
DATE: April 2026

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
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

FROM: Paulina Aguirre-Clinch
Library Services Manager with other duties assigned

SUBJECT: Public Services Report – April 2026

We celebrated National Library Week by delivering cakes and other treats to all our libraries. I had the opportunity to visit seven branches, which gave me a chance to connect with staff and personally thank them for their hard work. I also attended a Board of Supervisors meeting with a group of colleagues, where a proclamation was issued recognizing National Library Week across the county.

My team (the Public Services Library Services Managers) came together to collaborate on projects with systemwide impact, including hiring efforts. We successfully updated an internal process and began developing a document to support the recruitment process.

Library Services Manager – Adriana Saavedra

This month included lots of hiring to support the Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Library as they reopened after their beautiful refresh. All hiring for their branch is now complete. I am happy to report that we have successfully onboarded the new library manager for Sam Lena-South Tucson Library. I also attended the volunteer appreciation lunch for the Oro Valley Library; they had 80 volunteers in attendance. I have visited all seven of my branch libraries at least once this month, attending staff meetings and spending time at the branches. I collaborated with fellow staff members at our two all-day retreats. It was a pleasure to deliver cakes, cards and small treats prepared by administration to five branches for staff appreciation.

Library Services Manager – Heather Ross

It's been a busy month! In addition to the all-day Public Services Manager workshop and the all-day Library Services Manager workshop, a few of my activities this month included: attending an Axero Content Creator training, a meeting of the period Poverty Coalition Team, and a branch staff meeting; co-facilitating a manager book club meeting; working on desk at three libraries; meeting both individually and collectively with all my managers; participating in hiring processes; and assisting with updating internal procedures. I also loved having the opportunity to visit Sahuarita Library, Conrad Joyner-Green Valley Library, and Caviglia-Arivaca Library as part of our National Library Workers Day celebration.

Library Services Manager – Paula Maez

This month has been busy with assisting with the upcoming opening of Richard Elías-Mission Library. We have been working diligently to ensure the branch is fully staffed, supplies are ordered, staff are trained, programming is being planned, and the building is ready for opening day. I have been supporting Kirk-Bear Canyon by spending time in their branch during the transition of managers to help maintain the continuity of leadership support. I have also visited many of my other branches attending staff meetings and spending time with staff. Also had the wonderful opportunity to travel around town visiting 7 branches delivering treats and well wishes to staff as part of our National Library Workers Day celebration.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I conducted in-person and virtual check-ins with the managers of Salazar-Ajo, Frank De la Cruz–El Pueblo, Quincie Douglas, Murphy-Wilmot, W. Anne Gibson–Esmond Station, Dusenberry–River, Santa Rosa, and Flowing Wells libraries. During our meetings, we discussed increased hours, policy and procedure clarifications, programming, disciplinary processes, security and safety assessments, and *Dare to Lead* readings. I especially appreciated the opportunity to spend time with several of our new employees when visiting branches.

I supported the organization by hosting this month's Rainbow Reads Book Club, where we discussed the captivating Gilded Age novel *Mutual Interest*. In addition, I participated (virtually and in person) in the Library Advisory Board, PRIDE Affinity Team, Nuestras Raíces, and Public Services Managers meetings.

I assisted Human Resources as the hiring manager for Murphy-Wilmot's two Library Technical Associate positions and three Page positions. I served on a panel for a future Community Engagement Manager. I also supported the team by completing training for the new intranet, Axero.

I met with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and Tucsonans for a Clean Environment to discuss the future of the Valencia Library collection, including ongoing efforts with Pima County Emergency Preparedness to digitize materials. At Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library, we are partnering again with Kenny Wong and students from the University of Arizona College of Architecture to present final projects focused on the El Pueblo Activity Center; presentations will be held on April 28 and 30.

