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**DATE:** December 5, 2024

**TO:** Library Board, Pima County Public Library

Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Pima County Administration  
Friends of the Pima County Public Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Arivaca Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Esmond Station Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library, Board of Directors  
Friends of the Pima-Green Valley Library, Board of Directors  
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

**FROM:** Em Demeester-Lane  
Deputy Library Director

**SUBJECT: Public Services Report – November 2024**

This month 18 of our locations served the community in some capacity during the election season with many of them being a site for early, emergency and day-of voting as well as early ballot drop off sites or even a location to have your ID verified for a provisional ballot. I am so proud of the role libraries play in this vital part of our Democracy. County Recorder Gabrielle Cazares-Kelly even wrote an email of thanks to our library managers for all they do during the election season for our community. She reported to us that in total, 45,000 votes were cast at libraries this October and November.

**Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro**

I have been providing in-person and Teams video check-ins and support with the Managers of Murphy-Wilmot, Miller-Golf Links, Dusenberry-River, Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr., Santa Rosa and Flowing Wells Libraries. Supporting administration and assisting branches by attending and/or participating in the Collaborative Action Team Meetings, Policy Review Team meetings, Library Advisory Board Meetings, PRIDE Affinity Team, Library Planning Task Force, Intermittent Task Force and Public Service Managers Meetings. Assisted in hiring as an interview panelist for Librarian 1s and then as a co-hiring manager on the permanent Librarian 2 positions. Working with the Public Services team to assess the needs of the branches and placements for upcoming Librarian and Library Associate hired staff. I've also supported my branches by filling in to cover lunches and other shifts while staff were ill or on vacation. Tabled with the Pride Team at Club Congress for University of Arizona's Queerd Science event and signed up many people for new library cards there! Attended the super fun Martha Cooper grand reopening party.

**District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott**

**Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf**

Dewhirst-Catalina Library is seeing the snowbirds fly back in. They are renewing, expressing concern for the library's longevity, and letting us know how much they value us and what we do,

that includes systemwide. We look forward to promoting more people to get cards when the new limited edition designs are available! We sign up new users every day. We want that trickle to become a flood.

Our adult programming continues to be our biggest draw. We have a very active Catalina Garden Club now that we have permission from our plaza owners to install a potted plant garden near the parking lot, our senior teatime this month included painting wooden signs and bird houses, and a day of puzzles around the branch saw a lot of participation from all ages. We currently have an Oro Valley teen TAB display at Dewhirst Catalina about blood and other cancers and prevention, Indigenous Heritage Month, and How to Write Good and Fast in honor of the November challenge of NaNoWriMo (National Write a Novel in a Month) for which we have reserved the meeting room for a quiet space for writers on Thursday mornings this month.

Children enjoyed our final paid program for this year at the Catalina Community Center (a partner). Kids contributed ideas, rhymes, and beats to a musical troupe of two from Sticks and Tones who challenged the kids to use words, music, and movement to solve a Medieval riddle! We appreciate the way the Community Center collaborates with us, so we bring these programs for children to many more kids at their facility than fit in our own meeting room.

#### **Dusenberry-River Library – Mikel Stone**

Since my last update, the Dusenberry-River Branch has remained actively engaged in serving the Tucson community. Among the highlights was our highly successful Holiday Pumpkin Party, which attracted nearly 80 guests over the course of the event. What made this celebration particularly special was that it was entirely planned and staffed by our Teen Advisory Board (TAB), with 14 of the 15 members in attendance. The event featured a variety of enjoyable activities, including a screening of It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown, pumpkin painting, candy distribution, and a popcorn topping station, which was organized into an assembly line for attendees. A particularly memorable moment occurred when one child enthusiastically declared, "This is the best party ever!"—a sentiment that perfectly captured the success of the event.

Additionally, we hosted the Pima County Recorder's Office and Elections Department at the library for a week of early voting, followed by two days of Emergency Voting and Election Day itself. During this period, our foot traffic significantly increased, and we had the opportunity to register many new library cardholders while introducing numerous community members to the services offered by Pima County Public Library.

#### **Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns**

This November saw Nanini's biggest voter turnout ever with over 2,300 people voting and dropping off ballots on Election Day. Our library branch has served as a polling site for Presidential, Midterm, and Primary elections for decades.

Nanini's Fall Festival was a big success with over 100 people in attendance. Kids and families played carnival games, decorated sugar skulls and watched a movie. Youth volunteers from Nanini's Teen Advisory Board worked with the Young Adult Services librarian to coordinate this event.

