

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: Em DeMeester-Lane
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Public Services Report – February 2025

Though this year marks my 17th with PCPL, I am still very green to my role, just three short months. One of my early objectives was to re-introduce myself in my new position by visiting all our 26 open library locations. I am pleased to report that in February, Anthony and I visited 13 branches together. It's been a wonderful experience to get to meet with managers and take an hour or so to tour their locations, meet all the new staff we have been hiring and create a touchpoint and hopefully increase the channel of communication between branches and administration. While I have been inside pretty much every branch library in Pima County at least once, the behind-the-scenes tours and learning the little quirks of each location have been a true highlight of my month. I feel so inspired by the work our frontline staff do every day, and it's really touched me to see how we change lives in every corner of the County.

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

While it's a short month, a lot was packed into February including leading two conversations about the library's Code of Conduct for new staff attending Service U training as well as several visits to the Salazar-Ajo Library to cover and talk about future branch staffing since they are currently without a managing librarian. I also had the opportunity to talk about all the wonderful Nuestras Raíces panels at the Tucson Festival of Books at this month's Library Advisory Board meeting. This year's lineup is truly a celebration of intersectionality, and all its beauty as well having representations from our Many Nations, Pride, and Biblio Lotus affinity teams. There are 10 panels comprised of 27 authors speaking on a wide range of topics including paranormal, love, identity, immigration, life, poetry, and so much more. It's hard to believe it's only a month away!

Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos

During February, I will have completed visits with Managers (and staff) from the six library locations I directly support to share information and to check in on any issues and concerns that exist. As a member of the presenter team, I have been working on revising paid presenter processes in preparation for the coming fiscal year. Our team has also begun planning system-wide training to aid staff with planning, booking, and utilizing County-approved paid presenters for the upcoming year.

Library Services Manager – Monique Perez

February marked my first month as a Library Service Manager. This month I focused on visiting/touring the branches I am supporting (Quincie Douglas, Martha Cooper, Southwest, Valencia, Woods Memorial, and meeting with managers and staff. I provided coverage at two branches while staff were out of the office (Southwest and Valencia), as well as attended my first Public Services Manager Meeting. I will also be supervising and supporting Substitute Librarians and working with Alina Rowe (former Substitute Librarian) to ensure a smooth transition. This month I served on the Librarian III interview panel, and I look forward to participating in and supporting affinity teams such as Nuestras Raices, as well as attending the REFORMA Tucson Chapter meeting.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I have been providing in-person and Teams video check-ins with the Managers of Murphy-Wilmot, W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station, Kirk Bear Canyon, Dusenberry-River, Santa Rosa and Flowing Wells Libraries. I assisted in supporting South Tucson Library by helping at the desk there one morning when they were short on staff due to required training of some staff members. I assisted Santa Rosa Library by covering lunches as needed when their manager was out on vacation. Supporting administration and assisting branches by attending and/or participating in the Collaborative Action Team Meetings, Library Advisory Board Meeting, PRIDE Affinity Team, Library Planning Task Force, Intermittent Task Force, REFORMA, Nuestras Raices and Public Service Managers Meetings. Supported my organization by being on the hiring panel for the Librarian 3 interviews. I also assisted in the Career Online Graduation Event at Murphy-Wilmot Library, celebrating new graduates from our program. I celebrated Black History Month at the Pima County staff event at the courthouse. Supporting my professional development in my Library Services Manager role by finishing Udemy classes on the topic of conflict management along with Managers I support.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

February has shown robust activity at Dewhirst-Catalina Library, with increased traffic from winter visitors and temporary support provided to residents during their recent community internet outage, which filled the library. The tax season has also driven higher utilization of our printing services.

Patrons actively seek the Library Survey, which they hear about from neighbors. This survey has garnered enthusiastic participation, with patrons expressing heartfelt appreciation through comments such as "I love this library," "I don't know what we would do without you," "You are so important to this community," and "We just love you guys here!"

While maintaining careful budget oversight, we have maximized programming value through the strategic use of staff expertise and community partnerships. Our Gardening in Catalina monthly club, featuring a master gardener presentation, and the growing Catalina: A Sense of Place & Time series continue to draw strong attendance. Established programs, including two book clubs and Teatime discussion groups, also maintain steady participation.

