
DATE: June 06, 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 – April 2024

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

After a meeting with Quincie Douglas Library staff regarding programming, supplies, and budgeting this month, the guard at the Quincie Douglas Library was very proud to show me the certificate and medal he and the library staff had received from Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres and the City of Tucson. Mr. Fimbres stopped by one day and observed the story time presented by our wonderful children’s librarian, Brie, and was so impressed that he asked if he could come by again and award everyone certificates of appreciation. I was thrilled to hear staff getting recognition for all their wonderful work!

Equally thrilling was receiving news this month that the session in which my colleague, Alina Rowe, and I were listed as presenters was approved for the 2024 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums. Alina and I were invited to participate in this presentation by our fellow librarians at the Venito Garcia Tribal Library of the Tohono O’odham Nation. Alina and I are humbled by this opportunity.

Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos

During the month of April, I continued to have monthly meetings with managers and staff from across the system and again had the opportunity to fill in at a couple of libraries. I have also been working to re-introduce unpaid internship opportunities at Pima County Public Libraries for college students considering a career in public library service. The Presenter Planning Team has continued to work on revisions to internal processes and in preparing to roll-out these improvements at the start of the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Additionally, as a member of the Library Administration Team, I continue to help with the planning and implementation of our organizational goals.

Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe

For the month of April I was able to provide coverage to the Southwest Branch and I also attended affinity team meetings.

I worked with the Deputy Director of Public Services to pick up over 30 cakes and treats. On April 9th, I worked with fellow colleagues and administration to deliver these cakes and treats to several branches in celebration of Library Worker Day.

The Southwest Branch Manager and I visited the Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library at the Pascua Yaqui Nation to connect with the Administrator and the Librarian. We brainstormed ideas on how we can collaborate and support one another's libraries and communities.

In April I was able to join two of the Deputy Directors in visiting the Catalina branch to visit with the staff and take a little tour of the branch.

My colleague and I presented at Service U to showcase the amazing work the Many Nations and Nuestras Raices Affinity Teams do.

Library Services Manager – Em Demeester-Lane

This month I had the exciting privilege of speaking at the Public Library Association Conference about our Trauma Informed Care Team alongside one of Main Library's managers, Linde Furman. Our presentation, entitled "Stronger Together: Trauma Informed Methods and Models to Support Library Staff" was very well attended and we had the opportunity to connect with librarians all over the country who are working to find best practices for supporting their staff through difficult and traumatic incidents in the workplace. I'm happy to report that even after a robust Q and A, Linde and I connecting with these librarians via email, working to help them with resources. In addition to the presentation, I was able to attend sessions on leading staff through change and making data-driven leadership decisions. It was a wonderful conference experience and I am excited to share what I brought back with the Admin and Manager teams.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I spent the month supporting our organization by welcoming in our new Manager, Heather Severson, to Santa Rosa Library and helping the branch navigate through the post-fire process that has been long and arduous. While SRO has been closed, the staff has been helping at other branches. I also have been providing in-person and Teams video check-ins with Dusenberry-River, Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. and Santa Rosa Libraries. Miller-Golf Links Library is undergoing a beautiful remodel of the staff room that the team is very excited about. In the interim, these staff members are helping support other branches. This includes Manager Anna Lawrence stepping into the Dusenberry River branch Manager role to help with leadership until the new permanent manager comes in on April 22nd. Mikel Stone, the current Main Library co-manager will be managing River library. He has been helping train Lorenia Diaz who will step into his place at Main when he transfers to River. Lorenia will eventually be the Manager of Mission Library. We also celebrated Library Workers Day and I helped deliver treats to four of our branches/departments to let them know how much we appreciate them!