Weekly Wednesday afternoon programs have been very popular, alternating gaming and Lego sessions throughout the month. On one Wednesday a month we host a special program with a presenter or a craft. This month's session was a STEAM-themed program, teaching kids about chemical reactions by making fizzy sand. Other special November events included a fingerstyle guitar performance by Peter Biedermann, and a DIY Fairy Garden program for tweens and teens.

## **Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks**

Oro Valley Public Library was an Early Voting location for two weeks, Emergency Voting location for two days, and a Vote Center on Election Day. The end of October and beginning of November were very busy with 1,000-1,950 visits per day for Early Voting activities in the Meeting Room and over 2,300 visits for Election Day activities in the Meeting Room. With more people coming into the library, we made library cards for those who had not visited us in a while, which was a great way to reacquaint patrons with our services. Staff answered 20-30 calls per hour from patrons with election questions. The parking lot was regularly full; staff and patrons struggled to find parking and regularly parked by the Town of Oro Valley buildings on the far side of the complex.

The week after Election Day, the Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library held their four-day Fall Book and Jewelry Sale. They made over \$24,000 with over \$11,000 of that on the first day. This was their second biggest sale on record! We greatly appreciate our Friends for all their hard work and dedication to the library. Their sales always draw in customers and provide a welcome atmosphere of book lovers sharing their joy of reading and love of the library.

Our Teen Advisory Board had a few of their members present a Diwali Celebration. They had a puppet show which presented what Diwali celebrates - light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and families. They also offered henna and had books about Diwali for patrons to check out. The celebration was remarked as a “welcome environment” and robustly attended with about 60 people of all ages joining them. Staff saw many new faces in the library for the event. Some of our other Teen volunteers held their Teen Banned Book Club this month as well. Their book club is created by and led by teens, intended for other teens, and meets monthly during the school year. This month they read and discussed *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Andrews.

For adults, we had a Pima Council on Aging Medicare Counselor providing one-on-one appointments as well as a larger workshop on Medicare options. Our Library Program Instructor held several technology classes, which included, *Thinking of Buying a New Computer or Tablet?* This class always fills up quickly and he holds it several times a year to meet demand. For children and families, we had our regular Storytimes, Lego Club, Read to a Dog with some disruption due to Elections and Thanksgiving.

## **District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz**

### **Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson**

This was a busy month for Columbus. Near the beginning of the month, we were a voting center, and our door count was over 6,000 on election day. The energy was electric, and it was an honor to be part of the democratic process. We had our regular programs like snack time, read to a dog, English Class with Literacy Connects, Crafternoon, Storytime, and Eclectic Readers book club. We also had an all-ages card making program that was well attended and taught several of our patrons how to use the branch CriCut machine. It was wonderful to see patrons ranging in age from six to retired.

This month also heralded the 3<sup>rd</sup> of our twice-yearly chess tournaments, with this one being the largest so far. Our guest officiators told us that several of the children in our tournament went on to compete in community tournaments. We also wrapped up another successful session of both beginning and intermediate English classes in partnership with literacy connects. The monthly adult yoga class continues to be so popular that a waitlist is needed. We look forward to going into the next month, and the adventures we will have with all aspects of our community.

Friends Programs: Chess tournament, chess club, and yoga

### **Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller**

We've had a busy November at Quincie Douglas Library. Writer in Residence Meg Files continues to give valuable one-on-one writing consultations to interested participants on Thursday afternoons. She also hosted a writing workshop entitled, "Says Who? Point of View Choices" at Quincie, which was very well attended. Many participants have commented on how valuable the workshop and individual consultations have been.

The Pima County Health Department has been tabling at Quincie and giving out information and resources about substance abuse and mental health care. They gave out free care kits and talked to many people about these topics.

We've been giving out snacks every afternoon from 2-4pm, provided by the Community Food Bank. Children and parents love this resource.

Our crochet and knit clubs continue to be successful, with participants of all ages and levels attending. There was also a wonderful Day of the Dead themed painting class taught by artist Dolores Haro.

Children's programs continue to be very popular at Quincie. Toddler Storytime and themed crafternoons are always bustling and busy.

Finally, our programming in Spanish taught by Literacy Connects volunteers is very well attended. We offer a basic computer class in Spanish as well as GED taught in Spanish. The community really appreciates these classes.

