity to gather and learn from others serving our Native/Indigenous communities throughout Arizona. The intention was clear and set – to bring our best selves to serve our communities, we need to be in a good place mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually as individuals. This workshop not only afforded staff time for self-reflection, but it also helped team building.

As the library gears up for the expansion of evening and Saturday hours at some of our locations this January, branch managers have been working together to accommodate both branch and staff needs. For some, this has meant having staff from one location work at another location on Monday and/or Saturday. Staff appreciate the flexibility to do this.

Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos

During the month of January, I was able to visit and work with managers at various libraries to discuss and plan for the upcoming changes in branch hours, taking place at the end of the month. I also had the opportunity to work at the Caviglia-Arivaca library, which is always a treat. As a member of the library presenter team, I contributed to ongoing planning and preparation efforts to improve paid presenter coordination. As part of those efforts, I also revised and re-published training materials for staff in the form of a learning course, designed to guide staff interested in booking new paid presenters. As a member of the staff learning team, I co-

presented an introductory segment during the launch of this year's Service University, designed to support and train staff that have been newly hired or recently promoted.

Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe

This month I was able to travel to Ajo, AZ and support the great team of the Salazar-Ajo Branch with coverage. During my visits I was able to connect with community members and the staff. I attended the following monthly meetings, Trauma Informed Care Team, Many Nations, Nuestras Raices, and our LSM meetings.

On behalf of the Many Nations Team, I was able to pack up magazines for a local tribal community partner as part of our Spread the Wealth Program. I attended my monthly one on one meetings with my managers and our monthly manager team meeting.

Library Services Manager – Em Demeester-Lane

This month I worked with managers on scheduling to accommodate the extended hours at many of our locations. I worked at El Rio and Joel Valdez Main Library to help staff attend meetings or, in the case of Main, to help their co-managers have an offsite planning day. In preparation for my April presentation at the Public Library Association, I worked with my co-presenter, Linde Furman, to fine tune our workshop.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I spent the month supporting our organization by covering management duties at Santa Rosa Library. I have continued to provide training and support for our new Librarian 1 at Santa Rosa. This has allowed me to continue to develop relationships with the community of Drachman School and Head Start, that share the campus with the library. I also have been providing Teams video check-ins with Dusenberry-River, Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr., Santa Rosa and Miller-Golf Links Libraries.

Supporting administration by assisting branches with the expansion of hours available to the public, attending and/or participating in the Collaborative Action Team Meetings, Policy Review Team meetings, Budget Review, PRIDE Affinity Team, Library Planning Task Force and Public Service Manager Meetings. I also helped celebrate staff promotions and retirements this month, which is all part of building our community. I also attended the Pima1 HCM kickoff and Placer AI presentation.

Supporting my professional development in my Library Services Manager role by attending webinars such as Udemy Course AI A-Z, The Road Ahead: ALA Webinar Navigating Legislative Censorship and I am attending the Lib Learn X Conference to learn more about how artificial intelligence will influence our work in the library.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

Attendance has been growing at adult programs, a usual consequence of snowbirds returning and the colder weather encouraging people to find events that are indoors. We have had a local author/poet present his latest work and he opened the floor for an open mic poetry reading and three patrons took the floor to recite! The new year will present all ages with at least two craft programs: Valentine Making and Calligraphy are in the coming months. Children find the train free play time a bit more alluring than our Lego Build! hours, so far this winter. Holiday and romance and winter/ice displays around the library have encouraged circulation. A new director at our partner in Catalina, the Catalina Community Center, stopped by to solidify our joint efforts and we discussed options for displaying the children's art, sharing programs,

and ideas for more adult programming at their location. We look forward to a rejuvenated relationship with them as they begin to plan water aerobics and other spring and summer programs.

Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres

January will conclude at Dusenberry-River Library with the incorporation of programming for a new dedicated service level for our patrons. Tween programming will occur on a weekly basis alongside programs aimed at children, teenagers and adults. Relaxation Hours and a Library Job Shadowing program were the programs initially created in conjunction with feedback from Tweens. New Tween programming will complement programming such as Storytime and Read to a Dog for children; Teen Reading Circle, Teenage Advisory Board; One on One Tech Help, Master Gardeners and Art in the Afternoon for Adults. Our community space continues to be utilized by study groups, book clubs, civic organizations, crafting collectives, homeowner's associations and writing groups.