I celebrated staff by attending a farewell gathering for Jessica as she continues her writing career, and for Kate as she relocates to New York. I also joined the University of Arizona's Knowledge River anniversary virtual happy hour, where I connected with new colleagues and promoted library opportunities for graduate assistants. I now serve as the point of contact for Knowledge River graduate assistants and interns.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

In April, Dewhirst-Catalina Library celebrated spring in numerous ways. We had kids craft kits to take home that included a Year of the Horse lantern, colorful egg wreath, and a STEM-related craft related to clouds, rain, and monsoon weather. The adult Garden Workshop included a free plant swap hour where participants could come get extra clippings and sprouts from those who had extras. We touted displays of items concerning birds, blue covers, and Earth Day for all ages.

For additional programs, we showed the documentary "Gather" about Indigenous Americans who are seeking to regain closeness with nature by becoming scientists, returning to traditional agricultural practices, and other creative means. A University of Arizona Art Museum docent came to Art and Coffee to speak about "Selfies Through the Ages". We also saw excitement around our

One Seed display from which everyone can check out a packet of Mexican Sunflower seeds. This system-wide initiative is nicely complimented by a seed-related nature craft given to all libraries this month by the Parks and Recreation nature division. To round out our programs that earth and its care, we hosted a TEP Energy Conservation Workshop at which patrons learned ways to conserve energy and received a box of water and energy saving devices, free.

Dusenberry-River Library – Starling Stone

The Dusenberry-River Branch Library continues to be a happening and hopping place for community members of all ages. The following are some April highlights.

Tween programming continues to grow in both creativity and youth leadership. Our Tween Advisory Council is currently developing an interactive escape room and scavenger hunt designed to teach participants how to navigate the Dewey Decimal System in a fun, hands-on way.

In addition, one of the Tween Council's first program recommendations, Code Club, successfully launched this month. Participants are working in small collaborative groups to create animations, building technical skills while encouraging teamwork and peer learning.

Teen services have also been providing innovative and inspiring programming. To support our adult patrons using the public computer lab for last-minute tax preparation, staff created a Tax Day dance party and activity space for youth, complete with snacks, crafts, and a dance-off video game. This helped maintain a more stress-free environment for adults while providing an engaging alternative space for our youth.

River's teen-ran Zine Library also welcomed a new round of submissions from tween and teen creators. These works were reviewed and accepted by the Teen Advisory Board, then printed and assembled with the support of teen library volunteers, continuing to provide young people with a meaningful creative outlet and opportunities for leadership.

Building on this momentum, members of the Teen Advisory Board have also been invited to participate in a Teen Takeover edition of the library's Bright Futures e-newsletter out this May. Everyone is busy brainstorming and wordsmithing; this is a busy bunch of youth active in their library community!

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

April has brought another round of special programs for people of all ages at Nanini. Preschool Storytime hosted its seed-planting storytime earlier in the month which provided supplies for kids and their caregivers to learn about planting and taking care of seedlings. Nanini's new Seed Library has been extremely popular. Within its first week all seed packets had been checked out, and the collection is being added to weekly.

Programs for young adults and adults in April include Venomous Reptiles presented by a biologist from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a Landscape Drawing class, and a Tropical Leaf Motif Painting class. Nanini staff are looking forward to the annual Firefighter Storytime with special guests from Northwest Fire in late April and May.

AARP finished its last tax-help sessions this month after helping hundreds of people file their taxes for free.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

In March and April, Oro Valley Public Library slowly started seeing fewer visitors with the reopening of Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr Library and tax season coming to a close. In March, we had many programs from Tai Chi for Seniors to Toddler Yoga. In April, we offered classes from the

Drawing Studio which all filled up immediately as most of our free art offerings do. Patrons are eagerly anticipating our May art classes.

The Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library held their Spring Book and Jewelry Sale. Their sales always bring in many customers from all over town. The Friends' volunteers worked more hours than usual and had extra volunteers to help with setup, sale days, and take down. All the money from their spring and fall sales goes to Pima County Public Library. A huge thank you to them for all their hard work and time!

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller

At Quincie Douglas Library, we've had a lot of Earth Day themed activities and celebrations this month. Our children's team led an Earth Day crafternoon where children made crafts to honor the earth. We also had a special storytime on Nature Stories: Busy Bees! and artist Dolores Haro led a Mini Birdhouse painting class at the end of the month.