### **Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley**

We've got many beautiful book displays up in the library, including themes around winter, sci-fi novels, literary fiction, art and creativity, and a celebration of National Indigenous Heritage Month. We're also hosting a special music performance on Saturday, November 23 called "Healing Sounds from Around the World" where we'll hear live music on the hammered dulcimer, Tibetan singing bowls and bells, Australian didgeridoo and more. Presented by Bob Effertz and Miguel Molina.

Our Book Club read *The Boys in the Boats* by Daniel James Brown this month. We also offered an 8-week writing workshop for adults called Self Stories that wrapped up on November 14. This structured course with writing assignments, shared readings and group feedback elicited some powerful stories. It was so inspiring, the group agreed to meet a few more times this winter. After that, we plan to offer another session in the Spring.

Volunteers from local social service agencies – COPE and Valley Assistance Services – have been tabling regularly to answer questions and connect community members with the resources they need. We also host a Homeless Resource Navigator from Pima County's Community and Workforce Development office on the third Thursday of every month.

Our Children's and Teen Librarians met with local high school Librarians to start planning this year's Maker Fair. Stay tuned for more information about this (now third) very popular annual event in February! We're also excited about hosting Chess Strategies and Techniques on November 23 with more tailored instruction for our Chess Club participants. Toddler Build was also back on Thursday, November 7 and we held a Rock Painting Workshop the same day that was well attended. Participants painted so many rocks, we placed a bunch of them around the outdoor landscaping to welcome customers in.

### **Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero**

This month, the library hosted an Artists and Creatives Roundtable for artists in the community to share and collaborate with other artists. The event was moderated by Carol Boone, a SCORE mentor. Carol shared their deep knowledge on the challenges of promoting and selling art. The Pima County Health Department also visited this month, bringing with them the Community Health Mobile Clinic and offering vaccines, testing, birth control and other health services to the public.

Presenter Devi Novotny had children's and their families stomping around at an interactive Storytime featuring dinosaurs!

### **Santa Rosa Library – Michaela Grady**

It has been an exciting month for some of the youngest patrons at the Santa Rosa Library. In addition to our in-house Storytime presented by staff, we have been lucky to invite both paid and volunteer presenters for a multitude of exciting Storytime events. They've moved along with the story for Yoga Storytime, cracked open dinosaur eggs for Dinosaur Storytime presented by Phoenix author Debi Novotny, looked for clues for Wildlife Detectives Storytime presented by Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation, and watched a seed become a saguaro with the puppet show Desert Storytime presented by The Cooper Center for Environmental Learning.

We've also had plenty of opportunity for learning and fun for our afterschool programming. We began the month by recognizing Dia de Muertos with a sugar skull program, worked on literacy with read to a dog, and focused on health and nutrition with multiple visits from AZ Health Zone and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. AZ Health Zone brought us a crowd pleaser, exercise bingo, while the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension taught families how to create healthy and delicious snacks to enjoy. As the nights get cool, we were inspired to step outside by the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association who presented Phases of the Moon. Additionally, staff hosted programming including bilingual Loteria, a guessing game program, autumn painting, and Wii gaming.

### **District 3 – Dr. Sylvia M. Lee**

#### **Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson**

The Caviglia Arivaca Library started November off with a challenging *Día De Los Muertos Escape Room*. It was based on the movie 'Coco,' with the goal being the return of the De la Fuentes ancestor's pictures to their ofrenda, enabling their family reunion on Dia De Los Muertos. Library staff MR and NL, with help from Teen Advisory Board (TAB) member EM, put in many hours creating the clues, characters, and history the escape room was built upon. Our meeting room turned into a cemetery with an adjacent large beautiful Ofrenda full of paper flowers and votives. As patrons completed the escape room they learned about the culture and history behind the celebration, and if they couldn't figure out a clue each session had a Catrina or Catrin available to offer a nudge in the right direction. It was an amazing, exhausting, successful celebration of a beautiful and meaningful holiday.

Arizona Humanities sponsored Florence Arizona Town Historian Christine Reid's visit to Arivaca, with her presentation *Arizona Snake Oil Salesmen, Scams, and Hoaxes*. Despite the unusually cold weather on that day, enough people attended to hear laughter across the library. Christine generously stayed late answering questions and sharing additional stories of regional history and hilarity. After the program I mentioned that anyone has access the Arizona Humanities website, and that I was open to any suggestions for presentations. That clearly excited a few folks, because I came back to several excited emails commenting on the amazing speakers available.

