

DATE: June 5, 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 – May 2025

This month has been busy with arranging details for our Library Director search. We hosted forums at the end of May for staff along with meetings with stakeholders such as the Library Advisory Board and County Administration. Additionally, our team has been working on recruitment and selection of Librarian I, Library Associate and Library Page positions.

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

Notable meetings this month featured a presentation from the County's project design and construction team regarding the furniture plans for the expanded and renovated Richard Elías-Mission Library. The library will be at least twice its original size and will include dedicated spaces for children, tweens/teens, and adults. Each area will feature its own distinct color scheme and design to ensure it is easily recognizable and uniquely tailored to its audience. I also attended two very productive meetings with our Library Facilities Team to talk about quarterly inspection reports as well as facility and furniture requests for our Salazar-Ajo and Sam Lena-South Tucson libraries. And I conducted one-on-one meetings with various branch locations to ensure consistent communication and support. While visiting branches, I was able to check in with staff about multilingual pay and provide clarity and guidance.

I'm serving as the hiring manager for the Library Associate position and assisted in the editing and refining of the job description to better align with department needs to give staff a better opportunity for upward mobility.

I cannot end this report without mentioning that our wonderful managing librarian at the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library, Perri, received the Drachman Institute's Community Outreach and Impact Award for her work with University of Arizona students. Way to go, Perri!

Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos

The library presenter team, in conjunction with the library accounting office, conducted two staff-wide trainings this month to outline purchasing procedures for program-related food and supply purchases, as well as paid presenter scheduling workflows for all library locations. In addition to visiting branch staff and managers, I also had the opportunity to work at two locations this month while staff were attending training or otherwise out of the library. I also met with my counterpart

at the University of Arizona to evaluate how the Graduate Assistant program went this year, and to begin planning for next year's offerings. During that discussion, we also focused on the current expansion of unpaid internships, how they are being improved upon starting this summer, and how we can further promote cooperation between our organizations to expand and support internship opportunities.

Library Services Manager – Linde Furman

May has seen an increase in activity across our system as we all excitedly prepare for this year's Summer Reading Program! Many of our locations will be gearing up with additional presenter program offerings and staff-led programs. I spent a lot of time making branch visits this month and spending time with location managers in my line and visiting with staff.

The Vulnerable Populations team is wrapping its LSTA grant-funded work with Beth Wahler and has reviewed some of her recommendations for PCPL. Deputies and the Director are making decisions on how we might be able to implement some of the positions and practices she has suggested. The team has also been discussing how the Joel D. Valdez Main Library's highly successful Our Space program may be replicable and scalable for other library locations.

The Library Restorative Practices for Youth team will soon be brought back to life late this summer, just in time for the start of the 2025/2026 school year. Many preparations have been ongoing behind the scenes with me and team lead, Katie Westfall. Katie and I also led a restorative practices training session for staff at the Sahuarita Library on Friday, May 16th. It was very successful, and we received positive feedback from staff members and their branch managers on how it will support them in developing strategies for the next school year.

The Trauma Informed Care Team is very pleased to announce that a second mental health provider will be joining us to support our staff starting in June. Along with the other provider, she will be offering one-on-one counseling sessions during our staff's work day. This provider will have options for in-person sessions as well as virtual and the other provider's sessions are all virtual. Later in the summer our team plans to release another survey for staff to gauge the effectiveness of our work and get ideas for other ways our team might be able to support.

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. Working with Library Facilities to narrow down the needs for furniture and facilities in the new fiscal year and tending to the closure and remodeling of the Bear Canyon Library.

Supporting administration and assisting branches by attending and/or participating in the Regional All Staff Meetings, Library Advisory Board Meeting, PRIDE Affinity Team, Policy Review Team, Library Planning Task Force, Intermittent Task Force, REFORMA, Nuestras Raices and Public Service Managers Meetings. Celebrated Public Services at the courthouse plaza with the Board of Supervisors and my coworkers. Attended the Benefits Fair to learn more about our coverage options. I also spent time at the end of the month meeting and getting to know the candidates for the Library Director position.

As the administrative lead for the PRIDE Affinity Team, I have been working with the team in putting together amazing events for the upcoming PRIDE month in June. Look for presenters, workshops and our celebratory zine created by the PRIDE team.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott:

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

May is a month of transition in so many ways. Snowbirds flitter off (remember to renew or not renew their cards before departure) and the seed library becomes very popular amongst those staying and literally digging in. Our Dewhirst Garden Club had a handsome turnout and will return in the fall. It is taking summer break. Adults can instead attend some Movies That Matter (films the means to inform and change society), one of two book clubs at Dewhirst Catalina, or attend our Adult Tea and Talk, which is a great way to relax for free in air conditioning and gab away your stress.