Supporting administration by assisting branches by attending and/or participating in the Himmel Park Expansion Project Meeting, Vulnerable Populations Team, Collaborative Action Team Meetings, Policy Review Team meetings, Admin Planning Retreat, PRIDE Affinity Team, Library Planning Task Force and Public Service Manager Meetings. As the administrative lead of the PRIDE team, we are planning for our Author Talk in October. As the PCPL representative in

partnership with the UA School of Information on a grant supporting education to the public on Artificial Intelligence (AI), I met with the group multiple times and our grant was submitted on April 18th. This 3-year project will involve planning, training and executing classes in public libraries, by library staff, about navigating artificial intelligence and using it responsibly. As part of my growth in this as the point person for AI within PCPL, I watched a Librarian 2.0 mini AI conference and attended the UA LIS Department AI Talk on Tap: AI the Birds and the Bees. I have also joined, as the PCPL representative, the team of the Pima County Health and Community Services Meet Yourself event and have attended the planning meeting. I was also able to support our Nuestras Raices Affinity Team by helping set up our table at the MujerX Chingonas event at Galeria Mitotera. In addition, I helped in welcoming the Center for Creative Photography (CCP) to Joel D. Valdez Main Library to discuss an upcoming collaboration to feature top Chicanx photographer Juan Louis Bernal. I am excited about this as I was able to view an exhibit of his work recently at the Mexican Consulate. We are hoping this leads to many more exhibits from CCP going forward! Supporting my professional development in my Library Services Manager role by attending webinars such as Silent Perspectives: The Unequal Effects of Censorship Across Communities and Migrants: A Conversation with Sheri Laigle about the current crisis and how your organization can help.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dusenberry-River Library – Anna Lawrence/Mikel Stone

Manager Anna Lawrence has stepped in for the month of April until Mikel Stone takes over management of the Dusenberry-River Library on April 22. As one of the few branches with available eclipse glasses remaining, River fielded a great number of calls and handed out hundreds of glasses prior to the event. On the day of the eclipse, staff and library patrons alike watched with the library provided glasses in front of the library. Some incredibly popular ongoing programs continued this month, including Read to a Dog, Slime creation, and one-on-one tech help. There is also a new Banned Books Club for teens, which has garnered quite a bit of interest among the after-school population.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

For the 50th anniversary of the Town of Oro Valley, staff walked in a parade on April 6 from Ironwood Ridge High School to the library. Oro Valley staff were joined by some of our friends from Dewhirst-Catalina Library and the Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library as well. We had a blast wearing oversized glasses and carrying our PCPL sail. Many people shouted, “we love the library!” as we walked by, and afterward some of our patrons told us how great it was to see our positive energy in the parade.

AARP offered their last tax help sessions this month; they filed exactly 800 tax returns in total! We also had the last session of Great Decisions and participants have already asked that we have it again.

The Oro Valley Teen Advisory Board (TAB) has been actively planning and participating in programs at the library. For April, TAB organized a Spring Celebration with staff support and welcomed families with kids to do hands-on activities including a scavenger hunt, Bingo, seed planting with seeds from the Seed Library, and egg experiments; children were particularly excited about the scavenger hunt and asked staff and volunteers for hints along the way. There were about 35 children with their parents in attendance. It was great to see the community get connected in a fun way, and the youth from TAB practiced their planning and leadership skills through the experience.

Our much-anticipated collaboration with Make Way for Books, “Story School” started this month. This free bilingual early reading program for families focusses on learning, playing, and growing, and has been well attended each week. Patrons have smiles when they leave and shared that they are learning a lot, enjoy attending each week with the cohort, and are grateful for this addition to our weekly storytimes.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

This month at Eckstrom Columbus Library we wrapped up our bi-weekly AARP tax help. It is always a pleasure working with this great organization. We continue with our beginner and intermediate ELAA classes twice a week amidst many inquiries about the Summer sessions coming up. Bilingual Job Help has a steady stream of people needing one on one assistance with their employment needs, and our monthly Eclectic Reader's Book Club and Yoga class continue to have strong participation.

We feed upwards of forty youth a day, Monday through Friday, with our after-school snack program. The library is the official gathering space for our school aged friends. Winston the Bull Dog provided young readers with a patient audience for their reading practice and our Monday *Crafternoons* is always very popular with new and exciting projects each week for the whole family. Homework Help remains popular with the end of school looming on the horizon and our two, weekly *Storytimes* are always full and popular with young families who have connected and created bonds both in and out of the library.

We celebrated Arab American National Heritage Month and Poetry month with curated displays of interesting, relevant materials for our patrons.

Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller

We've had a busy April here at Quincie Douglas Library! Library staff tabled at several outreach events, including PACC's Canine Resource Fair on April 7th, an Earth Day celebration at Tully Elementary School, and another Earth Day celebration in conjunction with the Seed Library team at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (both of the Earth Day outreach events were held on Saturday, April 13th). At these events, staff talked about the library's many amazing resources. At the PACC fair, dog food, beds, toys, collars and tags were given out for free to the public.

We've also had some exciting programming, including an author talk with Estella Gonzalez called *Chicano Voices*. Adults will also gain experience in how to take quality photos on their cell phones in a class taught by Pima County Natural Resources volunteer Megan. Teens enjoyed a classic and theatrical face painting class with presenter Vanya. Children will love attending an Earth Day Crafternoon on April 12th.

We continue to give out many snacks from the Community Food Bank through our snack program. Literacy Connects' courses (basic computer classes in Spanish and GED classes in Spanish) are always well attended.

Staff made beautiful displays that showcased the eclipse (with free glasses to give away); poetry month, books about music, and books about gardening and seeds.

We checked out many culture passes to popular venues such as the Arizona Sonora Desert museum, the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Reid Park Zoo and more.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

On Saturday, April 6, we had the pleasure of participating in Fiesta Sahuarita, the 30th anniversary of this special community event. The Bookmobile joined staff in promoting library programs and

services, signing folks up for library cards, face-painting, and giving away take-home paper crafts. We talked to nearly 600 Sahuarita residents!

We are partnering with Valley Assistance Services, which offers community health and social services within the Green Valley/Sahuarita area. Volunteers will be at the library providing drop-in help on Thursdays in April, offering support with rental and utility assistance, signing up for benefits, SNAP and AHCCCS or accessing transportation, workforce and senior programs in the area.

Preschoolers from Summit View Head Start visited the library on April 4 and participated in a special Storytime while learning about library resources and services. One of the teachers brought in several friends a few days later, showing them how to get a card, check out Culture Passes, and select free reading glasses. We also have a new puppy joining our popular Read to a Dog program – Danny, the sweetest St. Bernard, will be listening to readers Monday afternoons. We already had 23 participants the first week!

The Center for Neuroscience's Brain Bus will be visiting April 17 with fun interactive games and activities for the whole family. We are also celebrating Poetry Month with a Poetry Open Mic on the afternoon of April 25. Adults and teens are welcome to showcase their wordy creations!

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

The library's weekly ELAA classes have been consistently attended by a steady group of students. The students have signed up for new library cards and were led through a tour by staff. The staff saw an increase in community members picking up COVID Test Kits this month. Computer, printing and fax services have also been highly utilized at the branch this month, some in connection with tax season, in addition to job searching.

This April, Sam Lena-South Tucson Library will be hosting *Harp Concert: Latin Music Discovery*, presented by Rebecca Reinhard Foreman. Attendees will learn about how Spanish music influenced musical folk traditions of Mexico and South America.

Another exciting program offered is *Ecological Restoration with Seedballs!*, offered by UA's School of Natural Resources and the Environment. Participating customers will learn how to use seedballs in ecological restoration.

Santa Rosa Library – Heather Severson
Closed for post-fire repairs.

District 3 – Dr. Sylvia M. Lee

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

We had an exciting April in Arivaca, with the Caviglia Arivaca Library partnering with almost every non-profit in town to bring fun and educational experiences to the community. We worked with the Friends of the Arivaca Fire Department to promote their new Paramedicine program. Our partnership with Arivaca Human Resource Food Delivery Program provides library created reading materials in each lunch bag delivered on Thursdays. Madian Romero provided outreach to *Sopori Elementary and the Amado Youth Center*, and Merrilee Steely brought stories and activities to *the Arivaca Early Learning Center and the Earth Day Celebration at the Arivaca Dancehall*.

This month we celebrated National Poetry Month with *Black Out/Redacted Poetry*, which is a fun combination of word play and art. The local response after our Poetry Share program was enthusiastic enough that we are going to start an ongoing poetry workshop next month. *Our Dia Celebration* was our biggest yet, with staff-led stories, lots of craft and puzzle activities, and a bouncy house. Our ongoing groups: *Book Club*, *Fiber Arts Friday*, and the *Art Salon* are benefiting from the snowbirds still visiting. They have been well attended, and I always smile when discussions get so effusive that they close the meeting room door to be polite...and I can still hear them.