Youth services programs (Lego Time and Train Times) remain popular, while our Black History Month display has encouraged increased circulation of featured materials. The Seed Library continues to serve community gardeners effectively with increased usage as Spring approaches. Through focused resource management and community-driven programming, we continue to fulfill our role as an essential community hub while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Dusenberry-River Library – Mikel Stone

February has been eventful, here at the Dusenberry-River Branch Library we have been busy welcoming back our winter patrons. Notable in this time has been the large uptick in library card registration and library card updates, thanks in large part to the new artistic card designs and in no small part to the annual return of our seasonal winter visitors, eager to read.

As far as programs this month, we have had several standouts. The February 2nd Health Fair in partnership with the Pima County Health Department was well attended with 60 community members and youth gaining access to valuable mental health information and the very popular bike helmets.

Also mention-worthy was our Teen Advisory Board's Valentine's celebration. Organized, planned and staffed by our Teen Advisory Board, this party was a hit. There was a large craft focus, so that our participants could make small gifts for that special someone. For certain, we made the day of more than one Mom out there.

As for our regularly scheduled programs, Storytime continues to draw a full house, Tween Role-Playing Game Club has grown a dedicated following, and Read-to-a-Dog pulls a crowd of all ages.

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Nanini Library is lucky to be hosting PCPL's Writer in Residence Tom Holm for the upcoming workshop *Personal Experience in Writing Fiction and Non-Fiction*. Tom is a Professor Emeritus of American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona. In addition to his workshop, he is also seeing individuals for one-on-one consultations on Wednesdays to provide guidance for established and aspiring writers.

A Nanini staff member created a beautiful Black Herstory Month display featuring Black female trailblazers throughout history. A second, broader Black History Display is located near the front desk and is replenished throughout the day due to its popularity.

Nanini staff celebrated Love of Reading Month by visiting Ironwood and Butterfield Elementary Schools and reading to over 130 kids. We are also looking forward to adding Family Storytime to our programming schedule in early March. This will be the fourth Storytime in Nanini's weekly rotation.

Popular programs facilitated by Library Presenters this month are Dino-rigami for tweens, a Recycled Materials Jewelry Making session for teens, and Blind Contour Drawing for adults. Youth Services Staff are busy planning Nanini's programming schedule for Summer Reading 2025.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

At Oro Valley Public Library, AARP tax help started in February. Tuesday all day and Thursday afternoons, patrons can get their taxes completed for free by a trained AARP volunteer. Mid-February all appointments through April 10 were full and staff started to refer interested patrons to other locations. We started Homework Help and Reading Help again in February after a winter holiday and back to school break. We are fortunate to have a volunteer for math and a volunteer who helps with reading every Saturday morning for the steady flow of students we get for tutoring.

New programs this month included a Fundamentals of Wildlife Drawing 4-part class, which was graciously offered for free by a local artist, Jan Fell. Jan is one of the many artists who has displayed their work on Oro Valley's art wall. Supplies for the class were sponsored by the Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library. Like all our art class offerings, this one was full and had many happy customers who would like to see more art classes at the library. Staff created a new trivia event, Trivia Twist Challenge, to gauge community interest. The trivia was largely developed by

a library volunteer with staff guidance. The aim of the program was to bring adults together to socialize in a fun and friendly atmosphere with no expectation of paying for anything. 20, mostly senior adults attended without heavily marketing the program. If staffing continues to allow, we will make this into a regular event.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

It's been a busy month here at Eckstrom-Columbus. We began hosting VITA Tax Preparation again, something our patrons start requesting in November. Our Job/Tech help is impactful, and the addition of DES job help on Wednesdays on top of what we offer on Tuesdays has been helpful. Both are well attended. We are partnering with Literacy Connects for two programs: Computer Basics and English as a Second Language. Our baby and toddler Storytime is frequently filled to capacity, and we always know when it's Thursday here from the stream of excited preschoolers and their caregivers. Though it is worth noting that older children refer to the children's meeting room as the "Crafternoon room" because they count on crafternoon being every week. Once again, Read to a Dog and Chess are gaining more patrons. Of course, the children are always excited for after school snacks and start requesting them from the moment they walk through the door.