Our staff have attended outreach activities at neighborhood schools, such as Earth Day at Tully Elementary and Día del Nino at the Santa Cruz Plaza.

We've continued with our regularly scheduled programs such as Mobile Market, where customers can buy low-cost veggies and Barrio Bread. Many customers have told us how much they appreciate the mobile farmer's market.

Brandon, our Library Program Instructor, has started an 8-week basic computer class in English. Each week he teaches a computer skill, such as creating an email account, searching the web, and more. The classes have been very well attended.

Our PBS kids program (the first Tuesday of each month), led by community partner AZPM, continues to be well attended. Families get to watch a PBS kids show and children enjoy making related crafts.

Sahuarita Library – Kelly Wilson

April is National Poetry Month, and we celebrated by hanging poems on little lines for patrons to take and share. Surprisingly the children's poems were the most popular, but teens and adults took part in the sharing of staff picked poems as well.

Our new Teen/Tween librarians have launched a very popular weekly Teen Time Program which has really taken off. Every week offers presenter or staff led programs such as Shrinky Dink keychains, and magnets, plant-based tattoos, and Bali bead bracelets. At the end of the month, they made their own balloon creations and button accessories for their backpacks and personal items. This population has proven very enthusiastic about our new programming and have been asking for more. Every week had more than 30 teens/tweens attend and express their personal styles.

We participated in the ever-growing Fiesta Sahuarita this year where thousands of community members played trivia, signed up for library cards, and interacted with our informative library staff to learn all about our library resources. It was full day of outreach and connection that will surely bring library awareness to many new community members.

We held a unique adult program called Swap Stories with Strangers which brings people together to interact with neighbors in informal conversations to find commonality with people they don't yet know. The program offers the opportunity to expand social interactions in a safe space with support and yummy snacks. We hope to make it a recurring event throughout the year.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Risa Jensen-Jones

April has been a great month at Sam Lena-South Tucson Library. Artist Sandra F Montgomery's works are on display through the end of April. The relatively new Our Space program at this location reached a total of 48 people and had five community partners in attendance. Staff went to Pio Decimo Center to provide an Earth Day story time, a craft using Second Chance seeds, and some giveaway books. We also had a successful movie program and a program for Mini Coiled Spiral Basket making.

Santa Rosa Library – Briana Turner

April was a fun and active month at Santa Rosa Library!

We kicked things off with a free bike repair clinic just in time for the Cyclovia Tucson Spring 2026 event, helping folks get their bikes ready to ride. Our garden talk shared easy tips on turning kitchen scraps and yard waste into healthy compost.

Kids and families enjoyed Yoga Storytime along with nature stories and a puppet show, where they learned about pollinators. Teens and tweens joined in on a weekly question series—one favorite moment was when a tween answered, "Yes, because my friend is an alien," to whether they believe in aliens.

It was a great month of learning, creativity, and community connection!

District 3 – Supervisor Jen Allen

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

Throughout this month we have hosted a series of presentations on End-of-Life planning. We were honored to host local *Death Doula Laura Monday*, who has helped several Arivaca locals enter the last phase of their lives with grace and compassion. Our ongoing *Death Cafe* normalizes discussing all aspects of death, dying, and grief over donuts. This month's meeting was more raucous than our book group, which is notoriously loud. Occasional outbursts of laughter were a welcome surprise, with one attendee telling me that "...I never expected to laugh so much in a class about dying. I'm off to enjoy my life!" Additionally, we had a few visits over the month about *Planning for Peace of Mind*, with information and assistance in creating and filing wills and advanced directives, complete with getting them notarized and filed with the Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry.

In addition to being Poetry month (our Garden Fairies were busy hiding poetic letters for the kids to find,) April is *Citizen Science* month. The presentations we live streamed represented a wide range of the sciences: *The Weather on Mars*, *Cloud Watching in Space with NASA*, *Playing Stall Catchers to assist with Alzheimer's research by catching changes in blood flow in images of the brain*, *transcribing the Freedmen's Bureau Papers to preserve American History*, *Animal Spotting* with wildlife cameras from all around the world, and *Comet Watching* as a guide to how our galaxy and planet began. We are proud that Arivaca, Arizona was part of reaching the goal of 2.50 million Acts of Science this month.

