
DATE: March 6, 2025

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: Anthony Batchelder
Deputy Director, Finance and Facilities

SUBJECT: Facilities and Finance – February 2025

Facilities – Sharla Ronstadt, Library Services Manager

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, we have processed 1,741 Service requests from branches and library units for various facilities-related work with over seven different entities that help oversee our location facility needs (Pima County, City of Tucson, South Tucson, TUSD and other various property management companies). As of February 13th, 2025, 292 were completed, at a 83% completion rate. The Facilities Team is currently working to inventory Knox box key access for Fire Departments to complete upgrades requested by the Fire Marshall to be completed by December 2026 along with other equipment inventories. We continue meetings to work on EV charging station signage, conduct onsite visits to branch libraries with County Facilities staff, planning construction, and re-carpeting & renovation projects that are upcoming listed below. We continue to work closely with the County Renovations and Interiors Division within the Project Design & Construction Department and Facilities Management Department to determine projects for the current and upcoming fiscal year.

Facilities Projects

Richard Elías-Mission Library – CLOSED- The contract has been awarded, and construction has begun. We closed this location to the public on March 8, 2024. The estimated date to reopen has been pushed back to Spring 2026. In the interim service will be provided by locations around the area – Valencia Library, Southwest Library, El Rio Library – and supplemented with community outreach and Bookmobile visits.

Valencia Library – Pending short Temporary Closure - This short closure is to allow us to update carpeting. We are currently in the design phase and tentative closure is estimated to be 3 weeks sometime in April or May 2025. Final dates TBD.

Bear Canyon Library –Pending short Temporary Closure- This closure is to fix issues related to the foundation evaluation report about the cracks and uneven flooring, re-carpeting and updating the service desk. We are currently in the design phase and tentative closure is estimated to be up to 2 months sometime in May, June, July 2025

Abbett Library – Pending Temporary Short Closure. This short closure is to replace carpeting and other renovation work to public areas. We are currently in the design phase and dates for closure to complete this work have not yet been determined. The estimated date of closure would be sometime in early Fall 2025

Himmel Park Library –Pending Closure- The expansion project is still in the design phase. The contract for Poster Mirto McDonald (PMM) was approved at the November 21, 2023, Board of Supervisors Meeting. The proposed construction will result in the transfer of building ownership from the City of Tucson to Pima County and will add approximately 3,500-5,000 square feet to the current footprint. Dates for closure have not yet been determined at this time.

Finance – Kristin Powell, Administrative Specialist II

In late January/early February, Danielle Martinez and I co-facilitated two Accounting sessions with 23 new PCPL employees in the Service U training curriculum, providing tips and answering questions about best practices for cash handling and preparing deposits, mileage reimbursement, and purchase requests. PCPL is working with Procurement on a Request for Quotation for the Books and Bikes Ambassadors Program to replace the current contract expiring in late March. Upcoming work includes re-aligning and/or streamlining processes for paying invoices from some of our book vendors and developing Invitation for Bid specifications for the planned RFID implementation.

Grants & Gifts – Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager

2025 ADVOCACY UPDATES from AzLA - The Arizona Library Association (AzLA) provides crucial advocacy support through a dedicated Advocacy Committee and a professional lobbyist. In the 2025 legislative session, AzLA is actively monitoring several concerning bills, including SB1090 regarding librarian criminalization and SB1099 concerning government workers - legislation that has now appeared in three consecutive Arizona Legislative sessions, and is part of a nationwide push.

The committee leverages its relationship with a professional lobbyist and coordinates closely with the American Library Association (ALA) to effectively represent library interests. At the federal level, AzLA is tracking several critical issues, including IMLS reauthorization and Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding, while navigating ongoing uncertainty in the national landscape.

The association provides valuable guidance for local advocacy, encouraging libraries to:
Build partnerships and communicate about challenges faced by libraries

- Expand outreach to non-traditional community partners
- Develop relationships with elected officials
- Participate in advocacy initiatives like Unite Against Book Bans

PCPL's membership in AzLA is invaluable, providing us with professional advocacy support, and opportunities to participate in coordinated efforts to protect and advance library interests in Arizona. Their work in monitoring and responding to legislation that could impact libraries, particularly bills that could criminalize library workers, demonstrates the essential role they play in protecting our profession and institutions.