Our ongoing programs: *Book Club*, *Poetry Group*, *Art Salon*, and *Fiber Arts Friday*, are growing in numbers with the return of our snowbirds. It is heartening that the library is one of the first places they stop when they return to town and endearing to hear their misery at missing certain programs that occurred when they were gone. It is nice to know that they follow us when they are out of town.

Our *Grief Support Group* had their last official meeting this month, and we are endlessly grateful to Valley Assistance Services for stepping up in the community's time of need. Arivaca has a rapidly aging population, and we lost many people during COVID- almost 10% of the population. This recent tragedy shed light on the need for this type of support in our community, and several local non-profits are joining together to offer ongoing meetings and outreach within the community.

### **Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky**

This month we had special events for all ages in addition to our usual schedule: For adults, we had two Senior Tea and Puzzle Times, in response to several requests for adult conversational programs. We are thrilled to be able to offer regular adult programming again, and our patrons are happy too! On Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> we had a Shrinky Dink Art program for kids and families, and on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> we had a special Roblox Gaming Event for tweens and teens, with some special prizes for the young gamers.

November also saw a return of Health Insurance Sign-ups on a weekly basis, led by a wonderful staffer from the U of A Extension Program.

Our Storytime families are adjusting well to our new Storytime schedules, and the extra options have meant that we no longer need to turn anyone away, which is fantastic for everyone. Read to a Dog is popular, with our three 'celebrity' dogs getting their fill of kids' attention, and carrots, of course. Crochet & Knitting Club also has a steady following on Friday afternoons.

Finally, this month the fall quarter of English Language classes and GED classes wrapped up. We love hosting these classes and sharing all the library has to offer with the students, and we look forward to the Winter Quarter starting up in January!

### **Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger**

During the month of November, the Salazar-Ajo Library welcomed back many winter residents. Our Lucky Day Books are flying off the shelves and staff has received an array of compliments on the selection as well as the inviting space that the library creates.

While our older community members are happily browsing our books and marveling at our displays, our younger community members are gathering around the computers after school every day of the week and connecting with each other during Lego Club on Monday afternoons.

The library started hosting the AZ Speaks Speaker series, beginning with Dr Scott Warren on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The community always delights in learning about local history and geography. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, our speaker was Yolanda Hart Stevens, who shared about the natural materials she uses in her traditional bead and jewelry making.

The Pima County Health Department continues to visit the library twice a month, offering reproductive health services in the Mobile Health Unit.

### **Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig**

November has been a busy month at Abbett. For Children's and Tween services, staff created an educational and engaging event where kids and tweens had the chance to build their own Stomp Rockets. Not only did participants assemble their rockets to take home, but they also explored the science behind air pressure and propulsion as they launched their creations, competing against one another in a rocket race. The hands-on activity was a fun, interactive way for children to learn about basic physics principles, like the force of air and the mechanics of flight, all while fostering creativity and teamwork.

Young Adult Services continues to provide volunteering opportunities for teens and has admitted two more members to their ongoing Teen Advisory Board program that meets weekly on Wednesdays 5:00pm to 6:00pm. As we have successfully incorporated the 3D printing into our Tech Thursday programming, the YA Librarian is attempting to also increase awareness and usage of our Cricut with a directed Design Your Own Napkin program taking place on the 21st from 2:00-4:00pm. Our YA librarian assisted in an outreach to one of the local high schools, Mountain View, this month and helped increase visibility of the library and its programming. We are increasing the ability of teenagers to peer select display materials for other teenagers by expanding the Staff Picks display to include chosen titles from all teen volunteers. Coming up in the spring, Abbett will be participating in efforts to run the teen table and host an interview with an author at the Tucson Festival of Books.

Our Adult Services librarian, Patti, presented her annual pizza and pages program. Attendees were able to snack down on pizza while listening to latest book references and recommendations. Patti has expanded her offerings and recommendations and gave all attendees a list of her favorite picks which included a diverse recommendation of fiction, non-fiction and as well as some cozy mysteries, fantasies and short series. The recommendations given are always inclusive so that anyone attending has the possibility of finding something they like or finding literary representation.

### **Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba**

"Don't let frustration steal your inspiration" ... and that we did not do at Woods Memorial Library this November. This month at Woods Memorial we were part of the voting experience from October 28<sup>th</sup> thru November 4<sup>th</sup> with early voting which reached a number of 2069, courtesy of Pima County Recorder's Office. Other than playing a part in our civic duty, Woods Memorial was able to outreach to 4 schools and engage with Children, Librarian Kristen was able to read to 50 students at Rio Vista Elementary, 95 students at Presidio school, 90 students at Craigin school, and 13 students at Howenstine elementary.