For Earth Day, we hosted the *Sky Island Alliance and their FotoFauna program*. It was interesting to understand how thousands of pictures, locations and times are collected to build a greater understanding of the diversity of wildlife, their health, and seasonal migration patterns throughout our region. We were also thrilled to play any part in the creation of Biblioteca Esperanza which opened this month in Sasabe, Sonora. To help them build their opening collection we've been sharing our donated children's books. What a great place of hope for the children and families of Sasabe, Sonora.

This month we had on-site visits from Valley Assistance Services, and the Pima County Health Department's Free Mobile Health Services. Also, this month the Caviglia Arivaca Library staff provided outreach to - the Amado Youth Center, San Fernando Elementary in Sasabe, Fiesta Sahuarita, Arivaca Action Center/Arivaca Early Learning Center end of year community appreciation luncheon, Arivaca Community Center Board of Directors meeting, and the Arivaca Human Resource Board of Directors meeting. Having one additional staff member has expanded our ability to grow important partnerships within Arivaca, and often the resources the library has on hand become an integral part of our shared successes. The grant resources have us highlighting grant possibilities for each other which brings us all hope for a bright future for our community. This month we also had an AMAZING *Día de los Niños* celebration, with all the students of San Fernando Elementary on site experiencing the excitement of an indoor planetarium, a library scavenger hunt, a catered lunch funded by the Caviglia Arivaca Friends of the Library, and a piñata of their school mascot that they enjoyed pummeling until it unloaded its haul of candy & stickers. Every time San Fernando visits at least one child says, "...this is my favorite place in the world!" Each child left with books and a giftbag full of fun bookmarks, notebook, cool pencils, something to fidget with, teaser information on Summer Reading, and enough candy to last the weekend. All giftbag items and the piñata were generously provided by our wonderful Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library.,

Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky

In April, we hosted seven different community groups in our meeting rooms in addition to our partners Literacy Connects, whose spring quarter offerings are the Beginning English Language class and an Advanced English Language conversational class!

Our usual ongoing program offerings include four storytimes per week, Read to a Dog, Job & Computer Help, Fiber Arts Club, and Borderlands Reads Book Club for adults, all of which are clipping along or beginning to find their audience.

Our special April programs for kids and families consisted of a Potty-Training Workshop from the Diaper Bank, a Stuffed Animal Sleepover and Tea Party, and a special Yoga Storytime. For tweens and teens, we hosted Mini-Zines, Junk Journals, Poetry, and Natural Desert Paints. Our offerings for adults included a Recycling 101 Workshop from TEP as well as the final month of our Writer in Residence Margo Steines with 8+ one-on-one writing sessions per week and capped by a large format workshop titled Writing Parenthood.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Clarissa Sandoval

April was an active and engaging month. We started by celebrating National library week with a Find Your Joy book display along with a poetry book display that included engaging activities to spark our customers' curiosity.

The library was busy this month with community members utilizing our meeting rooms for a wide range of purposes. These included a poetry reading, a short series of classes on the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and amendments, testing sessions, elder care discussions, and Scrabble gatherings.

Our Whatever Wednesdays brought lots of smiles. We expected children to be the most excited about our pop-up book program—but the adults surprised us! We had a fantastic turnout of grown-ups who jumped right in and had an absolute blast exploring the magic of pop-up books. Turns out, they're fun at any age! Our Small Animals Storytime was also a huge hit—we welcomed a record number of families! The kids were thrilled to meet and feed the animals, and they jumped right into all the fun, hands-on activities. It was a lively, laughter-filled event from start to finish!

The highlight of April is that we're overjoyed to welcome our new Part-Time Librarian and Library Technical Assistant Supervisor.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

April showers bring May flowers! Maybe not such much in the Desert. This month in April, we have and will continue to shower our patrons with programming! Programming! Programming! This month at Woods Memorial we are observing and displaying “All things April” — Autism, Poetry, World Health Day, Earth-day, and Volunteering. We had six tweens to sign up to volunteer here at Wood Memorial!