Kids are going to find that our Color or World Summer Reading Program starts a bit early with a Fun with Percussion program and ramped up crafting as Homework Help also takes a break for the kids (though we remain at the ready for individual requests for help with summer remedial classes). Our Lego Build! program has been infused with more lively pieces thanks to a timely donation.

Dewhirst Catalina will be hosting a summer intern for the first time in some years and that is exciting because they so often are pleasantly surprised at how rewarding it is to serve the public in intelligent and meaningful ways.

Dusenberry-River Library – Mikel Stone

May was a lively and engaging month at Dusenberry-River Library, marked by a variety of programs for all ages and community interests. As the school year winds down, we are transitioning into our summer programming season and anticipating quieter weekday afternoons until school resumes in late summer.

We celebrated El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros (Children's Day/Book Day) with a special bilingual family story time. About 30 people attended, and each child got to take home a free book. It was a fun, energetic event that brought families together around books and learning.

Our Teen Advisory Board organized a great event in recognition of AAPI Heritage Month. They hosted a movie screening of Moana and held a themed book giveaway. It was well-attended and a great example of how our teens are helping shape meaningful programming for their peers.

Other teens and youth programs included our ongoing RPG Club, which continues to be a creative outlet for imagination and teamwork, and a Self-Defense Workshop for Teens and Tweens, which had eight participants. The workshop focused on practical safety skills and was well received.

May also marked the final meeting of River Readers before the group takes a break for summer. It's been a great season of discussions, and we're looking forward to starting back up in the fall. We also offered a Heat-Proof Gardening session that shared tips for keeping gardens alive and thriving during the harsh Tucson summer. It was a helpful, practical program for those trying to stay green in the desert.

Now that school is out or wrapping up, we're seeing quieter afternoons at the branch. We're using the time to prepare for summer reading and more seasonal programming. We're excited for what's ahead and ready for a summer of connection, creativity, and (hopefully) some cooler indoor fun.

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Crews from Northwest Fire District visited two Nanini Storytimes in May. Firefighters were kind enough to read stories, show kids around the firetruck and ambulance, and demonstrate how they get into gear before they fight fires. Over 200 kids and caregivers came to see them.

Staff are getting ready for Summer Reading, Nanini's busiest time of year. We're looking forward to hosting presenters like the Reid Park Zoo, Saguaro National Park, Frank Powers, Red Herring Puppet Theater, and many others during the month of June. A different craft project will also be available every week. In addition to kids' programs, teens can become summer volunteers or attend programs like the first Makerspace Open Lab sessions, Intro to Tie Dyeing, and the monthly Creativity Corner.

For the month of May, Nanini is hosting a traveling exhibit honoring Tucsonans impacted by the historic Trichloroethylene (TCE) groundwater contamination. *Survival and Resistance: Remembering the Southside's Environmental Justice Movement* examines the tragic impacts of TCE, which was dumped into the aquifer by defense contractors between the 1950s and 1970s, along with the community activism that emerged. On May 29th Nanini will host a workshop for community members to create tiles honoring loved ones affected by TCE. Tiles will be featured in a permanent installation at Mission Manor Park. This exhibit and associated programs have been brought to PCPL thanks to a partnership with the Mexican American Heritage and History Museum and Los Descendientes de Tucson.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

In April, new volunteer Kathie Tiedje offered her first series of Mahjong Lessons through the library. The lessons filled up immediately, with a waiting list of 11 people. Kathie graciously agreed to offer another round of classes in May. Even though we limited promotions, the May classes also filled up within a day or two. Mahjong Lessons are in demand in the Oro Valley community! These lessons provide a valuable opportunity to build brain power and community.

In May, the Oro Valley Library hosted various fun children's programs. We brought back Storytimes and the LEGO Club, and held a lively Art Party with Frank Powers, complete with crafts and an indoor bouncy house. The month ended with an exciting visit from the Golder Ranch Fire Department, giving kids a chance to meet firefighters and see a fire truck up close.

The Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library had their spring Book and Jewelry Sale April 30 – May 3. This is a much-anticipated event every spring, and this year the Friends raised over \$26,000 for the library! Their next book sale will take place in the fall.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

This month was bustling at Eckstrom-Columbus. Our Job and Tech help continue to be busy with both English and Spanish speakers. English class is still a sought-after program, as is Computer basics. Both are presented by Literacy Connects. Arizona @ Work Employment services comes every Wednesday and assists several people. Story School by Make Way for Books is eagerly anticipated twice a week by our young families. All day, every day, we get inquiries about snacks, and it's great to be able to provide. As is story time presented in house. Early childhood programming is a huge hit here. Weekly crafternoons and chess club for our older kids and intergenerational community are a lot of fun for patrons and staff alike.

Vote Riders ID Clinic gets wonderful turnout every month, as does the Homelessness Resource Navigator. Eclectic Readers read about the complexities of family relationships for Mother's Day, and yoga for adults provided much needed restoration.

This month is unique because it includes our bi-annual chess tournament, much anticipated every 6 months. We hosted a Breakout Box to celebrate the end of school with several sessions. Chisme and Cafecito remains a favorite program for our older teens. Finally, we hosted the SCORE Program Understanding Your Website Builder: SquareSpace Edition. We are grateful for the help we have during the Bear Canyon closure to make this all possible.

Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller

May has been a busy month at Quincie Douglas Library! The Kitchen Garden Mobile Market continues coming to Quincie every Thursday from 10-11:30am. They sell fresh, affordable, locally grown produce and accept SNAP and EBT for payment. The market is very popular, attracting new customers to shop and then visit the library afterward.

Quincie Douglas is partnering with the Arizona Diaper Bank to offer free potty-training classes. These classes take place after toddler and bilingual Storytimes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The classes have been well attended as they teach parents strategies for potty training their children. Participants leave with free potty training supplies including training pants and child's potty.

Teens have enjoyed a Shrinky Dink class and making cards in a "Make a Handmade Card of Appreciation" event. Children also had the opportunity to honor a caregiver, parent or guardian by participating in "Give a Gift Crafternoon".

Adults have signed up for presenter Jessica Redhouse's "Mini Coiled Spiral Baskets" class, where she will show them how to make a beautiful mini coiled basket with rope, needle and thread.

LPI Brandon has been offering Homework Help and Chess Help on Tuesday afternoons. Many people have been getting help from Brandon, and love coming during his help sessions.

Our children's and YA librarians have been attending outreach events at schools, participating in Career Day and Literacy Nights. Their participation has been greatly appreciated by local schools as they spread the word about all the wonderful resources and programs the library has to offer.

Finally, staff from Quincie Douglas organized an author event at Martha Cooper Library. The author was Michelle Yang, who published a debut memoir called "Phoenix Girl: How a Fat Asian with Bipolar Disorder Found Love". The event was a collaboration between the Welcome to America, Bibliolotus and Synapse affinity teams. It was well attended.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

In celebration of Mental Health Awareness month, we offered several displays with books and resources geared towards adults, teens and kids, and they are flying off the shelf! We also hosted a Star Wars themed program with light sabers, snacks and a screening of the original movie in honor of May the 4th. Chess Club is back on Wednesday afternoons since we've got so many families in the building that day with What's Up Wednesday and Read to a Dog. A small group of regulars has been meeting and rotating opponents to gain new skills.

We hosted a class visit with 35 homeschoolers to offer information about library resources and everyone had a chance to search for, locate, and check out books to take home. In addition, staff participated in outreach events at Wrightson Ridge, a local K-8 school for Career Day with presentations to 100+ students and a Mental Health Resource Fair called "Supporting Strong Minds."

On May 6, the Sahuarita Library was honored to host a screening of the new PBS documentary, *Free for All: The Public Library* with 60 participants! Viewers learned about the history and continued relevance and importance of public libraries. Afterwards, AZPM's Tom McNamara facilitated a Q & A panel featuring Managing Librarians from the Sahuarita and Green Valley Libraries. Participants asked additional questions and generated some interesting discussions.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

The library extended a Call to Artists this month, seeking artists of all ages living in Pima County who are interested in exhibition opportunities. Folks interested were asked to reach out to the library's Art Gallery Coordinator. The library hosted *How to Build a Strategic Marketing Plan*, presented by SCORE Mentor Barbara Pellow. Attendees participated in a workshop empowering small business owners to build a strategic marketing plan focused on their target customers. Younger customers joined for a *DIY Cascarones* craft activity early in the month, decorating confetti-filled eggs for festive occasions.

Later this month, the library will be offering a craft event, *Mini Macrame Plant Holders* and workshop *From Blank Page to Published Book*.