Continuing in the spirit of inspiration, Woods Memorial continue to house the *Youth Health Action Team* who met twice this month on November 7<sup>th</sup> with 21 participants, and November 18<sup>th</sup> with also 21 participants. Our *Maker's Mayhem* program on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> reached 30 patrons. The *Teen-Tech* program had 9 participants, the *Author Talk with Janelle Molony: Journey Back to the Old Oregon Trail* on November 9<sup>th</sup> with 5 patrons, 6 patrons with the *Master Gardeners* program and the *Bird Community: Nature Stories with the Pima County Conservation Lands & Resources*, as well as the collaborated program with *Literacy Connects* with their Basic and Spanish computer classes and English Classes.

Patrons will continue to be able to participate with the ongoing programs in November with *Read to a Dog* on Wednesdays and Saturdays, *Amphi Pantera* Food Truck program on November 25<sup>th</sup>,

and Lego hour from 3 to 4:00pm on Tuesday's, and a *Maker's Mayhem* program on candle making on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy**

##### **W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney**

In addition to the perennial Lucky Day display, during November, staff created displays for Día de los Muertos, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, Indigenous Heritage & Native American Heritage Month, and Cookery.

The Pima County Recorder's Office used Gibson-Esmond Station Library for Early and Emergency Voting. There were over 2300 voters during the seven days (including 700 on Friday, November 1), and there were approximately one billion phone calls.

##### **Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall**

As seasonal visitors joined us in increasing numbers, November was a month filled with music and art at Joyner-Green Valley Library. *Music @ Your Library* returned with a show performed by local musician Brian Osborn. Drawing from his crowd-pleasing repertoire, he played guitar, harmonica, and sang favorites from the 1960s and 1970s. Attendees at the first of two *Museum of Art Docent Talks* learned about the work of expeditionary artists who traveled throughout the West in the early 1800s bringing visual representation of Western landscapes, flora and fauna, and Indigenous people to the rest of the country for the first time. The second art talk also drew a keen, appreciative crowd, but with a completely different focus—French painter William Bouguereau's monumental canvases with life-size human figures. Patrons often mention to library staff how much they love the docent art talks and how grateful they are to have the opportunity to experience some of the riches of the Tucson Museum of Art without leaving Green Valley.

Customers at Joyner-Green Valley Library are also getting into the technology groove! Comments like "Wow!", "That's amazing!", and "I can do that!" can be heard uttered in delight by attendees of our *Library Resource and Technology Drop-In Help* hour every Wednesday morning and every Thursday afternoon. A library staff member works one-on-one with customers who are interested in using the library's many digital resources. The top request? Help using eBook/downloadable audiobook apps, such as Libby and Hoopla, on personal devices like e-readers or tablets. At the beginning, customers often express concern about their lack of tech skills or their fear that using these resources will be too difficult for them. When the informal "lesson" is complete, their facial expression, usually a combination of incredulity and joy, always makes my day.

##### **Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Christine Russell**

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library wound down programming this November in anticipation of Thanksgiving and our short closure for subflooring evaluation in December. Our Children's Librarian is holding two *Bilingual Story Times* each month. This month she presented stories in Korean and Spanish. Our *Sensory Program* continues to be a sell-out crowd every session.

The branch was ready for Dia de Muertos with a lovely ofrenda for staff family members and some of our favorite authors. Children could decorate a paper calavera to hang in our windows. The Young Adult team presented a *Sugar Skull* program that brought in 24 attendees. The number of teens using our teen space and coming to programs has steadily increased this year.

The *Cozy Crafters Collective* has returned on Saturdays for the fall and winter. This all-ages program has benefited from some cozy additions this year like the availability of tea and coffee. Adults had other options, including Master Gardeners' *Thriving in Arid Beauty: The Art of Xeriscaping* and our final three-monthly sessions on *Discover Your Roots: An Intro to Genealogy*.



Our branch was also an early voting site, emergency voting site and had voting on the day of the election with nearly 2,800 people coming through our doors on November 5<sup>th</sup>. We're looking forward to helping other branches in December and coming back stronger than ever in January with some exciting new programming to look forward to.

### **Miller-Golf Links Library – Anna Lawrence**

November kicked off with a busy election season at the Miller-Golf Links library. As an early, emergency, and election day voting site, the staff was busy answering questions and directing the public to information about the election. Story time returned after an election season break with a special Wildlife Detectives story for pre-school children. Our regular attendees are happy to have the meeting room open and available for our story times again! The monthly Read to a Dog program attracted many families again as well.