Woods Memorial was able to do outreach to the community with *Spreading Threads Book Bike* and at *Cyclovia Tucson with the Book Bike*. We were able to give away over 200 books, and the library fans were in “AWE”.

In continuation with programming for patrons at Woods Memorial, on *Movie Saturday* patrons were able to watch the movie *Avatar: Way of the Water* and have popcorn. Under the *Maker's Mayhem program*, patrons were able to create mixed media art with ink and bleeding tissue paper. On another occasion, they were able to create Pistachio art, with one customer, thanking the library for having these creative classes. We also had *Master Gardeners* program called “Garden as We Age.” In collaboration with *Literacy Connects*, we offer Computer Basics in English on Mondays and Computer Basics in Spanish on Wednesdays, as well as *Literacy Connects English Language* classes and GED Test Prep. Woods Memorial also offers *One-on-One Computer Help* with registration required.

Lastly, Woods Memorial patrons continue to participate with ongoing programs like *Read to a Dog*, *Amphi Pantera* Food Truck program, and Snackactivities.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

It was National Unicorn Day on April 9! If patrons found a book about unicorns in the library, they received a prize. There were also craft activities, coloring pages, fun facts, and, of course, bookmarks.

Seven families are currently taking part in Story School, a free, bilingual early literacy program for children and their caregivers hosted by Make Way for Books. It takes place twice per week, and each family will receive up to 22 books for their home library.

When a mom finished checking out books and walked toward the exit, in protest, her four-year-old daughter said, “But mom, I really, *really* don't want to go yet,” and she tried to sit like cement on a bench. Mom managed to coax her out by reminding her that they were going home to make a pizza. When all is said and done, if the library rates just under pizza, that's not too bad!

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

By the end of April, many of Green Valley's seasonal residents return to their home states, but you wouldn't know it from Joyner-Green Valley Library's programming. History buffs and the generally curious enjoyed Gregory McNamee's presentation, “Desert Rats, River Runners, and Canyon Crawlers: Four Arizona Explorers,” about four men whose travels and expeditions contributed to our understanding of Arizona's geography and environment. The Page Turner's Book Club read and discussed *Afterlife*, the latest novel by National Medal of Arts winner, Julia Alvarez. As a service to residents, representatives from the Pima County Assessor's Office held their annual informational session at the branch, helping homeowners understand their Real Property Notice of Value as well as how to file an appeal. Coach Jen from the Wellness Council of Arizona led a workshop later in the month entitled, “Ways to Boost Happiness.” For our younger patrons, we continued to offer two sessions of *Family Storytime* each week in April. And preparations are already underway for the Summer Reading Program for children and youth as well as the premiere of Adult Summer Reading systemwide!

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Murphy-Wilmot's Job Help services are adapting to changing hiring practices. Our Library Program Instructors report more customers are asking to use AI tools to create resumes and to fill out job applications. Fortunately, many of our staff have gone through AI training and are able to accommodate these requests. Library staff are also gradually learning more about privacy, sustainability, and accuracy issues associated with AI. This allows them to better assist customers in safely and responsibly using this technology.

AARP Tax-Aide volunteers closed out another successful tax help season on April 14, one day before the tax-filing deadline of April 15. Beginning in February, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers, who are trained and IRS-certified each year, set up camp twice a week at the Murphy-Wilmot Library and helped 2,319 individuals file their federal and state income tax returns, all at no cost. The services were provided for a total of 21 days thanks to 20 incredibly dedicated volunteers.

District 5 – Supervisor Andres Cano

El Río Library – Lu Guerrero

In April, El Río Library kicked off the month with Family Storytime. This special guest storytime included stories, songs and dancing. Library staff also tabled at The El Río Health and Safety Fair 2026, providing information on healthy-related library resources and services.

The library has also added new boardgames to customer activity spaces, prompting their use daily by both solo visitors and families. A steady flow of customers continues to check out available Culture Passes, provided by Act One Arizona. Lastly, El Río Library's new exterior book chute has seen increased use by community members.