We've started a new program for teens called "Chisme and Cafecito." Chisme and Cafecito is a chance for teens to build community through chisme (gossip). By talking through situations they are currently going through, teens give each other support, advice, and constructive feedback to build relationships and grow as social beings and community members. Yoga is always filled as adults seek community and ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Our Homelessness Resource Navigator and VoteRidersID are both busy the whole time they're here and requested frequently in between times. The Eclectic Readers Book Club read Friday Black in honor of Black History Month and it was an engaging conversation for all attendees. It has been very popular and received great feedback from patrons. Our Indoor Gardening program was a hit. Teens used supplies to make their own potted plant and enjoy time in the library. This month we did Blind Date with a book where patrons had to check out a brown wrapped book.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

We've spent most of February excitedly preparing for our upcoming *Maker Fair* for all ages on February 27 from 4:30-7 pm. This effort is in partnership with the maker spaces at Sahuarita High School, Walden Grove High School, and Pima Community College. We will be hosting engaging activities, including student demonstrations, science experiments, robotics, astronomy, art displays, as well as marigold seedling giveaways!

Toddler Build is back on February 6, where little ones can play together or in parallel by building with Duplos. We're also hosting some presenter programs – Catch the Beat with Holly Heyman on February 12 and Minecraft Cannons on February 20. Our Children's staff have been busy visiting local schools for Love of Reading Week.

We launched a second series of *Self Stories*, an eight-week writing workshop for adults, after lots of positive feedback from the original group of participants. Each week, writers reflect on the past, engage in the present, and connect with others through their writing assignments and group feedback. We also kicked off a Spanish conversation program twice a month with eight participants joining us each session in February. Our Book Club read and discussed Patricia Highsmith's *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

Santa Rosa Library – Michaela Grady

Santa Rosa spread the love this Love of Reading Month! At the beginning of February, an outreach Storytime at a local Head Start reached 20 participants, and 20 books were given away.

A second outreach event at the local school, Drachman Montessori K-8 Magnet School reached a further 45 potential library users! Finally, at the end of February Santa Rosa Library is participating in the local Head Start's Love of Reading event.

There was plenty of fun to have at the library as well. Literacy was instilled through a yoga Storytime, a bilingual Storytime, and a Read to a Dog program. We had a fun look at science with a visit from the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, who brought the program Solar System in Your Pocket. Information about animals was shared with a Hedgehog presentation that allowed young patrons to get an up-close look at the critters. We also welcomed the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension who taught us about nutrition.

Valentine's Day week had the afterschool crowd searching the library high and low for a scavenger hunt event. And, finally, patrons of all ages got creative this February. The tweens and teens participated in a soap making event, and the adult patrons were hosted by our first Adult Craft Circle, which received the feedback of: we want more! The adult patrons enjoyed being able to design hand painted tote bags while building community with one another. We look forward to continuing this awesome program, and all the wonderful programming at Santa Rosa Library.

District 3 – Jen Allen

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

We started February with an amazing Arizona Humanities presentation by Marshall Shore on Arizona's Cosmic Connection. That same evening, we collaborated with The Tucson Amateur Astrologers Association on a Star Party, complete with hot cocoa and moon pies. We set up a green screen and attendees chose from a variety of galactic backgrounds to create interactive photos. It was great fun!

Arivaca is experiencing an increase in rabid animals, so throughout this month I've been meeting with the Health Department and now Pima Animal Control to create education for the community and plan for a Rabies vaccination clinic

Our ongoing groups have been full of snowbirds in town. It was enjoyable to have extra attendance at the Puzzle Table and in the Book Club, Art Salon, Poetry Workshop, and Scrabble Tournaments. Snowbirds have been appreciative and especially interactive this season. Two separate couples have purchased property in Arivaca and said having the library in town was a significant contributing factor in their decision to make Arivaca their home base.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch (interim)

This month the Salazar-Ajo Library had good attendance at several programming events including Lego, Whatever Wednesdays, and Tech Time – of special note is the visit from Pima County's Health Department. They had several patrons take advantage of their vaccines services and at least two teenagers received their Be There certificates. I cannot forget to mention how fun it was to hear a group of adults learn how to juggle during Whatever Wednesdays. They were having a blast!