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Nanini resumed Citizenship classes and English Language classes in mid-January after a winter break. ELAA class registration was full after the first session and Citizenship Class is becoming very popular again. One former student from last semester recently celebrated becoming a US citizen, all thanks to the Library's partnership with this Pima Community College program.

Weekly storytimes have been nearing room capacity since returning from the 2 week break, with between 60 and 75 people in attendance. Combined with the additional programs like weekly Math Help, Teen Advisory Board meetings, and an upcoming watercolor class taught by the Drawing Studio, Nanini is engaging more and more community members every month.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

We were busy in January after the holidays as many people joined us to pick up books, Culture Passes, Covid-19 rapid test kits, and seeds! Our AARP tax sign ups were very popular with almost half of the appointments for February – April filling up the first day registration opened. The Oro Valley Historical Society held a discussion, *Oro Valley: The Early Years*, which had an audience of over 60 people. The Mahjong Club has gained more members and has almost filled our program room several Saturdays in a row. The program and meeting room have been in high demand, especially with nearby HOAs and other community interest groups.

We held a Lunar New Year – Year of the Dragon celebration for tweens and teens at the end of January. Very talented, K-12 local musical group, Desert Virtuoso played Asian melodies as well as classical and popular music pieces from movie theme songs. Their group members specialize in classical instruments as well as Chinese instruments such as Pipa and Gu Zhen. Later, staff introduced participants to the art of Calligraphy using Chinese bamboo hair calligraphy brushes and black ink as they enjoyed some light refreshments.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

It's been a great start to the New Year at Eckstrom Columbus Library. We are gearing back up after the holidays and finding our groove. The kids are back in school and filling our afternoons with exuberance and ROBLOX once again.

Homework help, Reading Help and Chess Club are all off to a new start this year. Slowly building back up after the break. Winston the Bulldog had some wonderful readers entrance him at Read to a Dog this month. We are giving out all 40 plus snacks to hungry school kids Monday through Friday and Monday afternoons we have a regular cadre of art enthusiasts

joining us for our Crafternoon program. Make Way for Books began their Story School Program two days a week, both leading into our Preschool and Baby Storytimes to give families an extra resource for their young children to learn and grow.

Literacy Connects Beginner and Intermediate English classes began this month and both are filling quickly. Adult Yoga and the Eclectic Readers Book Club both convened and had great attendance. The Community Health Mobile Clinic came to serve our community's health needs and Bi-lingual Drop in Job help continues to assist people on their path to fulfilling employment.

Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller

January has been a busy month here at Quincie Douglas Library! We've had some exciting new programs—for example, our partners at Literacy Connects have been teaching a Computer Basics class for Spanish speakers. It is very popular—it filled up immediately and has a waiting list.

Children's programming has included Toddler Storytime, Read to a Dog, Homework Help and A Snowy Day Crafternoon—the Crafternoon program will be held on Thursday, January 25th. Teens have enjoyed attending programming about making and keeping New Year's resolutions—the Wellness Council of Arizona presented a program called "Prioritizing Self Care—Simple Changes to Make a Habit", and staff had a program in which teens could unleash their creativity by creating their own journal or New Year's planner.

In addition to the Spanish computer basics class, adults made seed mosaic art with presenter Emy. They have also been attending our job help program—many people have gotten help with creating resumes, filling out job applications, creating email accounts and preparing for job interviews.

We are excited to have our partner, Make Way for Books, present their Story School program—it will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This early literacy program is geared toward 2 and 3 year olds.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

January was a busy month as we brought back our very popular Children's programs, including Storytime, Babytime, Read to a Dog, and What's Up Wednesday, an after-school craft program. We're also offering a fun drop-in Teen program on Thursday afternoons. This month we're featuring workshops on vision board creation, watercolor painting, and zine making. We also welcomed class visits from a local school and a homeschool group this month, offering instruction on how to use the catalog, find books on the shelf, and access online library materials.