Tweens and teens this month have been attending the weekly Wednesday hangout in larger numbers, some teens bringing their friends to hang or do homework. Our penultimate movie took place with small numbers; we will be investigating new Saturday program options in the new year.

Adults this month at GLF could attend several programs including an informational session about Dementia, a concert by guitarist Peter Biedermann who will also share some history about fingerstyle guitar playing, our monthly book club, this month featuring Harlan Coben's *I Will Find You*, and a very popular history talk about the 1887 Sonoran/Arizona Earthquake. Participants saw the first ever photos of an earthquake rupture and were able to learn about how the water supply in Arizona changed because of this natural disaster.

### **Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny**

Murphy-Wilmot hosted a Voting Center on Tuesday, November 5. We were a popular site with 1126 people voting here. Outside of the 75-foot limit, there were many political activists in the parking lot. As an institution supporting first amendment rights, we were pleased to observe people with differing views peacefully and respectfully stand next to each other while expressing their opinions with voters.

### **District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Chair**

#### **El Río Library –Morgen Daniels**

October ended on a high note at El Río Library with an adorable trick-or-treating event in collaboration with the *Nosotros Academy* Day Care & Preschool, during which over 70 students and educators dropped by our branch for a Halloween treat. We continued our dedicated service to our littlest community members this month with two engaging and educational Storytime events; we are especially excited to welcome Melissa Mundt from Conservation Lands & Resources' *Environmental Education Program* on November 21 for a "Bird Community"-themed Storytime program at which we expect high attendance.

For November, staff created two beautiful and educational book displays to inspire El Río Library patrons and encourage them to stretch their inter-cultural understanding: one for Indigenous Heritage Month featuring the 2024 *American Indian Youth Literature Award (AIYLA)* winners selected by the American Indian Library Association (AILA), and one celebrating the United Nations' International Day for Tolerance (November 16) to foster acceptance and unity.

Patrons had a blast at El Río Library's Crafternoon program on November 12, at which attendees created beautiful collage art; a young visitor's vibrant piece consisting of various animal pictures

especially stood out! We look forward to crafting with more patrons at our second bi-monthly iteration of this event on November 26.

Our adult Book Discussion Group's monthly meeting on November 14 was fun and inspiring, and our faithful repeat attendees and staff enjoyed a stimulating discussion about representations of love of all types in literature, both fiction and nonfiction. We are excited to discuss books about reconciliation with family at our December 12 meeting!

#### **Himmel Park Library** – Heather Ross

On a recent afternoon Himmel Park Library welcomed 45 patrons, ranging from families with small children to single adults, to decorate sugar skulls in celebration of Día de Muertos. Using feathers, beads, glitter, and ribbons, the participants created some truly stunning works of art, while simultaneously strengthening community connections. "I feel like I'm back in school doing an art project again!" giggled one older adult attendee to another as she carefully plotted out a design for her skull's hat. While trading craft supplies, two young participants discovered that they go to the same school. The first grader excitedly shared some hints for the next school year with the kindergartener as they worked on their creations. A delightful, sparkly time was had by all.

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

Young Adult staff have set up a few different displays in the teen area. To honor the holiday Dia de los Muertos, patrons and staff can color various symbolic objects that include a butterfly, marigold, calavera, or hummingbird and adhere to the window as a way to remember loved ones they have lost. Staff have also set up a book display that highlights books from our teen collection that center around Indigenous People to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Finally, our teen volunteers came up with the idea to create a "book to film" display that showcases old and new books that have been made into popular movies or TV shows.

The *Shh We're Reading* program at the Fourth Avenue Coalition space continues to attract newcomers looking for a quiet, cozy space to read, once a month on a Sunday.

The Louis Carlos Bernal pop-up exhibit (in partnership with the Center for Creative Photography) concluded its run on November 12th and was a great success. We received positive feedback from patrons who found the exhibit very engaging and a welcome addition to the MAI atmosphere.

The Reference team answered 581 questions in November, including questions about local children's books, passport requirements for international travel, how to access birth and death records, and the locations of old restaurants. Our favorite thank-you from H.E.:

"Thank you thank you thank you. What a resource you are. Our public library needs more of you helping document Tucson's history. I certainly appreciate the investigations you do. I've inquired before I'm sure I'll be calling on you again."