The Pima County Assessor's Office visited and helped with understanding property values; and, we were fortunate to have Arizona Humanities sponsor Dr. Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan's visit to the Caviglia Arivaca Library where she presented *Growing in the Desert: The History and Culture of the Tohono O'odham*. Dr. Ramon-Sauberan is a generous speaker who spent extra time answering questions and visiting her audience. Given the interest and enthusiasm of the crowd she made her Power Point and Dissertation available to attendees, and I received several emails from patrons expressing their appreciation for this Arizona Humanities lecturer.

Every April Arivaca has an Annual Art Auction Fundraiser for local non-profits, and this year The Friends of the Arivaca Library won an original painting by local Artist Sally Grantham that features many Arivaca landmarks that are framed by Baboquivari at the top, and cows crossing the street in a Beatles-esque crosswalk in the fore ground. We are looking for the perfect location to feature our latest art acquisition, and I have deep appreciation for the thoughtful kindness and generosity of the Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library.

Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky

It's springtime at the Flowing Wells Library! We are gearing up for our summer garden on our public patio and we have seen lots of movement in our Seed Library, so we know our community is fully tuned in to our warmer and longer days!

We also celebrated with nature-focused events for tweens, kids, and families. On April 11th we offered a Bird Safe Community program for ages 7 – 12, where participants learned about the roles that resident and migratory birds play, and how to make our yards and buildings safer for birds, then spent some time on the patio to do a little bird watching! On April 26th we hosted Pima County Natural Resources for a special Nature Stories: Desert Friends events where young kids and their caregivers learned about our beautiful Sonoran Desert and the amazing creatures who live here.

For adults this month we hosted our final Writer in Residence Workshop by Laura Markowitz on April 13th, which was quite well attended. One workshop goer said, "Yes, this is exactly the kind of information I needed!" Laura Markowitz's one-on-one sessions were highly sought after this month, with our phones ringing off the hook and sessions and wait list filling up within minutes of use opening. This was Laura's last month as Writer in Residence, and I know our patrons will miss her!

All of our regular programs including two Storytimes, Homework Help, Read to a Dog, Crochet Club, Health Insurance Sign-Up and English Language Classes have continued as usual, but we did make a change this month to Our Computer Classes and Job Help programs. These are now offered as one-on-one sessions by appointment only on Wednesday afternoons. Offering this sort of help by appointment only instead of drop-in allows us to better cover these programs when the regular staff are out sick, and so far our patrons' response to this change has been positive!

Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger

April brought the Salazar-Ajo library a few wonderful presenters, who shared their knowledge with the community about raising meal worms, planting spring flowers, Cosmic Space Painting and drawing the desert. Families eagerly arrived to Storytime with Yoga as well as the Garden Discovery Day held the third Friday of the month in lieu of Storytime.

Our carefully selected Poetry Month display garnered a lot of attention and praise from community members. Comments were especially positive about the variety of poets, languages and subjects highlighted. The display honoring Earth Day invited patrons of all ages to add to their knowledge of the beauty of this planet.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

During the month of April, sixteen kindergarteners and two teachers from La Paloma Academy visited for a special storytime and tour of the library. They learned about all the great things you can find in the library, especially the computers! They were very excited to learn two secrets about the library – the thundering books and whistling building. Everyone raised their hands when asked if they would come back to the library with their parents. Several children already had library cards and others received a library card at the end of the visit.

Young Adults Services had a Teen Advisory Board coordinated event on April 11th. The teens worked together with the resources the librarians had in storage to find, plan and run an Escape Room aimed towards younger children. Young Adult Services has also continued to work on passive programming with our Adulting 101 display where we have run out of “How to Budget” handouts and had to reprint the free to take worksheets twice. After school programming has continued to be a place where youth can go to hang out, socialize and eat snacks without leaving a mess in the rest of the library. The Young Adult Librarian has contacted two of our local high schools who have been helping direct students to our monthly newsletter about programming. An outreach to a local elementary school is planned for the end of April and will provide another opportunity for our newsletters about volunteering and programming to make its way into the hands of parents and children.

The Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr Library welcomed artist Jeanine Colini back. The drawing class focused on how to draw a variety of cacti. Patrons enjoy classes with Ms. Colini as she uses Arizona animals and plants to learn how to draw. We had Ms. Colini last fall, and had her back due to her popularity with our patrons.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

Here at Woods Memorial! We have been ‘Keeping Calm and Welcoming April’. This month Woods Memorial Family Storytime has had presenter Carrie Williams on April 4th for *Yoga Storytime* reaching 28 library patrons, on April 11th *Pima County Health Department* educated 18 library patrons on oral health, and on 18th of April, 36 library patrons were able to hear stories about the amazing Saguaro Cactus and animals from a park Ranger from the *Saguaro National Park*. The last Family Storytime series presenter will be from Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation presenting *Rocks Rock, hands on geology* on April 25th at 10:30am.

Also in April, Woods celebrated Ramadan and is celebrating Passover this month with its Patrons by offering displays that helps to educate Woods Memorial community. And besides Holidays, it's National Frog month and we've added that theme to Maker's Mayhem. Woods Maker's Mayhem program this month offered Frog Acrylic Paint project on April 10th, from 3-5pm, and Faux Stain Glass Frog project on the April 24th and 25th from 3-5pm.

Woods Memorial continues to offer its leading programs *Read to a Dog* on Wednesdays and Saturdays, *Family & Baby Time* on Thursdays and Fridays, *Homework Help, Job Help, Snack Time, and English Classes with Literacy Connects* on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am until 11:30 am.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

April was the first month for weekly sessions of the Web Developer Coding Bootcamp. 14 students attended the first session. At the second session, one student remarked, “I’m impressed so far with Fierocode. I’ve used several coding programs in the past. This one has been really fun!”

National Unicorn Day was celebrated over the course of two days, April 8 and 9. Patrons were encouraged to find unicorn books in the collection, and over 30 of them did!

Tweens and teens made diamond art bookmarks at this month’s Crafternoon on April 25.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

A visit from Smokey Bear, who is celebrating his 80th birthday in 2024, was among the highlights of this month’s events at Joyner-Green Valley Library. Smokey Bear and his friends at the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management spent much of the day at the branch. The visit began at 10:00am with a Smokey Bear-led Family Storytime including activities for young children and their caregivers. By the time the visit ended at 3:00pm, many library patrons of all ages had talked with Smokey, taken photos with him, and of course, learned all about ways to prevent forest fires and help conserve our natural resources. The faces of patrons who remember Smokey Bear from their childhoods in the 1940s and 1950s positively lit up in delight!

Librarian II Lupita continued taking her new program, *Crafternoon*, “on the road” to the Amado Youth Center where she spends one evening with teens and one afternoon with tweens each month. This program represents a terrific partnership between Joyner-Green Valley Library and the Amado Community Alliance and gives youth in Amado an opportunity to enjoy some library programming closer to home.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Christine Russell

Kirk-Bear Canyon was ready to spring into April. Our Children’s Librarian has been enjoying a well-deserved break so we’ve had different staff rotating into our storytimes. That included a *Bilingual Yoga Storytime* and a storytime with the Kindermusic team. The kids keep coming and staff have gotten to try something new and interact with our youngest patrons. Our *Sensory Program* for children on the spectrum continues to draw over 50 participants each day it is held.

This month’s *Garden Talk* from the Pima County Master Gardeners was Wildflowers in the Desert. The presenter even walked patrons through how to check out seeds from the Seed Library to grow a beautiful flower garden. We brought back our knitting group, expanding it to knitting and crochet for all levels, under the name *Cozy Crafters Collective*. Patrons come to learn and to teach. It has been a great friendship incubator.

Our young adult team went out to Sabino High School and met with 40 sophomores to tell them about library services. We’re also actively recruiting for a Teen Advisory Board. The team can’t wait for our Summer Learning Program. There’s so much coming up.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Anna Lawrence
Closed for renovations.