Wheeler Taft Abbott, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

Abbott Children's hosted two exciting Storytime events this month, designed to foster a love of reading and community engagement. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Tucson Rodeo, we kicked off with a spirited Rodeo Storytime. Families enjoyed a selection of fun stories, lively songs, and a festive parade afterward. Later in the month, we presented a high-flying Aviation Storytime, which featured a special reading of *The Three Little Pilots* by author Dewayne Muhammad. This event offered a fun and educational experience for the whole family. These

events aimed to strengthen the library's role in the community by providing themed Storytimes that encouraged early literacy and family participation.

In February, Tween and Teen Services strived to increase our passive activities. Teen Advisory Board continues to run our Seek and Find with a new secret phrase and new images each month. They are also maintaining a hopscotch like activity called "Gemstone Stomp" in the children's room to promote the local Gem & Mineral shows. Teen Services created a Blind Date with A Book display for February to try and get readers to pick up titles they usually wouldn't and expand their reading. We hosted three Movie and Snack in the library events to anticipate the needs of the local schools during their early-release Student Teacher Conference Days. We will also be hosting a tech program called "Robot Rodeo" on February 20th and 21st to promote the library's collection of robotics. Young Adult Services will be promoting robotics again on February 28th by assisting Sahuarita Library with their own "Maker Faire". In March, we look forward to promoting a TAB run activity giveaway for Mardi Gras and will be continuing work on developing an escape room for use at Megamania. Staff will be creating teen specific displays of authors who are appearing at the Tucson Festival of Books and working on organizing volunteers and events that will be happening at Megamania.

We're trying something completely different for adults this month at Abbett – hula dancing! We are taking "a short, sweet trip to the islands! The music and colorful garb create a festive ambiance, and the dance itself is so graceful" We will be dancing to the lilting music of the Hawaiian Islands, both modern and ancient styles. Holly Heyman, the instructor, studied Polynesian Dance when she lived in American Samo and has performed worldwide. Colorful Samoan cloth (lavalavas) and flower leis are provided for student use; we will be immersed in the atmosphere of the islands.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."- Desmond Tutu. Empowering and inspiring in February, Woods Memorial celebrated Black history month, Lunar New Year, and Indigenous stories with a book display.

This month Maker's Mayhem activities focused on the use of Black History Colors, black, red, yellow, and green, with these colors' patrons created Tie-dye t-shirts at Maker's Mayhem on February 5th from 3-4:30pm, and on February 19th, from 3-4pm patrons created rhinestone bracelets, and because our patrons like Perler Bead crafting every 2nd Wednesday its Maker's Mayhem Perler bead crafting. Also, in the month of February we had our First Saturday Movie Day on February 5th, and patrons watched *Maleficent*.

Keeping up with literacy, Woods Memorial this month had a Cactus Hotel Family Storytime with the National Park service, A Bilingual Hindi Family Storytime with Ms. Mala, and a Pollinator Family Story time on February 28th.

Also, in February Woods Memorial patrons can continue to participate with the ongoing programs in February with Read to a Dog on Wednesdays and Saturdays, *Amphi Pantera* Food Truck program on February 24th, and Lego hour from 3 to 4:00pm on Tuesday's

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

Friends of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library held their first book sale of 2025 during Vail Pride Day on February 15 at the Pima County Fairgrounds.

The very popular Blind Date with a Book display returned this month, and patrons of all ages were excited to check out and unwrap their mystery books.

More than 130 participants tried to find penguins, llamas, polar bears, and more on the I Spy with My Little Eye bulletin board display.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

Preschool-aged children may not be the first demographic group that comes to mind when thinking of Green Valley, but our weekly *Family Storytime* has a devoted following of families with young children. Children's librarian Merrilee has been piloting a new Storytime that promotes music education. She reports that "the kids are having a blast using rhythm sticks to learn about rhythm, music, and instruments." So far, their favorite song has been "Rhythm Stick Pizza" during which they all pretend to make a pizza using their rhythm sticks to "chop" toppings. One week this month, the children were introduced to the ukulele and got to make their own paper and yarn version to take home with them to pretend to practice the instrument. The next week a preschooler arrived and promptly declared, "I hope we do music today!" Because the pilot sessions have been such a hit, *Family Storytime* will focus on music concepts and skills every first Tuesday of the month from now through May.