Santa Rosa Library – Michaela Grady

May had a little something for everyone at the Santa Rosa Library. Our youngest patrons enjoyed a myriad of story times: Yoga Storytime, STEAM Storytime, and a Desert Storytime. Our tween and YA patrons enjoyed a Crafternoon of perler beads, the ever-favorite Loteria, and a plant-based temporary tattoo program. Our adult patrons attended a Craft Circle, and we welcomed Parent Aid to share information for caregivers on childhood development and communication. And for everyone, we had a Community Quilt program presented by AZ Health Zone. All members of the community were invited to create a quilt square to share what makes summertime in Tucson special.

Finally, May is the time for endings here at Santa Rosa Library. We said goodbye this month to our most recent Story School class as they graduated, to our high school interns as they end the school year, and we said goodbye to some of our afterschool crowd who are graduating from the nearby school. For a proper send off, we threw a party! With treats, crafts, and games, we wrapped up another year of afterschool programming. Of course, with endings there are always new beginnings. We are looking forward to our Summer Reading programming and continuing to serve our community this summer.

District 3 – Supervisor Jen Allen

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

May started off with a visit from the University of Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center providing information and resources for families on managing the bites and stings of various desert creatures. Our front patio has become the summer home for all the biting and stinging creatures drawn by the children who attended the program.

Our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) continues to meet, and with help from Sahuarita staff they have started playing a different style of D&D. This simpler and quicker game is attracting both adults and teens. At the request of TAB members, they are learning to sew and crochet this summer. Planned projects are starting small with a cell phone holder, and by the end of the summer we hope to move into clothing, stuffed animals and amigurumi. One member of TAB was selected to be a teen intern this summer, and we are looking forward to hosting her this summer.

This month we continued our outreach to the Amado Youth Center and San Fernando in Sasabe. A teacher at San Fernando said she was working on permission to use the school bus to bring children from Sasabe to some of our summer programs! This is an amazing opportunity for the children in Sasabe, and we look forward to their participation!

We are very excited to host Make Way for Books Story School this summer. Their morning visits started the last week of the month, which provided the perfect lead into our Summer Reading Celebration on Memorial Day Weekend. The Chalk Art Competition was an opportunity to embody

the theme of Color our World all over the front porch of the library and the Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library Annual Ice Cream Social kept everyone in good spirits despite the heat.

Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky

In addition to our regular weekly and monthly programs like Storytimes (4 per week), Read to a Dog, Beginning and Intermediate English Classes, GED Prep, The Weekend Kickoff for tweens and Teens and Senior Tea & Puzzles, we were also proud to offer our patrons the following:

A Youth Art Workshop on the 7th for tweens and teens, led by a UofA student, an all-ages screening of the movie *Wicked* complete with popcorn on the 10th, a Renters' Rights education workshop on the 14th and a TEP Home Energy Workshop on the 17th for adults, and a visit from our friends at the Reid Park Zoo on the 28th for kids!

Our seeds and Culture Passes continue to fly out the door almost as fast as we can make them available, which shows us that our community loves getting outside to make the most of the warm weather!

Finally, library staff were charmed when one of our regular Storytime caregivers brought in a plate of homemade cookies and a homemade poster thanking us for all the fun Storytimes and activities over the past few years! This was such a thoughtful gesture and we're so proud of our Storytime staff!

Salazar-Ajo Library – Clarissa Sandoval

As Ajo's library staff embrace the fresh leadership of a new Librarian and Branch Manager, we are gearing up for an exciting *Color Our World* Summer Reading program.

Our *Lego Club* continues to thrive, with young patrons displaying impressive imagination, such as one child's ongoing construction of her frog empire. The recent collaboration with Ajo Unified School District has successfully attracted several teens to join the club, enriching the group's dynamic and welcoming new attendees alongside the regulars. Our *Whatever Wednesday* activities have the library bustling with creativity and community engagement. This month's activities include a movie, button making, story sculptures and picture frame painting.

We're also delighted by the feedback from a very young visitor who expressed their appreciation with a heartfelt note proclaiming, "this library is cool." We also had a very proud gardener return to share their harvested Nasturtium seeds that they originally checked out from the seed library. Our food pantry has also been a source of gratitude for many patrons.

The Pima County Recorder's Office partnered with library staff to help voters prepare for the upcoming elections and encourage all voters in Congressional District 7 to cast their ballots to elect our new representative.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

May began at Abbett Library with the annual Living River of Words display and awards ceremony on May 7th promoted and conducted by Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources. There were over 200 people in attendance throughout the event, it was a huge success. We are always happy to work with other Pima County departments, especially a contest that encourages so many youths to participate and be heard in their efforts to bring awareness of the necessity of conservation of our local natural resources.