The Miller-Golf Links library has been undergoing a staff area remodel for the month of April. Staff have been dispersed to assist at other library branches for the duration of the closure and look forward to returning to a fresh space! The library will reopen to the public on Wednesday, April 24.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

The AARP Tax Help program was a huge success again this year. A total of 1350 tax returns were prepared for Murphy-Wilmot customers. The last day of their service was particularly popular contributing to our visitor count of 1163 people on Thursday, April 11. We are grateful for this collaboration with the AARP and the positive impact it makes on our community.

Make Way for Books began their Story School program series at Murphy-Wilmot in April. This free, bilingual early reading program is for children ages birth to 5 and their caregivers. Participating families receive free books and school supplies. Many of the learning activities are done through games and play. Judging from the laughter and robust attendance, this program is a real hit with families.

Approximately 100 second grade students from La Paloma Charter School visited Murphy-Wilmot in April. The children rotated between four stations with plant lifecycle themes. They also learned about library resources. Twenty-three of the children got their first card.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Chair

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – John Muñoz

A big event for El Pueblo this month was supporting the *Ordinary Women Who Are Extraordinary* event hosted by Congressman Grijalva's office next door, an annual middle school writing competition for District 7 and another opportunity for the library to act as a visible community partner in the neighborhood center. Regular bilingual StoryTime continues to be well-attended, with an average of about 15 participants in a small space. We have also just started to offer Homework Help and will continue to do outreach with the local elementary and middle schools to establish regular attendance.

El Río Library – Maggie Madriz

Our Librarian I, Morgen, represented El Río Library at the *El Río Neighborhood Center's Health and Safety Fair* on April 6 and shared information about medical resources available through the library such as MedLinePlus and the ability to check out blood pressure kits. She also attended the *Brighta Early Learning Center Spring Fling* sharing library giveaways with students and parents and promoting the Seed Library with free seeds, coloring books, and grab-and-go seed ball kits.

El Río Library staff celebrated National Arab American Heritage Month by curating booklists and blog posts for the library's website including *The Arab American Book Award*, *It's National Arab American Heritage Month! Picture Books*, and *Three on a Theme: Taste, Hear, See – Syrian Culture*. Staff also created displays for Autism Acceptance Month and National Library Week, as well as created a customers' favorites DVDs display driven by a customer survey.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

Read to a Dog, which had been absent for a few years from Himmel Park Library, has returned! Minnie the Labradoodle is bringing delight to a small but growing group of regular readers. At the first meeting, a dad said his daughter had “been looking forward to it all week.” Some children read stories, while others prefer to sit and listen to the stories and pet Minnie. One girl who came to the first meeting did not want to read a story that day, but a few weeks later, she was ready to read a story, too. During a recent session, 13 people participated in the program – a big group for our children’s area!

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Linde Furman/Lorenia Diaz

This month Joel D. Valdez Main Library welcomes a new second manager, Lorenia Diaz, who will join Linde Furman in co-managing the location. Lorenia comes to PCPL with a variety of experience and we are so excited to welcome her to Main! Mikel Stone will be moving on to management of the Dusenberry-River Library location. We wish him all the best in his new venture.

April is National Poetry Month. Our young adult services department has been celebrating this by creating a poetry-themed display made by our new teen volunteers, setting up poetry books onto our display shelves, and hosting weekly writing programs in the teen space. We also hosted local author Marge Pellegrino in leading a nature writing program for teens outside in the grassy area of the Jácome Plaza.

“Shhh! We’re Reading” continues to be a quiet but powerful program. Our multiple regular attendees have told us that they appreciate having a comfortable social space available over the weekend.

In Reference, one of our Ask A Librarian patrons thanked us for getting them into ebooks: “Thanks so much for looking into this for me. I really appreciate it! I have been reading in the evenings instead of watching TV. Much better subjects mostly. “

Our vulnerable populations team invited two musicians from Larry Worster and the Hardscrabble Band and enjoyed soothing music from Robert Effertz at the Our Space Programs this month. During the programs we were also joined by both an experienced El Rio outreach nurse to assess people’s health and provide information about El Rio’s Outreach Clinics, and an Old Pueblo Community Services employee who helped provide information about emergency housing. We have helped to distribute grab and go meals from Caridad Kitchen at the Community Food Bank and have had an average of 50 people in attendance for each program (2nd and 4th Thursdays) to share a meal and build community.