Returning to adult programming, over 60 people turned out for the Tucson Museum of Art Docent Talk titled, "Art That Piqued Our Childhood Imaginations: 80 Years of Caldecott Awards." Picture books are often people's first experience with art and attendees enjoyed revisiting images remembered from their own childhoods or those of their children and grandchildren.

Joyner-Green Valley Library hosted the fourth presentation in the Santa Cruz Valley Historical Society's speaker series. The topic, presented by historian Steve Hoza, was "German Prisoners of War in Arizona," and the Historical Society followed the presentation with the ceremonial unveiling of the new Camp Continental POW Camp Historical Marker at Quail Creek-Veterans Municipal Park. The presentation at the library drew such a large crowd (including the mayor of Sahuarita and coverage by two news channels!) that our Large Meeting Room reached its standing-room-only, fire code capacity of 84 people. At least 35 people were turned away, prompting the Historical Society to announce that it will include a repeat of the presentation in their fall speaker series.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Christine Russell

February at Kirk-Bear Canyon felt like the first month back in full swing after the holidays. Our Cozy Crafters Collective, for folks of all ages learning and teaching crochet and knitting, averaged about 20 people per session. We hosted the first two of four sessions for adults on How to Write Your Memoir with Dr. Nooshie Motaref which was presented by the Pima County Public Library's Welcome to America Team. We also held our regular Master Gardener talk and monthly Kirk-Bear Canyon Book Club.

Teen programming continues to expand with presenter Sue Betanzos leading Color Like a Pro, a fun Sushi Candy program, a new Anime Club and our monthly Teen Advisory Board. Besides our regular Storytimes, we held a special Korean Lunar New Year Storytime, making a drum from paper bowls and trying a traditional Lunar New Year snack.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Anna Lawrence

In February at the Golf Links library, we hosted an event nearly every open day. Toddler and Pre-school story times continue to be incredibly popular, and our tween/teen hangout time on Wednesday afternoons has grown, with several youth attending every single week to do homework, play games, do a craft, or just spend time together at the library. Our children's crafts this month included a Splat Painting, Friendship Bracelets, a musical Magical Toyshop Storytime, and our monthly Read-to-a-Dog program.

Our adult book club has changed its time from Wednesday evening to Friday afternoon, with great success and an increased number of participants. Our ongoing weekly one-on-one job help, and

tech drop-in programs continue to have regular patronage and excellent feedback from participants.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

In February, Murphy-Wilmot Library staff hosted outreach events at Booth-Fickett Magnet School, La Paloma Central Campus, Erickson Elementary, and Tucson Country Day School. Staff also hosted a field trip for the Gale Elementary 3rd graders. In total, approximately 526 people attended these events. Murphy-Wilmot staff will also be attending the Booth-Fickett Magnet School Career Day on March 5th, with the Bookmobile in attendance.

Customers love Murphy-Wilmot Library's computer classes and one-on-one appointments. One patron mentioned she had been worried about falling behind in our Saturday morning computer classes, but our dedicated instructor took the time to help everyone individually so that they all understood the content of the class. The customer said it made her feel much more confident, and she felt like she truly grasped the information. One of our instructors also changed their schedule so that they could assist a customer individually who was eager to check out a Libby eBook. The customer was so grateful for the instructor's patience, flexibility, and skill.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Chair

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Perri Pyle

This month El Pueblo Library staff helped coordinate a panel called "Southside Stories of Resilience," designed by UA professors Dr. Jacqueline Barrios and Kenny Wong for their undergraduate classes. Panelists spoke about their experiences dealing with the environmental and health effects of TCE water contamination to a room full of young college students, who are working on projects that center around the El Pueblo Center and its importance to the southside community. Students then visited the library to learn about library resources and sign up for library cards! We also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Fiesta de los Vaqueros with a fun display featuring rodeo- and western-related titles. Yee-haw!