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Monica Creps

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library is pleased to announce a collaborative exhibition featuring final projects from the University of Arizona College of Architecture. Under the guidance of instructor Kenny Wong, students have developed designs focused on the El Pueblo Activity Center and its vital connection to the surrounding community. Throughout the semester, students have demonstrated a high level of professional commitment, engaging deeply with the project through rigorous inquiry and community-focused research. The public can view these innovative presentations at Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library on Tuesday, April 28 or Thursday, April 30.

In addition to this academic partnership, the library continues to serve as a critical community resource. As tax season concludes, our facility remains a high-traffic hub for residents utilizing our essential computer and printing services.

Himmel Park Library – Closed

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Christine Russell

Arizona Public Media's Laura Holzansky highlighted Pima County Public Library's Our Space Program along with two other Tucson programs for the unhoused in a 3-part story called "Unhoused Lifelines: A Helping Hand to the Homeless." Vulnerable Populations Librarian Jessica Miesner spoke with Laura about the Our Space program and how it brings community members together with library staff and resource providers for fun activities like bingo while also linking patrons to community resources.

Due to changes in Caridad Kitchen's service times, the Joel D Valdez Main Library Bookbike is no longer able to go to this spot. However, a facility nearby serves lunch on Thursdays, so

the Bookbike will be going there the 1st Thursday of the month moving forward – people can pick up food for thought as they pick up food for their bodies.

Babytime, Family Storytime and Crafternoon all continue to be well-attended by a mix of regulars and new patrons. We are also hosting Story School this month by Make Way for Books, which has received positive attendance and feedback.

Library staff from all service levels collaborated on a special intergenerational Board Game Day that took place throughout the entire library and included giant chess and a life-size Candyland game.

Martha Cooper Library-Tara Foxx-Lupo

Mid-April brings us to the end of Tax Help season at local libraries, and, like all other years, this service has proven to be vital. We estimate that at least six hundred individual tax returns were filed by the AARP volunteers at our site alone in the two months that the program was offered. Staff worked to help users in securing appointments throughout, even after our own site ran out of bookings. Many library users have expressed their appreciation for the support this program provides to those who benefit from it, and to the library staff who have helped them navigate the process.

In response to feedback and demand, this month we invited back Jeanine Colini to offer her program titled “Draw Your Favorite Sonoran Critter.” With choices including quails, warblers, snakes, lizards, or jackrabbits, attendees explored their creativity while connecting with our local natural habitats. On the morning that registration opened, the phones began ringing off the hook with patrons wishing to sign up. As always, Jeanine offered an engaging and enjoyable program, and we cannot wait to have her back for another in the future.

Our Teen Librarian has re-engaged the Martha Cooper Teen Advisory Board and has begun meeting with them in preparation for the Summer Reading program. Teens will have a role in program planning and support, as well as opportunities to design and offer programs in collaboration with library staff. The teens are excited to be back and to support the library in providing this important annual systemwide literacy program.

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Closed

Southwest Library – Alexis Ellsworth-Kopkowski

Southwest has had a very successful seed library launch, and it continues to be popular with our patrons. The displays for April are spring themed in the children's section, and we have two in the adult section for Southwest Books of the Year and local authors. All the displays have been popular with our patrons. It's been a month now with our volunteer and they have exhibited a great desire to learn about how to work in a library.

Valencia Library and Bookmobile/Readrunners– Ivonne Ramirez

In April, our community connections continued to bloom at Valencia Library. We have been getting good engagement with our monthly gardening programs and plant workshops with Tucson Clean and Beautiful. Together with the Valencia Library Garden team and our Adult Services team we kicked off the month with our first ever Seed Swap event. The event included library-staff-led seed bingo, gardening tips, and community building. All participants took seedlings and soil with them to grow to their home garden. We even received a glowing Google Review for the event: “Took the kids to get some seeds and seedlings at the seedlings swap. They really enjoyed.” 5/5 stars.