This month, kids at Main launched into a new, weekly role-playing game called Quest, a collaborative undertaking that allowed kids to build their own characters and use teamwork to solve problems imaginatively. In this program, kids honed their communication and writing skills while exploring fantastical worlds and narratives. Later in the month, a STEAM program at the library — Dino Discovery — provided a thrilling experience for kids, thanks to the Tucson Children’s Museum. Kids delved into the world of prehistoric creatures, engaging in hands-on activities and learning more about dinosaurs in a captivating, interactive manner.

Finally, an eclipse program in early April engaged library customers with a pinhole projector and eclipse glasses. Participants were captivated by the celestial event and learned about planetary science in an educational and community-focused setting.

Southwest Library – Melissa Salazar

Southwest has seen an increase in patrons coming in to pick up their holds, more items being returned, and more check-outs for our culture passes. There was no children's programming for the month of April, but we continue to have our GED help and Homework help at the Branch. Southwest did participate in some outreach opportunities this month. One opportunity was with the Southwest Family Resource Center that is next door to the Southwest Library. It was their "Spring Sock Hop" event that took place on April 18 from 4:00pm-6:00pm for students and parents to learn about the Southwest Family Resource Center, other TUSD Departments, meeting community partners, children's arts and crafts and root beer floats. Southwest had a table and had giveaways, library information, free books for kids, and even making library cards. Southwest also joined the Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library for their Día De Los Niños Celebration April 26th, from 4:00pm-8:00pm. The library also had a table and gave out information about the library and had giveaways.

Valencia Library/Readrunners – Ivonne Ramirez

For National Poetry Month 2024, Valencia's Tween Services Librarian curated a display of Native American Poets, featuring a coloring page by Diné artist Selina Mullen and a mini-zine of poetry prompts inspired by short poems from Tohono O'odham poet Ofelia Zepeda and Diné Poet Laura Tohe. Ms. Curley and the Valencia Library team helped to distribute over 300 mini-poetry zines to its library patrons, the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Education Department, Diné Artisans Authors Capacity Building Institute, Northern Arizona Book Festival, the Seed Library team, as well as the St. Cyril of Alexandria School, which included a school outreach where students wrote and workshopped poems with Ms. Curley. The fifth graders were engaged and excited about reading and writing their own poetry.



BOOKS-BY-MAIL The Books-by-Mail program is growing and has enrolled several new members this month! The program checks out large type books and audiobooks and sends them via the U.S. Postal Service to participating Pima County residents. Library customers can reserve their favorite titles on the library website or send their reading preferences in writing or over the phone with our amazing Books-by-Mail staff. Books-by-Mail participants have expressed their appreciation for the program and how much they enjoy the reading recommendations.

BOOKMOBILE The Bookmobile is back in commission after being out intermittently since late February with recurring mechanical problems. During the bookmobile outage, the visits to the regular stops were continued whenever possible in a smaller format visit with the library van—although this made for very limited availability to browse physical titles, it has connected the library users in rural and remote locations with the library by bringing their checkouts and other library information resources out to them. We are looking forward to having the bookmobile available for upcoming events at partner locations, school events, and bringing the library summer learning program to our regular bookmobile customers.

BOOK BIKE The Valencia Library Bookbike made its debut this month during the Bike Rodeo at the Children's Peace Garden on Saturday April 27th. This event was coordinated by Beki Quintero from the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association. The family bike ride took families from Apollo Middle School to the Peace Garden at Manuel Herrera Park. While at the garden, they got to meet the bookbike team, see the book bike, and receive a book to take home. The children were also treated to a special guest to the bike rodeo Star Wars character, the Mandalorian (who also loves to read and tell stories). Valencia library is excited to have the bookbike on site and the team is looking forward to more opportunities to distribute books and share our joy for reading and storytelling with the community.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Murphy-Wilmot Library- Drawing Studio: Drawing 101

El Río Library – Family Storytime, Crafternoon

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Dino Discovery, Tucson Children's Museum;

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Yoga with Vivienne Uyeda

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – *Ecological Restoration with Seedballs, Harp Concert: Latin Music Discovery*

Salazar-Ajo Library – Whatever Wednesdays, Raising Mealworms, Galactic Space Painting, Dino-Rigami, Drawing Native Cactus Plants, Family Storytime, Yoga with Morgana