English Language classes are back with our partner Literacy Connects. This session we're offering both Beginner and Intermediate classes. We had 17 students join us the first day! In addition, we launched a new program for adults for the new year. Crafting, Coloring, Cookies and Conversations is taking place on Friday mornings at 11 am. Participants are welcome to bring in their own creative projects or use supplies we have on hand. Our Book Club is reading *When Women Were Dragons* by Kelly Barnhill and held an engaging discussion on January 9.

The branch manager presented during an ALA webinar on January 11 called, "Salary Equity and Library Workers: Experiences from the Field on How to Make it Happen." This effort was a culmination of her work on ALA's Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship and PCPL's Staffing Taskforce.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

The library added weekly Toddler Storytimes on Wednesday mornings and the group shared stories and songs, while developing early literacy skills in a fun atmosphere. In partnership with

Literacy Connects, the library is now hosting ELAA classes twice a week. The first class was well attended, and staff continue to receive calls from customers interested in registering. Enrollment is open through February 1st. Continuous.

The library hosted Portable Planetarium for families which drew a large, enthusiastic crowd. Meet the Neighbors, presented by the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum introduced attendees to desert animal friends and a better perspective on animal life in our region. A Call to Artists Information session was hosted bilingually (Spanish/English) to help interested applicants navigate the submission process.

Santa Rosa Library – Michaela Grady

This January, the Santa Rosa Library is happy to continue bringing programming and resources to the community. Our teens and tweens are expressing their creative sides by attending programs including a presenter program on bracelet making, and a visit from The Drawing Studio. Additionally, staff have created programs on painting, soap making, perler beads, and even creating fairy lanterns. To nurture other interests, our STEAM programming is offering an introduction to chess this month. Finally, our teens and tweens have been enjoying one of their favorites by playing Loteria, a bilingual game that always attracts a crowd. The little ones also have an exciting month here. Our Pete the Cat Storytime will include stories, songs, crafts, and even the cat himself, Pete! Additionally, we will begin Story School led by Make Way for Books this month to support literacy in our community. This is well complemented by our adult program 1, 2, 3, Read with Me that is all about helping parents connect with their children through books and literacy practices. We look forward to another wonderful year here at the Santa Rosa Library.

District 3 – Sylvia Lee

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

The Caviglia Arivaca Library started the New Year with *Library Presenter Vivian Cullen* inviting us to reflect on our core values as we created *Vision Boards for 2024*. Patron Angie noted that this was "...exactly!" what she needed to get the New Year started in the best possible way. Part-time Librarian Merrilee Steely created '*Arivaca Bookopoly*' a game board/reading challenge for all of 2024. Anyone who is able to complete the challenge can submit their completed game Board and be entered in a drawing sponsored by the Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca library.

Last month presented us with many outreach opportunities, and we all worked together to make it to three outings last month. We've been weeding our collection for Teen and Tween titles to give away at the Tucson Festival of Books. Naturally we stumbled on other titles that were ready to be shared with children at *San Fernando Elementary and the Arivaca Action Center pre-school*. Library Technical Supervisor Madian Romero presented '*How to Catch a Snowman*' alongside the Bookmobile at the *Sopori Second Quarter Awards Assembly*. Finally, all hands were on deck for *Arivaca's Music and Memories Festival* the last weekend in September. The Caviglia Arivaca Library (and the Friends of the Pima County Library) sponsored *Gertie Lopez and the TO Boyz* to play Waila Music, and Gertie did a great job getting everybody dancing. We worked alongside the Arivaca Action Center and Pre-school, The Arivaca Community Center, Arivaca Helping Hearts, The Gathering Space and Arivaca Human Resources to provide games and activities for the attendees. The macramé was especially popular, and many out-of-town visitors took the *Grab & Go Activity Kits* for their grandchildren.

Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky

When getting help with wireless printing this month, one patron told staff, "I appreciate your help, it means millions to me!" We are thrilled to help meet the needs of our community!

On January 4th we had a Make Your Own Tote Bag program. Program facilitator and Librarian I Paige Carlson reported:

“One of the attendees went from having never used a sewing machine, to confidently sewing multiple seams to create a reversible tote bag. During the program one of the attendees repeated, ‘and you’re doing this for free?’ Upon completing their project, this patron continued to ask when the next class would be. They were proud of their creation and showed it to other staff members. When they came back for another program later in the week, they were using their tote. They gushed about loving the class and stressed that they wished for more. They called the library after to ask when the next sewing class will be.”