El Río Library – Morgen Daniels

El Río Library has truly been feeling and spreading the love this "Love Your Library" month! Branch Manager Morgen spent time with fourth graders at Manzo Elementary School on February 18 to encourage students to visit our branch and talk all about the amazing opportunities for reading, learning, and playing at El Río Library. She will return on February 25 to present about PCPL at Manzo's 'Cafecito' parent program and on March 4 to meet with fifth grade classes. Librarians Rachael and Maggie will also host class visits to El Río Library from Tully Elementary School on February 27 and March 3! At the end of the month, Morgen will table at the El Río Neighborhood Center's annual Health and Safety Fair on February 28 to promote the health and wellness-related resources offered through PCPL including the Synapse team, free COVID tests, free Narcan and test strips, blood pressure kits, and beyond.

To celebrate Black History Month, El Río Library has set up three engaging displays for readers of all ages- an educational display of recent children's, middle grade, and young adult nonfiction in our youth corner; a wide-ranging selection of adult graphic novel nonfiction picks in English and Spanish; and valuable titles for all ages written by Black women, about Black women, which we are happy to report has been hard to keep stocked!

We are extremely excited to welcome local author Linda Reyes to Storytime on February 20. Ms. Reyes' books are designed to nurture early reading skills and emphasize emotional intelligence acquisition among young readers, and feature adorable characters inspired by her own young daughter and mother. Ms. Reyes and her daughter are faithful regulars at our weekly Read to A Dog and bi-monthly Crafternoon programs, and we are grateful for the opportunity to highlight her work.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

To welcome the Year of the Snake, Himmel Park Library hosted a two-part Lunar New Year celebration. First, Ping Situ from the University of Arizona volunteered her time to write names in Chinese calligraphy. While she was doing that, we also held a stamp-making craft event where participants could carve an eraser to make a stamp or cut out foam to make a stamp. More than 30 people participated in these activities. The following week, the Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble gave a live music performance. They played traditional Chinese instruments, spoke about Lunar New Year celebrations in China and musical traditions, and even involved the audience in one song! We had many people who were excited they were here.

On February 12, Himmel Park Library welcomed back Dr. Albrecht Classen, a University Distinguished Professor at the University of Arizona, for a lecture entitled *Giants, Dwarfs, Dragons, and other Monsters in Medieval and Modern Mythology*. The talk discussed the origins of the three mythological creatures in medieval texts as well as their present-day manifestations in popular culture. The 18 people in the audience learned that these mythological monsters continue to be a powerful presence in our collective imaginations because none of them have ever existed in the real world. We cannot explain them by way of modern knowledge (science), therefore, the lore surrounding giants, dwarfs, and dragons live on. Dr. Classen first presented this lecture a few months ago in Scottsdale, Arizona. Interested Tucson community members asked Dr. Classen if he could also present the talk locally, and Himmel Park Library was happy to host!

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Lorenia Diaz

During the month of February, Joel D. Valdez Main Library is honoring Black History Month with extra help from our robust group of teen volunteers. The volunteers helped put up a large window display featuring the portraits of many historical and contemporary African American figures along with a key word that highlights their legacy to our global culture. They have also created Black History Month buttons as part of a giveaway for our tabletop display. Lastly, the volunteers have recently participated in a meeting where we developed rules for our teen space. Through a collaborative facilitation process, they were a great help in providing youth voice behind what the rules should be with the goal that teens feel safe and welcome in the space.

Our vulnerable populations team hosted two successful Our Space programs for our patrons experiencing food insecurity and current or potential houselessness. We had a musical performer and played a few rounds of Bingo while attendees shared a meal and visited with each other, library staff and our partners who table with us and help provide information and services to our guests. We were joined this month by Primavera, Community and Workforce Development, the Pima County Health Department – Health Disparities unit to give out Covid-19 tests and information. We also hosted a few representatives from both within and outside Pima County departments to provide information about Hepatitis C testing, addiction and recovery services and harm reduction. One of our attendees thanked the library for the “*very hardy, very good*” sandwich that Caridad Kitchen and the Community Foodbank of Southern Arizona provided for our program. Our Vulnerable Populations team also picked up emergency blankets from the city that we can hand out to our patrons in need during the Our Space Program.

Our Reference team answered an enormous 381 questions via email while also training new staff. A few highlights:

“Thank you so much! She's one of my favorite authors, and I'm so excited to read her new book. Please pass on my thanks and have a wonderful rest of your week!” --K.S.