The gardening excitement continued the following week with Create Club. Our amazing partners from Grow Tucson, Tucson Clean & Beautiful, and Tucson Bird Alliance donated plants, soil, garden beds, and their time to transform our patio garden into a pollinator garden with the help of the children in our Create Club program. Participants learned about native plants that attract birds and pollinators and how to transplant them into the garden beds. The Create Club kids have been developing their love for gardening and enjoy opportunities to water the plants and play in the dirt.

As a dedicated Storytime parent, award-winning children's author Daniel Vandever has generously given back to his Valencia Library community and volunteered his time to support our children's librarian by presenting a series of Storytimes for Love of Reading and field trip class visits with Los Amigos Tech Academy and Hollinger Elementary. Valencia's own Children's Librarian, Thania coordinated with the teachers and author, to provide a meaningful experience centered on the theme: "Science and stories are all around us." Daniel shared his newest book, *High Desert Treasure, commissioned by Navajo Technical University under NASA's Minority University and Research Education Project for American Indian and Alaskan Native STEM Engagement program.*

In the story, a grandmother gives her grandsons a map to discover treasure, prompting them to travel through the high desert, gathering traditional plants and learning from their environment. The story introduces geology concepts and the interconnectedness of Earth's environment. After Storytime, the students went on a scavenger hunt in the library to discover books and learn about our programs. They also used Zoomy 2.0 microscopes to observe rocks, minerals, seeds, leaves, and flowers from our garden, and they planted seedlings to take home. We received wonderful praise from the teachers and parent chaperones, some of whom shared personal connections with Daniel's stories.

This month's Peace Garden Storytime was a celebration of Día de la Niñez in collaboration with Nuestras Raíces, Youth Services/Community Engagement Office (CEO), Beki from Sunny Neighborhood Association and Sketching the senses.

Families enjoyed a Story Walk reading of Beki's book, *In the Peace Garden*, a garden alphabet story created twenty years ago with the help of neighborhood children. Families were highly engaged during the live-action Storytime featuring the books: *Amor de Colores* by Lil' Libros and *Book Fiesta!* by Pat Mora. The stories were presented in English, Spanish, and ASL. After the stories, families participated in other activities, including a scavenger hunt in the garden to find alphabet letters, making mini piñatas, painting with watercolors, and planting bean plants using seeds from our Seed Library. Sketching the Senses provided art materials and prepared delicious alphabet cookies for families to decorate with locally grown flower petals and barrel cactus honey; and a vegan version of alphabet "mac & cheese." Families also received new books provided by CEO!

Our robust partnerships and collaboration with internal and external teams and our talented community members have broadened our reach and enriched the quality of programs offered to library users of all ages.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Murphy-Wilmot Library-Black Out Poetry supplies, Preschool Storytime supplies, Lego Club supplies, Wonders of Space presentation, STEAM Club supplies

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Our Space, Crafternoon supplies, Makerspace supplies

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Desert Rats, River Runners, and Canyon Crawlers: Four Arizona Explorers with Gregory McNamee; Ways to Boost Happiness with Coach Jen; Arts and Crafts for Adults; Family Storytime

Martha Cooper Library-Draw you Favorite Sonoran Critter, Crafts and Laughs

Richard Elías-Mission Library –

Valencia Library – Family Storytime, Create Club, Teen Time, Peace Garden Storytime, ¡Leé Con Lele!, Family Storytime, Messy Science: Reactions, Fiber Arts Club, Adult Crafty Hour, Tree Care 101, Spring Plant and Seed Swap

Sahuarita Library – Shrinky Dinks with Jessica Redhouse, Plant Based Tattoos with Vanya Marinkovic and Bali Beads with Martha Underwood, Yoga Storytime with Carrie

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Mini Coiled Spiral Baskets

Santa Rosa Library – Yoga Storytime, Wild Wednesday, Recycled Can Art

Flowing Wells Library – Mini-Zines for Teens & Tweens; Stuffed Animal Sleepover & Tea Party; Junk Journals; Yoga Storytime; Natural Desert Paints.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Pop up book, Pop art collage, improv theater, small animals Storytime