Children's services had a prelaunch of our Summer Reading program by featuring *The Magic of Reading with George McSly*. George captivated young audiences by making objects appear, disappear and float — sparking laughter and wide-eyed wonder throughout the room. His performance beautifully highlighted the powerful connection between reading, imagination and creativity.

Teen services had a few big celebration programs to celebrate the end of the school year at Wheeler Taft-Abbott Sr. Library. On May 16th we hosted a tween/teen program on our teen patio called Splash Party. This was the third year where we invited teens to hang out, eat snacks, toss water-balloons and use the sun to drip dry before coming back into the library. On May 22nd and May 23rd, we will be hosting Movie Days in the Library also with snacks to celebrate the last school days for our local schools with a nice movie hang out. On May 27th we will be hosting the first of our two planned sessions for Summer Volunteer Orientation to provide teens with the opportunity to give back to their community by signing up to help volunteer for Summer Reading. We will also say good-bye to our teen advisory board for the year and end their long-standing program of Seek and Find Treasure Maps in the library.

Adult services had a terrific attendance with programs thanks in part to an email sent from the library, and due to the topic, the Master Gardener program on Tuesday, May 13. An email was sent out via the library promoting the Seed Library, and we had at least 7-9 new people that attended due to the email. The topic of Growing Herbs in Tucson was also of great interest. Partnering with the Master Gardeners is one of the best adult programs we offer.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

"May the month of May be a month of sunshine, happiness, and endless blessings" -Unknown. This month in May is and will continue to be a month of sunshine for our patrons with programming! This month at Woods Memorial we are celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a book display.

In continuation with programming for patrons at Woods Memorial, *Movie Saturday* was May 3rd, patrons were able to watch the movie *Ticket to Paradise* and have popcorn from 1pm-3pm. This month at Woods Memorial on May 1st was *Gaming Time*, where our youth patrons were able to play Mario Kart with the Nintendo Switch. May 7th and 10th, under the *Maker's Mayhem* program, the patrons were able to create a Faux Stained-Glass project. May 14th patrons were able to create a project with Perler beads, and on May 21st, patrons will be able to create a Mystery project. May 22nd is our *Thursday Teen Fliks* program from 3:30-6:30pm. On Thursday, 29th there is *Tween and Teen Tech*.

On May 19th patrons were able to participate in the *Master Gardeners* program. May 22nd is our Thursday Teen Fliks program from 3:30-6:30pm. In collaboration with *Literacy Connects* we offer Computer Basic in English on Tuesdays from 5-6:45pm, and on Wednesdays we offer Computer Basic in Spanish on Wednesdays from 5-6:45pm. As well as *Literacy Connects English Language* classes held Monday and Wednesdays from 10am-12noon. Also, at Woods Memorial we offered the Rent Presentation by *Step up to Justice* and the *Homeless I.D. project*.

Lastly, in May, Woods Memorial patrons can continue to participate with the ongoing programs, *Read to a Dog* on Wednesdays and Saturdays, *Amphi Pantera* Food Truck program on May 19th and Snack from 3 to 4:00pm on Monday-Friday.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

A patron said, “It is wonderful to have such an excellent library system at my fingertips-the staff is terrific!”

A seven-year-old girl asked for a library card for her eighth birthday. Her mom registered a card for her so that it would be ready for her big day, and the girl's younger brother picked out the card design that he thought his sister would like most.

Preschool classes from Vail School District schools including Senita Valley, Desert Willow, and Acacia visited the library for Storytime, a tour, with the goal of each preschool student obtaining a library card.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

A highlight of Joyner-Green Valley Library's May programming took place at the Amado Youth Center. Library Associate Maria, one of two library staff leading monthly craft programs with children, tweens, and teens in Amado, facilitated a special program, *Heavenly Hedgehogs with Live Hedgehogs* conducted by library presenter Emy. In an interactive class, 29 elementary school-aged kids learned about hedgehogs and hedgehog care. They took turns holding the two live hedgehogs (wearing gloves!) and fed them mealworms. Check out Joyner-Green Valley Library's Facebook page to see some fun photos of these spiky critters who delighted program participants.