“Thank you Everyone at the Library!! And to the webmaster. This is the easiest and most friendly website to use. ¡Muchas gracias todo!” --N.R.

“Thanks so much for this and all you do 😊” --A.I.

Martha Cooper Library-Tara Foxx-Lupo

February, Love of Reading month, has been a busy and impactful month at Martha Cooper library, with many program options for community members of all ages. For adults, the AARP Tax Aide Program is an important service, and Martha Cooper is one of many host sites. The program has been running smoothly during our first season returning to hosting it. It is now held in the new multi-purpose room space created as part of the library expansion. The extra space and amenities have been a notable upside, and our Tax-aide volunteers and users appreciate the improved meeting space and accommodation.

With a new year comes new programming for our youth communities and we are seeing a notable increase in these users at Martha Cooper. Teens and tweens have been discovering the library and enrolling in 3D printing and 3D modeling workshops. Two February workshops saw large turnouts and the youth who attended were able to paint and take home their own 3D printed creatures.

Storytime and Babytime, always a popular program for families, have been very well attended, with two Tuesday sessions of Family Storytime, one Saturday session and a Thursday Babytime program. Martha Cooper is the only location currently offering a Saturday Storytime program and attendance has increased rapidly. Our location is reaching program capacity often during all our Storytimes, within only a few months of reopening.

Richard Elías-Mission Library – CLOSED

Southwest Library – Melissa Salazar

In the month of February, Love of Reading Week kept the Southwest Branch busy. On February 10th, Children's Librarian, Brianna Velador, and Library Associate, Esperanza Zepeda visited Warren Elementary School for Love of Reading Week. They visited classes and were guest readers from 8:30 am to 9:30 am in the school library, engaging in a total of 6 classes and 70 people at the school. Brianna, and Esperanza read books to students in the school library, talked to them about the library, answered their questions, and handed out free books to students. Classes received library card applications, library related information and resources and stickers. On February 11th, 2025, Brianna and Esperanza tabled at Johnson Primary School from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. They assisted families in signing up for library cards, with about 15-20 signing up. They also provided library resources, flyers for upcoming community events and programming, bookmarks, stickers, and library coloring materials. Southwest staff were able to engage with many families and community members at this event, with many visiting and using the library in the days after this event. On February 12th Southwest staff went back to Johnson Primary in the morning and visited three classrooms of school age students. Staff engaged with about 50 students in total and read books to classes of students, talked to them about the library, answered questions, and handed out free books to students. Classes also received library card applications, library related information and resources and stickers.

On February 19, we had Melissa Mundt from Pima NRPR visit the library for a Pollinator Picnic program at the library. This was a family program where patrons learned about pollinators in the desert. This program was gracefully overseen by Esperanza Zepeda and there was a total of 14 participants. Southwest Library also did a tabling event for the Southwest Family Resource Center for the Mulan Movie night, Asian Cultural night on February 27th, from 4:00pm-7pm. We gave out library goodies and library card applications.

Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez

February was love of reading month for Valencia Library and our programming team was fully engaged in making school visits, hosting two classroom visits here at the library and providing Storytimes, outreach events, and participated in school literacy celebrations at the preschool level, elementary school, and middle school. One young participant shared with Ms. Thania, our

children's librarian, during one of these events hosted at Las Milpitas Community Garden how she was thankful that Ms. Thania and her Storytime at Valencia Library had introduced her and her family to the Storytime at the Peace Garden, and so many other events where the hosts and presenters reflected on her and her community. The young participant who also does dance, phrased it: "I am thankful to be in a space that is like this. Welcoming and warm and connected to nature."