Valencia Library – Family Storytime, Create Club, Teen Time, Crochet Circle, Dolores Haro-Painting the Sonoran Desert, Yusuke Banno-Koi Painting

Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library- Family Storytime, Bilingual Yoga Storytime, Musical Storytime with Kindermusic, Sensory Program, Kirk-Bear Canyon Book Club, The Cozy Crafters Collective

Friends of the Green Valley Library (Green Valley & Sahuarita)-Family Storytime, Crafternoon in Amado

Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library- Great Decisions, Cynthia Hilts Trio Jazz Ensemble



DATE: June 6, 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 W. Anne Gibson-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: Circulation and Activity Measures: March 2024

	March 2024	March 2023	Percent Change
Circulation and Visits			
Circulation - Physical	195,351	211,609	-8%
Circulation - Digital	248,537	210,816	18%
Gate Count	233,978	222,966	5%
Website Visits	499,714	424,323	18%
Cardholders			
Active Cardholders	164,552	148,903	11%
Total Cardholders	272,425	288,148	-5%
Percent Active Cardholders	60%	52%	17%
Reference Service			
Chat Service - Number of Chats	692	710	-3%
Research Questions	380	384	-1%
Phone	1,756	2,082	-16%
Mail	236	404	-42%
Programming			
Early Childhood Literacy Program Attendance	4,737	3,607	31%
Adult Literacy Program Attendance	2,297	1,903	21%
Workforce Development Program Attendance	360	356	1%

Library Advisory Board Activity Report
March 2024

BRANCH	Physical Circulation	Computer Use	Gate Count*	Number of Programs	Program Attendance	Attendance at Outreach Events and School Visits	Number of People Using Meeting and Study Rooms
Bookmobile / Books by Mail	743	0	174	0	0	1,829	0
Caviglia-Arivaca	633	85	619	20	147	0	87
Dewhirst-Catalina	2,460	326	4,105	18	76	35	13
Dusenberry-River	11,958	745	8,594	32	419	350	746
Eckstrom-Columbus	5,872	3,093	16,278	38	393	0	1,036
El Rio	1,697	304	2,007	19	135	0	0
Flowing Wells	3,133	1,421	6,223	43	528	25	319
Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo	282	143	1,605	8	203	60	0
Himmel Park	10,513	986	9,955	26	471	30	102
Joel D Valdez Main	6,260	3,403	17,825	62	687	352	573
Joyner-Green Valley	11,678	1,201	13,482	47	601	45	821
Kirk-Bear Canyon	10,457	461	9,219	17	457	0	1,150
Martha Cooper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miller-Golf Links	13,080	1,474	11,471	14	250	448	249
Murphy-Wilmot	19,228	3,184	18,982	65	2,314	61	2,561
Nanini	15,859	1,325	13,517	49	1,024	0	1,194
Oro Valley	22,597	1,505	37,487	66	1,457	0	1,982
Quincie Douglas	3,033	1,527	8,027	70	686	30	470
Richard Elias-Mission	576	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sahuarita	6,751	1,017	0	53	1,110	0	1,819
Salazar-Ajo	1,387	290	4,107	72	427	0	223
Sam Lena-South Tucson	757	898	4,646	18	121	0	515
Santa Rosa	524	575	6,187	16	162	45	489
Southwest	1,474	304	3,386	18	18	0	0
Valencia	5,345	2,362	8,672	75	774	145	1,370
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station	8,469	335	3,264	18	351	0	685
Wheeler Taft Abbett	13,207	1,686	12,143	52	519	0	441
Woods Memorial	11,350	2,696	12,003	40	517	0	277
Web Renewal	6,028	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Services	0	0	0	134	1,070	0	0
Youth Services	0	0	0	43	155	4,296	0
TOTALS March 2024	195,351	31,346	233,978	1,133	15,072	7,751	17,122
TOTALS March 2023	211,609	32,016	222,966	1,283	15,624	15,530	11,125
Percentage Change	-8%	-2%	5%	-12%	-4%	-50%	54%

* Gate Count data are unavailable for Sahuarita.

Mission and Martha Cooper closed March 2024