Hooray for learning new skills at the library!

In addition to our usual roster of programs and offerings this month, Beginning and Intermediate English classes also resumed. We had a successful Family Game Time event with families learning and playing new and classic board games together on the 11th, and TEP stopped by on the 30th for a Home Energizer Workshop, where everyone received a free Energy Efficiency Kit to take home. Our Youth Services Librarians also made four outreach visits this month to local schools and preschools, where they provided preschool storytimes, participated in morning announcements, handed out books at Family Reading Nights and more.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger

The Salazar-Ajo Library started the new year with an AZ Humanities speaker series on Monday evenings. The first of which had every seat in the room filled, while community members heard about the border geography of the US and Mexico from Dr. Scott Warren. Other topics that were presented were Rivers of Dreams: Songs and Stories of Arizona's Waterways from Dr. Jay Cravath and Growing in the Desert: The History & Culture of the Tohono O'odham with Dr. Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan

Our weekly Wednesday programming continues to draw a crowd and visitors of all ages were able to learn watercolor and salt techniques, draw zoo animals, explore Perler beads, make bracelets using Bali beads and finally watch their creations shrink, while learning about the properties of polymers with the ever-popular Shrinky-Dink activity!

The library is offering a weekly Family Storytime and has added a once-a-month gardening and literacy presentation by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension in partnership with First Things First. Families were invited to plant tomato seeds and enjoyed a story read by Master Gardener Cassie.

We welcomed many new library card holders at this branch in January and our current display is receiving a lot of attention as our guests are intrigued to try something new this year.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

In Children's Services at the Abbett Library we have 4 elementary students attending Homework Help on a regular basis to get help with math and reading. Currently, we have one adult volunteer who helps with Homework Help twice a week. Kids have been continuing to practice their reading skills and build their confidence reading aloud to one of our four Read to a Dog volunteers and their furry friends. There is an uptick in Babytime, Toddler and Preschool storytime attendance. In January, we will have our dinosaur, fossil, gem and rock-themed storytimes to celebrate Tucson's Gem & Mineral Show. Activities include exploring some beautiful fossils, gems and rocks using our eyes and hands, and doing the gem stomp. At the end of the month, guest paleotechnician, Terry Manning, will present a program for families where participants will discover what it is like to be a paleotechnician researching the inside structures of fossils. Attendees will get to examine real dinosaur eggs dated less than 10 years before the dinosaurs died out and other fossils. They will learn about his discovery how he believes the dinosaurs died out and why.

In the month of January, Youth Services continued working with Teen Advisory Board on preparations for an author interview at the Festival of Books as well as developing our 3D printing skills to create in-house materials for passive teen/tween programming. We continue to provide hour long interest-based programs for teens and tweens every afternoon and we are working on reorganizing how those programs will run to better focus on the needs of the various age groups that attend those programs. We are also looking forward to hosting a presenter program about resin-casting on January 23rd in place of our usual tween/teen program. The resin-casting program was selected out of the catalog of programs based on input given to the YA librarian from the teens of the library.

Word has been buzzing about Gregory McNamee's writing workshops! Every workshop has been packed with writers and enthusiasts, and our pre-registration is instantly booked out the same day it becomes available. We hope to have many more writing workshops available in the future since this has been so well attended and loved by our community.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

The month of January has been a slow and steady month for Woods Memorial, especially coming off the heels of the Red Herring Puppet show that attracted over 50 people and a Make-A-Gift Paint with the Library event.

Although it has been slow, as we are gearing up for an intense February, in January we have had the privilege of working with Hassan of Amphi Pantera and distributing food to the Woods community. Woods Memorial will continue to be a monthly food distribution site for the Amphi Neighborhood community.

The Spring semester for the Monday and Wednesday Literacy Connect English learning classes did start on January 17th with an enrollment of 35 students. As of the 22nd, the enrollment of 35 students has been consistent.