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library:

Murphy-Wilmot Library- Heavenly Hedgehogs – Hedgehog Roundup

El Río Library – Rodeo Reads

Himmel Park Library – Arrayscape Gaming; Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble

Joel D. Valdez Main Library –

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Amado Crafternoon, Family Storytime

Valencia Library – Family Storytime, Create Club, Teen Time, Crochet Circle, Garden Hour, Open Sewing Group, Peace Garden Storytime

Martha Cooper Library-Family Storytime, Babytime, GASP (Games, Arts and Snacks program)

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Yoga

Salazar-Ajo Library – Whatever Wednesdays, Family Storytime

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Holly Heyman with Hula Dancing

Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library- Anime Club, Cozy Crafters Collective, Family Storytime, Sensory Program, Sushi Candy, Color Like a Pro, Korean Lunar New Year Storytime

Friends of the Green Valley Library (Green Valley & Sahuarita) - Storytime, Babytime, What's Up Wednesday, Book Club, Crafting, Coloring, Cookies and Conversation, Yoga Storytime, Watercolors, Minecraft, and Self Stories

Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library- Baby Storytime educational toys, Fundamentals of Wildlife Drawing 4-part class, Great Decisions 2025 series, Teen Advisory Board Love of Animals Event, Toddler Yoga Storytime, Preschool Yoga Storytime

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 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
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

FROM: Em DeMeester-Lane
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Circulation and Activity Measures: January 2025

	Jan-25	Jan-24	Percent Change
Circulation and Visits			
Circulation - Physical	179,498	199,806	-10%
Circulation - Digital	292,194	270,523	8%
Gate Count	254,992	216,167	18%
Website Visits	550,730	574,238	-4%
Cardholders			
Active Cardholders	**	161,216	#VALUE!
Total Cardholders	**	263,115	#VALUE!
Percent Active Cardholders	#VALUE!	0%	#VALUE!
Virtual Reference Services			
Chat Service - Number of Chats	722	749	-4%
Research Questions	381	411	-7%
Phone	1,410	2,044	-31%
Mail	158	250	-37%
Programming			
Early Childhood Literacy Program Attendance	4,744	4,851	-2%
Adult Literacy Program Attendance	1,556	2,078	-25%
Workforce Development Program Attendance	351	229	53%
**Savannah software not working in Jan 2025			

It is a collaborative analysis tool that helps users collect, organize, and visualize information

Library Advisory Board Activity Report
January 2025

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	660	0	266	0	0	290	0
Caviglia-Arivaca	578	46	546	17	89	68	80
Dewhirst-Catalina	2,166	265	3,548	18	35	78	0
Dusenberry-River	11,767	787	8,011	29	383	0	442
Eckstrom-Columbus	4,428	2,779	12,796	31	457	70	714
El Rio	1,932	253	1,601	16	52	3	0
Flowing Wells	3,168	1,424	6,611	48	678	0	431
Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo	118	146	1,214	2	60	0	0
Himmel Park	9,302	924	9,437	30	644	47	116
Joel D Valdez Main	4,896	3,937	27,279	36	572	117	943
Joyner-Green Valley	10,677	1,162	11,675	27	355	146	560
Kirk-Bear Canyon	8,578	412	7,189	24	359	0	898
Martha Cooper	4,325	1,164	12,064	54	795	72	1,367
Miller-Golf Links	12,625	1,406	10,247	11	231	0	558
Murphy-Wilmot	14,761	3,055	17,619	45	929	0	1,483
Nanini	14,985	1,380	11,038	43	985	0	1,344
Oro Valley	22,134	1,434	31,423	66	1,239	0	755
Quincie Douglas	2,736	1,710	7,743	62	634	45	530
Richard Elias-Mission							
Sahuarita	7,157	1,141	7,946	41	615	0	1,943
Salazar-Ajo	1,531	365	3,841	66	513	0	191
Sam Lena-South Tucson	618	1,012	3,827	16	71	0	75
Santa Rosa	433	726	8,748	25	189	0	688
Southwest	1,823	454	4,689	1	40	14	0
Valencia	4,507	2,328	8,065	62	688	139	910
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station	7,550	362	8,351	19	275	0	574
Wheeler Taft Abbett	12,400	1,711	17,569	70	779	25	247
Woods Memorial	9,180	3,008	11,649	19	209	75	310
Web Renewal	4,463	0		0	0	0	0
Adult Services							
Youth Services							
TOTALS October 2024	179,498	33,391	254,992	878	11,876	1,189	15,159
TOTALS October 2023	199,806	31,442	216,167	1,349	12,512	3,836	12,703
Percentage Change	-10%	6%	18%	-35%	-5%	-69%	19%

*Mission Branch closed in January 2025