Did you know there was an earthquake in the northern mountains of Sonora, Mexico in 1887 that shook communities across southeastern Arizona? A curious Green Valley Library patrons learned how the quake, which had an estimated magnitude of 7.6, caused loss of life and widespread damage as well as impacted southern Arizona's water supplies. Attendees viewed incredible historical photos taken by Tombstone residents, Dr. George Goodfellow and photographer C. S. Fly, who traveled to the area to assist victims as well as to study the earthquake.

Seasonal residents may have returned to abodes elsewhere, but Joyner-Green Valley Library year-round patrons continued to enjoy their favorite programs in May, including *Arts and Crafts for Adults*, *Mindfulness Meditation*, *Page Turner's Book Club*, *Hatha Yoga/Gentle Yoga*, *Poet's Corner*, and *Paws for Grownups*.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Under Renovation

Miller-Golf Links Library – Anna Lawrence

From May through the end of June, Golf Links has a great opportunity to host several staff members from the Bear Canyon library while they are closed for renovations. While we have additional people, the GLF staff has been able to plan more outreach opportunities, put more time into planning programs for the upcoming quarter, and get the rare chance to spend time sharing ideas with staff from other branch locations in an informal way. We are excited to continue to have their presence for the next month!

Branch Manager Anna Lawrence also had the opportunity to participate as a panelist during a showing of *Free to All: The Public Library*, a documentary about public libraries, both their history and current importance.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Murphy-Wilmot staff continue to create meaningful connections with our community. Youth service staff made some great friends and connections at the Erickson Head Start Outreach event this month. They passed out Youth Services newsletters, gave away books and other library

materials, generated interest in the Summer Reading Program, and shared information about the library's online resources and the Culture Pass Program. Staff read two stories and played fun songs so that the children and their families could dance and interact in a positive and educational way.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Chair

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Perri Pyle

In celebration of *El Día de la Madre* (Mother's Day) our staff created a beautiful display of books featuring mothers and motherly love. We are also excited to welcome a new page who will help us launch the summer reading program!

El Río Library – Morgen Daniels

El Río Library proudly created two book displays in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month, in support of Pima County Public Library Affinity teams Biblio Lotus and Synapse, respectively. These displays have encouraged visitors to broaden their reading horizons and start important conversations about mental wellness.

In this vein, on May 15, we hosted local author Linda V. Reyes- who herself along with her family are El Río Library regulars- as a guest reader for our Family Storytime program for the second time. Reyes' books explore social-emotional learning topics for children in an age-appropriate manner, allowing them to learn to name and accept their feelings. This was a perfect complement to our branch's Mental Health Awareness Month focus.

In other children's programming news, El Río Library patrons are getting excited for the start of the 2025 *Color Our World* Summer Reading Program, and several faithful regular library families have already registered for the special Sticks & Tones and bilingual yoga Storytimes we've got lined up to start the summer off right!

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

A highlight at Himmel Park Library this month was our all-ages Cyanotypes program. An overcast, humid day did not deter a crowd of 15 customers – including a family of three who stated that they had been looking forward to the program – from making cyanotypes. Using an assortment of die-cuts, keys, discarded computer boards, dried flowers, and other random items, patrons made a variety of blue-print type creations. The most enthusiastic were the senior ladies who enjoyed experimenting with how various items appeared after sun exposure.

Himmel staff received a lovely hand-written thank you note from a customer: "I've been unemployed since mid-March and because I did not have a laptop, I relied on computers here at the library to apply for unemployment and jobs. Tomorrow I will be getting a refurbished laptop. Thank you for printing my resumes and for helping people of all ages with patience and dignity. I will still bike over to borrow books or meet friends for a bike ride and fill up my water bottle. Thank you for everything!"

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Lorenia Diaz & Chritine Russell

Joel D. Valdez Main Library is excited to reintroduce Baby Time after a six-year hiatus. The first session saw 20 participants. Family Storytime continues to be well attended as always, with an average of 30 participants. We also introduced a Tween Crafternoon on Wednesdays, to engage with the middle schools in the area and pick up some of the families that are moving back into the downtown area.

More tweens from nearby schools have been visiting the library with their teachers, as well as after school, and many have been asking about printing various 3D items. We received a new 3D

printer in teen 101Space and it's been very popular. With the new printer, we're now able to print more requests, print them faster, and with multiple colors all at once.

Our Reference staff answered more than 350 questions this month, as well as coordinating our Reference to the Incarcerated program. In the background, we are beginning our move to a customer relationship management database that will allow us to more easily distribute, track and answer questions for our patrons, allowing us to eventually distribute reference work across the library system.