Woods Memorial also welcomed Satori Charter schools' preschool class of 22 and 16 adult chaperones on January 17th, they learned about our Seed Library, Culture Passes, Read to a Dog, and Storytimes. They also discovered our many puzzles and games, which played while they were here. The students also sat at our coloring table, where many got to work on creating new masterpieces. A good time was had by all.

Woods Read to a Dog program this January has been consistently used with Wednesday's and Saturday's, seeing an average of 15 young library users. For Woods Memorial Snack time program, as of January 22nd we have given out to our youth over 350 snack packs.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

The Pima County Master Gardeners from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension January presentation was about Passive Rainwater Harvesting. Attendees were given information related to the goals, advantages, uses, design, and construction of a passive rainwater harvesting system.

Author Gene Twaronite gave a writing workshop based on his recent publication, The Family That Wasn't: A Fable. He gave an interactive presentation of selected short readings accompanied by illustrations and a discussion of the creative writing and publishing process.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

Some long-awaited renovation work got underway at Joyner-Green Valley Library this month! Other than two days at the beginning of the project, the library will remain open to the public during the renovations. When the work is complete, the branch will have a new Service Desk, more accessible Self-Checkout stations, and refurbished Community Bulletin Boards in the public area along with improvements to work areas in the staff backroom. These upgrades will aid staff in providing efficient, professional service as well as contributing a refreshing new look.

Joyner-Green Valley Library is bustling with patrons and activity as more winter visitors continue to arrive in the wake of the holiday season. Lucky Day books are leaving the display stands almost as fast as we can replenish them, the Reserves shelves are full to bursting, and seats in the magazine area are hard to come by with all the folks stopping in to read their favorite periodicals. Our young visitors have enjoyed numerous activities available in the Children's Area, including a delightful Grab N' Go snowman craft, a gnome scavenger hunt, and an I SPY bulletin board game in which they look for cute winter figures while practicing addition skills.

Adult library patrons enjoyed the beautiful music of solo guitarist, Peter Biedermann, during this month's *Music @ Your Library* program. Chuck Tempio, docent from the Tucson Museum of Art, engaged attendees with his Art Talk entitled, "Monument Mania: The Civic Art of Washington, DC." In addition, patrons enjoyed two different talks by local authors. Jolyn Young, Features Editor for the Green Valley News and author of the memoir, *Never Burn Your Moving Boxes*, shared insights into her journey from cowboy to author. Photographer Virgil Hancock shared work from his new photography book, *Bisbee: The Alchemical City of the Borderlands*, and described how an early mining camp in the Mule Mountains of Southern Arizona became one of our state's treasures.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Melissa Salazar

Kirk Bear Canyon Library was busy for the month of January. We had our usual four sessions of Sensory Program for little ones which brought in about 60 participants. Our Family Storytimes are held on Thursdays, now with two sessions, and we average about 47 to the max of 50 people for the first session and about 30 for the second session. We had an additional storytime this month, which was a Korean Bilingual storytime which was made even more special with our very own Children's Librarian, Megan, reading and singing songs in Korean. On January 23rd, we started a 6 week Knitting program that teaches the basics of knitting. Yarn and knitting needles were made possible by the Friends of the Kirk Bear Canyon Library. This program has two sessions, one in the morning, meant for adults, and one in the afternoon, meant for tweens and teens.

For adult programming at Kirk Bear Canyon Library, Pima County Master Gardeners from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension put on an event called, Garden Talk: Roses in the Spring, and participants learned to prune and maintain roses. On January 17th, was the first class of the Great Decisions 2024 program, which is an 8-week program where participants discuss foreign policy and encourage thoughtful discussion of current global challenges. This year, Great Decisions 2024 program is completely full, having 30 people sign up to participate. On January 25, the Kirk-Bear Canyon Book Club meet to discuss their new title called *Didn't Nobody give a Shit what happened to Carlotta* by James Hannaham.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Anna Lawrence

The Miller-Golf Links library started the year with new programs for tweens and teens. Every other Wednesday, we will be hosting a tween/teen hangout, a drop-in session to play games, do homework, color, study, or just chat! One Saturday every month, there will also be a Book vs. Movie Club; in January, our book/movie is *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Tweens and teens can read the book ahead of time, then will gather to watch the movie, eat popcorn, and talk about the differences.