ALA Learning Webinar Summary: Some staff recently attended a webinar on How Libraries Can Build Connections to Combat Loneliness, which was presented by Tony Iovino, Assistant Director, Oceanside Library (NY) (I attended this with my interest in Community Conversations, and with my Synapse team hat on.)

Through observing popular programs like Zumba and Castaneda, the Oceanside Library team made a crucial discovery: the overwhelming demand for these programs wasn't primarily about exercise or cards but rather stemmed from a deeper need for social connection. They noticed that participants were forming organic social groups and maintaining relationships both inside and outside the library. Iovino emphasized that libraries, as one

of the last effectively functioning public institutions, are uniquely positioned to address social isolation across all demographics. The presentation outlined several strategic approaches to foster connection:

- Leveraging existing collections by making relevant materials more accessible and visible, including books that help people identify and address personal challenges. Lovino specifically advocated for moving away from the Dewey Decimal system to improve accessibility.
- Structuring programs with intentional social components
- Extending program times by opening early and staying open later to encourage natural socialization
- Using conversation prompts to facilitate engagement

What made this presentation particularly valuable was its recognition that seemingly unrelated programming success often points to underlying social needs in our communities. By understanding that patrons were "in a full-fledged panic" to join certain programs primarily for their social aspects, libraries can better design services that intentionally foster human connection and combat loneliness.

Human Resources – Anthony Batchelder, Deputy Director of Finance & Facilities

Human Resource Update Content from January 08th, 2025

Job Entry Date	Job Title	Name - Personal Data
1/13/2025	Library Associate	Rossy Perez Moreida
1/26/2025	Library Services Manager	Monique Perez
1/27/2025	Librarian I	Samuel Howard
2/10/2025	Librarian I	Duane Wagner
2/10/2025	Administrative Specialist I- HR	Jaylene Hernandez
2/10/2025	Administrative Manager I	Vanessa Valencia
2/10/2025	Administrative Manager I	Laura Lopez

VACANCY SUMMARY		
COUNT	TITLE	STATUS
3	Librarian I	Recruitment in Process
1	Librarian II	Processing Job Announcement
1	Administrative Manager I	Processing Job Announcement
1	5287-Librarian III	Recruitment in Process
1	5914- Library Technical Assistant	Recruitment in Process
1	Part Time Librarian	Pending
2	Driver II	Recruitment in Process
1	Library Associate	Pending

Security – Anthony Batchelder, Deputy Director of Finance & Facilities

Below are the incidents from February 2025

February 2025						
Location	Incidents	New Suspensions	Off Duty Officer Assisted	Called Police (911)?	Called EMS	Involved Drugs and/or Alcohol
Administration - 4th Floor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caviglia-Arivaca Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dewhirst-Catalina Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dusenberry-River Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eckstrom-Columbus Library	2	2	0	0	0	0
El Rio Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flowing Wells Library	4	2	0	0	0	0
Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Himmel Park Library	2	0	0	0	0	0
Joel Valdez Main Library	8	6	0	0	1	0
Joyner-Green Valley Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirk-Bear Canyon Library	1	0	0	0	0	0
Martha Cooper Library	2	0	0	0	0	1
Miller-Golf Links Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murphy-Wilmot Library	9	2	0	1	0	1
Nanini Library	3	0	0	0	0	0
Oro Valley Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quincie Douglas Library	7	5	0	0	0	1
Richard Elias-Mission Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sahuarita Library	1	2	0	0	0	0
Salazar-Ajo Library	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sam Lena-South Tucson Library	4	0	0	0	0	1
Santa Rosa Library	3	3	0	0	0	0
Southwest Library	1	0	0	0	0	0
Valencia Library	1	0	0	0	0	0
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Libr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheeler Taft Abbett Library	4	1	0	0	0	0
Woods Memorial Library	2	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	54	24	0	1	1	4