Friends of the Arivaca Library-

Planetarium, pinata, gift bags, catered lunch

Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library- Soft Taekwondo/Tai Chi x 2, Deconstructing the Taco:

The History & Lore of a Beloved Food, Baby Yoga, Toddler Yoga x 2, Preschool Yoga, Imagine a Garden Storytime, Hanuman Puppet Theater: The Three Wishes, Get Your Kicks on AZ Route 66!, Pastel Animal Art, Oil Pastels, Author Talk: Jill Beissel

Friends of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library- Anna Van Devender's Nature to You

DATE: May 7, 2026

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Friends of the Pima-Green Valley Library, Board of Directors
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

FROM: Paulina Aguirre-Clinch
Library Services Manager with additional duties assigned

SUBJECT: Circulation and Activity Measures: March 2026

	Mar-26	Mar-25	Percent Change
Circulation and Visits			
Circulation - Physical	158,782	177,174	-10%
Circulation - Digital	323,344	291,702	11%
Gate Count	266,463	251,309	6%
Website Visits	542,282	513,995	6%
Active Cardholders			
Active Cardholders	174,607	175,138	-0.3%
Total Cardholders	285,657	308,994	-8%
Percent Active Cardholders	100%	57%	76%
Virtual Reference Services			
Chat Service - Number of Chats	732	632	16%
Research Questions	403	406	-1%
Phone	1,454	1,438	1%
Mail	109	92	18%
Programming			
Early Childhood Literacy Program Attendance	5,338	5,361	0%
Adult Literacy Program Attendance	1,801	1,092	65%
Workforce Development Program Attendance	681	438	55%

Library Advisory Board Activity Report
March 2026

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	594	0	131	0	0	938	0
Caviglia-Arivaca	475	34	846	25	282	207	142
Dewhirst-Catalina	1,712	269	3,488	24	53	40	49
Dusenberry-River	10,437	978	7,706	24	280	0	450
Eckstrom-Columbus	4,919	3,374	18,039	37	529	405	1,945
El Rio	1,552	307	1,607	1	8	0	0
Flowing Wells	3,182	1,419	4,990	57	699	75	348
Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo	174	127	1,512	0	0	0	0
Himmel Park	0	0		0	0	0	0
Joel D Valdez Main	4,481	4,654	28,689	38	832	727	563
Joyner-Green Valley	10,346	1,398	11,822	141	1,508	131	948
Kirk-Bear Canyon	7,107	625	8,048	28	293	0	915
Martha Cooper	6,625	1,597	15,873	50	601	21	1,342
Miller-Golf Links	11,654	1,831	11,195	19	510	0	801
Murphy-Wilmot	13,274	3,724	17,071	65	2,253	35	2,608
Nanini	17,899	1,805	16,685	48	1,670	0	684
Oro Valley	19,613	1,668	32,274	80	1,910	13	1,073
Quincie Douglas	3,101	1,679	9,339	65	1,030	428	578
Richard Elias-Mission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sahuarita	5,441	1,036	7,171	57	776	181	1,705
Salazar-Ajo	1,225	365	3,471	58	480	0	169
Sam Lena-South Tucson	439	998	4,560	10	90	14	86
Santa Rosa	603	744	11,675	18	201	27	553
Southwest	1,664	537	3,971	4	32	235	0
Valencia	4,620	2,741	10,236	69	915	65	1,323
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station	7,519	581	7,588	19	428	0	690
Wheeler Taft Abbett	5,856	719	5,931	21	251	0	67
Woods Memorial	9,548	3,433	22,545	28	234	50	416
Web Renewal	4,722	0		0	0	0	0
Adult Services	0	0		62	591	1,190	0
Youth Services	0	0		1	197	1,852	0
TOTALS MAR 2026	158,782	36,643	266,463	1,049	16,653	6,634	17,455
TOTALS MAR 2025	177,174	35,211	251,309	911	13,928	3,999	18,867
Percentage Change	-10%	4%	6%	15%	20%	66%	-7%

Mission and Himmel Branches closed for the month of March 2026