Our Space invited Gertie and the T.O. Boyz this month. A patron new to the program was excited to meet Gertie and even got an autograph. We hosted tablers this month from Pima County Community and Workforce Development, Vote Riders, and Primavera to speak with patrons and help guide them to resources they need. We had organizations helping people to acquire free cell phones, birth certificates and other necessary documentation at no cost. Primavera outreach was able to help find shelter for three patrons experiencing homelessness.

Martha Cooper Library-Tara Foxx-Lupo

Martha Cooper Library hosted an author talk this May with Michelle Yang, author of "Phoenix Girl: How a Fat Asian with Bipolar Found Love." Since the month of May marks both AAPI Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness month, this event was positioned perfectly to recognize and honor both. The talk was well attended and explored important themes from the book- intersectionality of identities, body image, mental illness, stigma and cultural and generational trauma. Michelle's lived experience as an immigrant of Asian descent made this a perfect collaboration between the Bibliolotus and Welcome to America affinity teams. In the lead up to the event at Martha Cooper Library, Michelle was interviewed by a library staff member. The interview blog is available on the library website: <https://www.library.pima.gov/blogs/post/phoenix-girl-a-conversation-with-michelle-yang/>. During the event, Michelle read a passage from her book demonstrating the importance of public libraries and the role their staff played in creating safe space for her in a community where she often felt like an outsider. This passage notably touched the hearts of the audience, especially the librarians in attendance.

Storytime attendance at Martha Cooper continues to be high, with Tuesday Toddler Storytime offered in two sessions and averaging fifty to sixty in attendance each week. Babytime is steadily at or close to room capacity and Saturday Family Storytime is also well attended. Our central location and engaging children's services staff demonstrate that demand for these early literacy programs will only increase as more of the community becomes aware that our library is once again open and here to serve their needs.

As we lead up to the launch of Summer Reading program, the Martha Cooper staff are eagerly preparing for a busy and engaging summer. Librarians have been visiting local schools to provide outreach and information about our summer program offerings to nearby youth. Many of our regular programs will continue through the summer, such as Saturday Family Storytime, Quest, Crafts and Laughs (formerly GASP), Babytime, Read to a Dog, 3D printing Workshops and Saturday Gaming. In addition, we will have presenter programs happening in lieu of our Tuesday Storytimes for the months of June and July. We are looking forward to a busy summer at the library!

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Under Renovation

Southwest Library – Melissa Salazar

As School is getting ready to end for the school year, Southwest continues to work hard and outreach to our neighborhood schools and Mission's. Southwest Library partnered with Valencia Library for tabling at Apollo Middle School's End-of-Year Family Fiesta on Wednesday, May 7th

5-7pm. Librarian Brianna Velador and LA Esperanza Zepeda spoke to families about library resources, assisted families in filling out library card applications, handed out coloring sheets, passed out bookmarks and materials from the library, and handed out give-away books to families. Library staff spoke to families about the Summer Reading Program at Southwest Library, encouraging them to visit the library this summer.

Southwest also is finishing up the CACFP program with the Community Food Bank that provides snacks for kids 0-18 years old to help bridge the gap between the end of the school day and dinner time.

Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez

Early this month, we celebrated Día de la Niñez in the Peace Garden with a special Storytime featuring local author Daniel Vandever. This community event was a beautiful celebration of culture, creativity, and storytelling coordinated by Thania, VAL children's librarian and Beki Quintero, from the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.

Daniel Vandever shared his award-winning book, Herizon, an empowering story about a Diné girl who embarks on an adventure entrusted with a magical scarf which she uses to retrieve her grandmother's flock of sheep, overcoming challenges along the way. Daniel also shared his new book, We Weave and shared the personal meanings of his books and experiences growing up, herding sheep, and learning from his grandmother, who was a weaver. Daniel talked about the rich tradition of Navajo rugs and brought a rug woven by his grandmother. Many of the children and adults were curious to learn more and engaged Daniel in further conversation. After the Storytime, each child received their own copy of We Weave and had it signed by the author.