Other fun youth programs this month include creating Galaxy Jars, glitter required, and a Magic Volcano Party, cake and dancing included! Two sessions of yoga story time this month also give toddlers and preschoolers a chance to stretch and play in new ways.

Our adult book club, the Voracious Readers, returns with *The Book of Charlie, Wisdom from the remarkable American life of a 109-year-old man*. GLF is also hosting adult GED classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings from January through the end of March.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Murphy-Wilmot Library started 2024 busy! Our gate counts were impressive. We had 819 visitors Tuesday, January 16 asking for help on things ranging from taxes to job searches to finding a good book to read. The community used our meeting rooms. Over 55 people showed up for the community-sponsored Read to a Reptile event with an intergenerational audience interacting with the Southern Arizona Reptile Rescue's reptilian friends. Library programs were popular. Hundreds participated in our programs including Armchair Adventures, English Classes, Storytimes, Lego Club, Job Help and our book club.

Two classes of Gale Elementary School children visited Murphy-Wilmot Library in January. Forty-five children were given tours of the library, learned about the Dewey Decimal System, created books to take home and checked out library books. The children ended their visit with a picnic in Murphy-Wilmot's backyard.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Chair

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – John Muñoz

The highlight event at El Pueblo this month was a bilingual Storytime presented by Maria Pape, which drew 45 attendees, including many Spanish-speaking new visitors who signed up for library cards and got Culture Passes for the first time; we almost ran out of audience chairs for this very calm and engaging presenter. After the Storytime, several families stayed for over half an hour just to enjoy the library while their children played with our toys and crafts. We received excellent survey feedback from several families about the quality of our Storytimes (both regular and special presenter), and patrons expressed interest in future programs such as Read to a Dog, Homework Help, crafting clubs and English classes. We also continued our regularly offered Chair Yoga class by Vivienne Uyeda, hosted at the Senior Center next door.

El Río Library – Em DeMeester-Lane (Interim)

El Río Library brought back storytime after our winter break, this time with a new presenter: Librarian Morgen Daniels. January 25th was also the unveiling of the Storm to Shade stormwater infrastructure in the center and we presented a storytime for that event as well. Additionally, we hosted a visit from Pima Community College Adult Ed reading class and made many library cards for new readers.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

Himmel Park Library began the new year with adult programming focused on conservation efforts. First up was UArizona Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Educator Ben Tully, who presented on invasive plant species in the Sonoran Desert. Participants learned how to identify invasive plants, from the notorious buffleggrass to the new threat of stinknet, as well as ways to take action to help protect both urban and wild spaces. Later in the month will be a Garden Talk from the UArizona Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners all about passive rainwater harvesting. Participants will discover why harvesting rainwater is important in the Southwest and learn how to design and construct a passive rainwater harvesting system. Himmel customers are better prepared to care for our desert home thanks to the UArizona Cooperative Extension!

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

As we ease into a 2024 full of possibility, Joel D. Valdez Main Library is planning for a streamlined and productive year of service as we also reflect on the accomplishments of 2023.

PCPL's Ask A Librarian services are run at the Main Library and we would like to express gratitude for all the staff who work so hard every day to make this service successful for our community. In the month of January alone, our highly skilled Reference Team has answered over 200 questions for community members. In celebration of the team's hard work, we share some positive feedback from customers about PCPL and our Ask A Librarian service that we have received this month:

- "Thanks for having so many ebooks to choose from!!"
- "I will check everything out, and make sure I can get books onto my Kindle, and go from there. You've been a great help!"
- "All of what you wrote makes perfect sense. Much appreciated. Thank you and thanks to all of your colleagues for the stellar job you all do!"
- "Thank you for your expeditious response. It was so well researched, detailed and informative. This is the second time I requested information from Ask A Librarian and on both occasions I have not been disappointed in the least. Thank you ever so much. May you all have a great New Year."

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo

As we head into the New Year the Richard Elias-Mission Library continues to provide offerings to engage and entertain the surrounding community. The branch hosted the Pima Animal Care Center for our monthly pet food distribution event and the community need was evident in turnout and demand. Pima Animal Care Center staff ran out of food within two hours of the three-hour program start time. This demonstrates the high need for support programs like these in the community and the importance of the libraries as visible, trustworthy distribution points.