#### **Martha Cooper Library** – Tara Foxx-Lupo

November marked the Martha Cooper Library's Grand Reopening event. Held on a Saturday, we invited the community to share in our excitement over the beautifully expanded library and exterior park space. The event began with speakers from all facets of the project and community and included Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Manager Tara Foxx-Lupo, Director Amber Mathewson, Architect Henry Tom, Kappcon owner Nathan Kaplan, Library staff member Josh and neighborhood resident and friend of Martha Cooper, Anna Marie Patti.

After the ceremonies, Mamma Coal put on a great musical show with songs for all ages while library staff served refreshments and led a craft activity for kids. There were many in attendance, both new residents and longtime patrons, and all were happy to share in welcoming the library and our services back. Many remarked on the beauty of the newly expanded building, the greenspace and the ways in which the changes are responsive to the needs of the surrounding community. We are thrilled to be back and hope that you might consider visiting sometime soon.

### **Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez**

Fall brought a few days of cooler weather at Valencia Library and some cozy and creative programs throughout the months of October and November.

- There was some advancement in our tech offerings, this fall Valencia Library added a third day of computer class—this makes two intermediate computer classes and one beginner computer class each week.
- In the month of November, we finished the fall session of English Classes through Literacy Connects, which were held twice a week for beginner & intermediate levels and reached an estimated 40 students this session. Plans for the Winter session, which starts January 15th are underway.
- Create Club hosted Ms. Leila from the PCPL Community Engagement Office, and our very own Librarian Ms. Lindsey for a special presentation *Bubble, Sizzle, Pop, Frybread!!* in celebration of Indigenous Heritage Month. The enthusiastic group read *Fry Bread!* together, a Native American family story, and got a chance to taste delicious frybread from a cooking demo where families learned to make their own.

The books on display are flying off the shelves! Our original book displays this month included Indigenous Heritage Month, Mustaches for Men's Health, and Honoring our Veterans.



*A patron came up to the desk to check out books, and she said, "I just love this library. It's ten minutes from where I live, and all of you here--everyone up at the desk--are just so nice, so, so nice, thank you."*

Valencia Library staff continue to be the core of our outstanding public services. The interactions at the front desk include reference services, technology help, and connecting people with library resources for learning, hobbies, and social support. The Front Desk Team at Valencia Library is a listening ear when the public comes in to chat and share their life journey and when a library patron is venting about an issue they are trying to solve—the value of this listening and the human connection the team builds with the public day after day is what makes the library an integral part of the community. When a person comes in and says, "I haven't been here in years" and they are greeted with the response "welcome back", you know that you are part of a community that persists.

## **Readrunners/Bookmobile**

Since our last check-in mid-September, the Bookmobile special events have continued to be in demand. Notably, 222 customers visited the bookmobile at regularly scheduled stops in October.

In addition to its regular stops throughout Pima County, the Bookmobile had 2 events each month in September, October, and November. The *Vail Block Party* on September 21st saw 90 people visit the bookmobile and the *Altar Valley Family Fun Night* on September 25<sup>th</sup> had 23 people visit the bookmobile.

The *Robles Junction Community Pride Day* on October 5th had 60 people visit the bookmobile and the *TMC Spooktacular* on October 26th saw 408 people visit the bookmobile.

November has seen events on consecutive weekends. On November 9<sup>th</sup> 72 people visited the bookmobile at the Truly Nolen Car show and 208 people visited the bookmobile at *PBS Kids Day* at the Children's Museum of Tucson.

The special events will continue throughout the Month of November, and we are already coordinating invitations for events in December and January.

## **Activities funded by Friends Groups**

### **Friends of the Pima County Public Library**

Miller-Golf Links Library –

Dewhirst Catalina Library – Sticks and Tones

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library –

El Río Library -

Himmel Park Library – Chess Fundamentals

Quincie Douglas Library – Dolores Haro, Day of the Dead paintings; Bali Bead Jewelry taught by Martha Underwood

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Nevi Novotny

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

Martha Cooper Library -GASP, Storytime, Martha Cooper Grand Reopening

**Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library-** - Dia De Los Muertos Escape Room, Arizona Snake Oil Salesmen Scams and Hoaxes, Fiber Arts Friday.

**Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library-** Sensory Program, Teen Advisory Board, Sugar Skulls, Cozy Crafters Collective

**Friends of the Green Valley Library (Green Valley & Sahuarita)-**Family Storytime, Amado Crafternoon, Music @ Your Library, Arts and Crafts for Adults

**Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library-** Toddler Yoga Storytime, Preschool Yoga Storytime, Crochet Basics by Estrella Creates



**DATE:** December 5, 2024

**TO:** Library Board, Pima County Public Library  
 Pima County Board of Supervisors  
 Pima County Administration  
 Friends of the Pima County Public Library, Board of Directors  
 Friends of the Arivaca Library, Board of Directors  
 Friends of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library, Board of Directors  
 Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, Board of Directors  
 Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library, Board of Directors  
 Friends of the Pima-Green Valley Library, Board of Directors  
 Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

**FROM:** Em DeMeester-Lane  
 Deputy Library Director

**SUBJECT: Circulation and Activity Measures: October 2024**

	Oct-24	Oct-23	Percent Change
<b>Circulation and Visits</b>			
Circulation - Physical	182,012	189,460	-4%
Circulation - Digital	271,767	271,557	0%
Gate Count	291,595	215,548	35%
Website Visits	502,272	435,855	15%
<b>Cardholders</b>			
Active Cardholders	**	159,732	#VALUE!
Total Cardholders	**	306,971	#VALUE!
Percent Active Cardholders	#VALUE!	52%	#VALUE!
<b>Virtual Reference Service</b>			
Chat Service - Number of Chats	661	682	-3%
Research Questions	343	289	19%
Phone	1,686	1,972	-15%
Mail	239	258	-7%
<b>Programming</b>			
Early Childhood Literacy Program Attendance	5,872	4,786	23%
Adult Literacy Program Attendance	2,861	3,012	-5%
Workforce Development Program Attendance	670	421	59%
<b>**Savannah software not working</b>			

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

Library Advisory Board Activity Report  
October 2024

BRANCH	Physical Circulation	Computer Use	Gate Count	Number of Programs	Program Attendance	Attendance at Outreach Events and School Visits	Number of People Using Meeting and Study Rooms
Bookmobile / Books by Mail	724	0	222	0	0	468	0
Caviglia-Arivaca	407	55	508	13	65	50	90
Dewhirst-Catalina	1,796	249	3,657	14	69	55	72
Dusenberry-River	10,661	792	9,844	27	402	0	3,316
Eckstrom-Columbus	4,824	3,013	16,922	54	663	0	997
El Rio	1,534	333	1,723	19	133	0	0
Flowing Wells	2,851	1,461	7,109	70	947	529	384
Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo	123	170	1,260	0	0	0	0
Himmel Park	8,876	972	9,437	36	663	49	111
Joel D Valdez Main	5,865	4,695	32,570	30	315	178	625
Joyner-Green Valley	8,868	916	10,047	35	379	131	609
Kirk-Bear Canyon	9,728	485	10,208	24	402	40	2,373
Martha Cooper	5,077	914	11,258	51	686	275	568
Miller-Golf Links	13,182	1,353	11,711	15	343	0	311
Murphy-Wilmot	14,634	3,305	16,790	48	1,064	60	1,433
Nanini	14,960	1,332	13,156	57	1,532	0	1,796
Oro Valley	20,710	1,366	37,861	66	1,274	0	8,969
Quincie Douglas	2,924	1,987	9,240	63	942	44	633
Richard Elias-Mission							
Sahuarita	6,560	1,123	7,772	52	760	0	1,906
Salazar-Ajo	1,311	423	4,363	64	494	158	504
Sam Lena-South Tucson	572	1,209	4,592	15	82	2	0
Santa Rosa	385	736	9,642	20	300	0	788
Southwest	2,131	353	4,452	40	28	13	0
Valencia	5,000	2,607	10,647	75	897	60	1,114
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station	8,258	369	12,233	23	386	60	2,370
Wheeler Taft Abbett	13,511	1,817	21,254	78	1,122	25	246
Woods Memorial	9,968	2,970	13,117	17	220	0	250
Web Renewal	6,572	0		0	0	0	0
Adult Services	0	0		153	591	185	0
Youth Services	0	0		0	0	557	0
<b>TOTALS October 2024</b>	<b>182,012</b>	<b>35,005</b>	<b>291,595</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>14,759</b>	<b>2,939</b>	<b>29,465</b>
<b>TOTALS October 2023</b>	<b>189,460</b>	<b>21,095</b>	<b>215,548</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>14,007</b>	<b>11,921</b>	<b>16,372</b>
<b>Percentage Change</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>-75%</b>	<b>80%</b>

\*Mission closed October 2024