To complement Daniel's Storytime, Beryl Baker, a volunteer/shepherdess brought a live sheep, and the children learned how to gently approach and interact with the sheep. Beryl brought wool spinning tools and demonstrated how wool is made from fleece to thread. Afterwards, families enjoyed a weaving activity.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Miller-Golf Links Library –

Murphy-Wilmot Library-Music and Movement with Lori Jo, Sticks and Tones: Medieval Mischief, Summer Kick-Off

Eckstrom-Columbus Library –

Dewhirst-Catalina Library

Dusenberry-River Library-

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library –

El Río Library –

Himmel Park Library –

Joel D. Valdez Main Library –

Joyner-Green Valley Library – 1887 Sonora-Arizona Earthquake Presentation, Heavenly Hedgehogs with Live Hedgehogs, Family Storytime, Amado Crafternoon, Arts and Crafts for Adults

Martha Cooper Library

Richard Elías-Mission Library –

Southwest Library –

Valencia Library – Family Storytime, Create Club, Teen Time, Crochet Circle, Garden Hour, Storytime in the Peace Garden, Mini Macrame Planter with Jessica Redhouse

Nanini Library –

Quincie Douglas Library – Mini Coiled Spiral Baskets, Shrinky Dinks, Colorful Kiddos (Children's Museum)

Sahuarita Library

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – *Mini Macrame Plant Holders, DIY Cascarones, From Blank Page to Published Book*

Santa Rosa Library –

Flowing Wells Library – Reid Park Zoo: Zoo 101

Salazar-Ajo Library –

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library –

Woods Memorial Library –

Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library- Annual Ice Cream Social

Friends of Oro Valley Public Library Programs:

Adults- Photo Restoration, Copper Tooling with Palette Up!

Kids/Tween- Art Party with Frank Powers

DATE: June 5, 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: April 2025

	Apr-25	Apr-24	Percent Change
Circulation and Visits			
Circulation - Physical	167,063	173,899	-4%
Circulation - Digital	285,236	253,671	12%
Gate Count	262,122	222,573	18%
Website Visits	491,925	518,582	-5%
Active Cardholders	175,086	150,571	16%
Total Cardholders	312,169	291,576	7%
Percent Active Cardholders	56%	52%	9%
Virtual Reference Services			
Chat Service - Number of Chats	658	754	-13%
Research Questions	356	354	1%
Phone	1,348	1,866	-28%
Mail	102	218	-53%
Programming			
Early Childhood Literacy Program Attendance	6,185	5,791	7%
Adult Literacy Program Attendance	3,060	2,783	10%
Workforce Development Program Attendance	723	459	58%

Library Advisory Board Activity Report
April 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	577	0	257	0	0	42	0
Caviglia-Arivaca	471	55	485	10	56	29	48
Dewhirst-Catalina	2,238	246	3,701	25	105	40	61
Dusenberry-River	10,712	764	7,703	25	250	78	423
Eckstrom-Columbus	4,467	3,432	16,734	56	740	68	884
El Rio	1,887	323	1,648	7	32	0	0
Flowing Wells	2,736	1,397	6,606	70	832	40	450
Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo	314	247	2,026	3	40	50	0
Himmel Park	8,798	991	9,103	24	466	51	137
Joel D Valdez Main	4,774	4,346	37,559	31	440	189	828
Joyner-Green Valley	9,145	1,246	10,279	35	412	214	602
Kirk-Bear Canyon	6,804	508	6,996	38	539	0	1,026
Martha Cooper	4,662	1,250	12,372	85	690	250	1,383
Miller-Golf Links	12,300	1,692	11,172	20	554	0	824
Murphy-Wilmot	15,061	3,234	16,994	78	2,002	342	1,907
Nanini	14,800	1,501	11,898	67	1,602	150	2,080
Oro Valley	19,620	1,397	28,461	79	1,681	40	5,152
Quincie Douglas	3,382	1,939	10,044	80	1,050	110	758
Richard Elias-Mission							
Sahuarita	6,057	1,173	7,846	65	1,102	20	2,496
Salazar-Ajo	1,234	288	3,302	76	601	0	186
Sam Lena-South Tucson	746	1,254	4,466	23	156	0	100
Santa Rosa	608	767	11,049	20	320	102	772
Southwest	1,760	488	5,284	0	0	67	0
Valencia	1,616	738	3,830	21	398	540	339
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station	6,880	416	7,946	19	367	55	843
Wheeler Taft Abbett	11,796	1,749	12,468	79	1,016	50	1,406
Woods Memorial	8,794	2,951	11,893	34	282	0	370
Web Renewal	4,824	0		0	0	0	0
Adult Services	0	0		158	1,369	1,536	0
Youth Services	0	0		30	26	882	0
TOTALS APRIL 2025	167,063	34,392	262,122	1,258	17,128	4,945	23,075
TOTALS APRIL 2024	173,899	31,850	222,573	1,210	15,176	3,761	14,749
Percentage Change	-4%	8%	18%	4%	13%	31%	56%

*Mission Branch closed in April 2025