This month we were pleased to host Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council member Francisco Munoz for a presentation on the history of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Councilman Munoz shared about tribal history and how the tribe came to be the only federally recognized tribe in the United States. The Yaqui nation has over thirteen thousand tribal citizens and a reservation of over two hundred acres in southern Arizona. Richard Elias-Mission Library regularly hosts programs highlighting the cultural traditions of the Yaqui through ongoing outreach and partnership. For the younger crowd January saw the return of regularly scheduled Storytime programs after a small break. To kick this off we invited Mini Miracles, a local non-profit dedicated to providing equine therapy to children with emotional or physical disabilities. The group brought along Apollo, a miniature horse who enjoyed being the star of our Reading Rodeo. Kids and families were delighted to interact with a miniature horse and so were the staff, who couldn't help visiting too.

Kids and Teens who want to explore their artistic side had a chance to come in to learn about comic book creation with Frank Powers and the Comic Bookmobile. Frank showed participants easy to use techniques for developing your own comic book art style using simple shapes and lines in a comedic, engaging presentation.

Southwest Library – John Muñoz

The new year has started off great for our branch. We have had more community members as well as students visit us. We had two successful programs, creation of homemade play dough as well as the introduction to tie-dye program. Our program instructor has returned to the branch on the days we are open, therefore we are now able to have homework help and GED courses

available every Wednesday and Friday. We have worked closely with the Southwest Resource Center for collaboration with programming.

Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez

Happy New Year 2024! Valencia Library staff have been working hard on building new partnerships and coordinating interest-driven programming to serve the community. This month, the fruits of this work are drawing great response and participation.

The PLAZA Mobile Market kickoff on January 10th had the Pima County Public Library Bookmobile on site here at Valencia Library, as well as AZ Health, the Community Food Bank, and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension's Garden Kitchen. The 2-hour event had a great turnout and exceeded the target number of participants. People enjoyed the big seed packets that were given away by the Valencia Garden Team who were promoting the seed library; the Garden Kitchen did a cooking demonstration; and the Mobile Market sold out of food. The PLAZA Mobile market will continue to host a weekly stop at Valencia Library every Wednesday.

Valencia Library put on its first maker marathon in the Teen 101 Space this month. The event was full and in addition to teen participants, we had a good turnout with a multigenerational audience of all ages including small children and their adults. It was great to see participants excited to see their favorite characters from the Percy Jackson book series; during the video marathon you could hear them whispering about the differences and similarities to the book. Teen maker activities included jewelry making and designing t-shirt stencils for the Cricut cutters. While they were working on their t-shirts and necklaces you could see teens help each other pick colors and designs for their creation. Some great comments were "I have never made a necklace before it's really fun" and "I really enjoyed this event will there be another one soon?"

The end of January also marked the beginning of a partnership event with Pima Animal Care Center (PACC) with the Feria de Salud Canina. This Canine Health Fair is part of a larger pet resources campaign to reach the Spanish-speaking audience in Pima County and in the Valencia Library Service area. Four partner agencies are slated to participate, in addition to PACC, and a radio station satellite DJ. As of the writing of this report, the event has not occurred, however the community interest leading up to the event has been palpable and we expect the January 28th event to be a great success and bring much-needed pet health resources to the area.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Murphy-Wilmot Library-Japanese Fan Making

Richard Elías-Mission Library –Comic Bookmobile, Book Rodeo, Storytime

Southwest Library – Create Homemade Play Dough, Introduction to tie-dye

Valencia Library – Family Storytime, Create Club, Teen Time, Read to a Dog, Crochet Circle,

Yusuke Banno-Resin Casting Crafts, Teen 101 Space Maker Marathon-Percy Jackson and the Olympians

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Chess Club, Yoga with Vivianne Uyeda

Salazar-Ajo Library – Whatever Wednesdays – Watercolor, Zoo Animals, Perler Beads, Bali Beads, Shrinky Dinks, Family Storytime

Friends of the Green Valley Library (Green Valley & Sahuarita)-Music @ Your Library

Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library- Great Decisions