



TO: Chair and Members of the Library Advisory Commission

SUBMITTED BY: JoAnne Plummer, Neighborhood Services Director

PREPARED BY: Elizabeth Saucedo, City Librarian

SUBJECT: Goleta Valley Library, Director's Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation from the City Librarian about the activities of the Goleta Valley Library, programs and events, and the status of various long-term initiatives.

DISCUSSION:

Following is a presentation to the Commission referencing operational activities at the library. This presentation includes areas such as programs, statistics, grants, collection development, calendared programs, and events. This report covers library activity from May – June 2024, with notes from July 2024 included where relevant.

PROGRAMMING:

Free Ice Skating at Ice in Paradise with Your Library Card

During 2023 and 2024, Ice in Paradise has generously donated free skating admission on the first Sunday of every month to patrons of the Goleta & Santa Ynez Valley Libraries. Patrons simply present their Goleta Valley Library or Santa Ynez Valley Libraries card at the rink to receive free skating admission. The digital version of the library card, which is available through the Black Gold Cooperative Library System app, is also acceptable. Two sessions are available, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. The cost of skate rentals is not included, and one library card is required for each skater (must be at least 3 years old).

This popular partnership first started in December 2022 during the schools' winter break, and has resulted in an increase in library card registrations. Ice in Paradise staff provide statistics each month of how many patrons participate in the free sessions. During May and June, a total of 159 patrons participated. Patrons frequently express enthusiasm for this program during their onsite visits to Goleta Valley Library.

2024 Summer Reading Program

The 2024 Summer Reading Program launched on Saturday, June 15th and ran through Saturday, July 27th at Goleta Valley Library, Buellton Library, Solvang Library, and the Bookvan. This annual program encourages reading in between school years to prevent learning loss and cultivates reading as a lifelong habit, promoting literacy in the community.

The Children's Librarian designed programming centered around the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) theme "Adventure Begins at Your Library." At Goleta Valley Library, five performers and six staff-led events were scheduled across the six weeks of the program and included magicians, hula dancers, scavenger hunts, and concluded with the beloved Stuffed Animal Sleepover.

Over 60 teen volunteers were trained to assist patrons during daily scheduled shifts, which spanned the library's complete hours of operation. Teens listened to youth-level participants report on their reading to earn prizes at various book/minute milestones, awarded prizes, answered questions, promoted upcoming events, helped set up the Children's Area for programs, and assisted staff with tasks. Through this role, teen volunteers were able to earn community service hours to fulfill their graduation requirement.

Across all library sites, nearly 50 local organizations, businesses, and schools generously donated prizes for all ages that encouraged participants to set, reach, and even exceed their reading goals for the summer. Each year, the Friends of the Goleta Valley Library provides significant donation support for this program and helps to make it a success for the community.

During June, the following participation was recorded:

- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (Pre-K and below): 108 patrons (or 54 parent-child pairs) registered or picked up their next reading log
- Youth Category (grades K-6): 889 registrations
- Teen Category (grades 7-12): 89 registrations
- Adult Category (age 18+): 176 books read and entered into drawings

Final data will be consolidated during August and submitted to the California State Library in September. Participation statistics reflecting the entire program across all library sites will be included in the October 7, 2024, Library Advisory Commissions (LAC) Director's Report.

STAFFING:

Filled Positions

Goleta Valley Library Supervising Librarian, Lyric Nicolini, joined the team on Tuesday, May 21st, bringing an impressive background in youth services leadership, education, and a variety of library settings. The Supervising Librarian position is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations at Goleta Valley Library. This includes patron

services; professional collection management; facility oversight; and supervision of the dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

Open Recruitments

A recruitment was opened in June for a Part-Time Library Assistant position assigned to the Bookvan with interviews concluding in July. The recruitment is on track to meet our goal of being fully staffed by July 2024, which will be the first time at this level since approximately February 2023.

REGULAR DAILY BUSINESS OF THE LIBRARY:

The following information was collected using the data collection tool provided by the Data Analyst at the California State Library (CSL) which tracks library statistics regarding visits, program attendance, volunteer hours, and more.

During May – June 2024, there were 29,160 visits to the library. Patrons accessed the public computers for internet, printing, word processing, gaming, streaming and more during 1,391 unique sessions. Over 797.5 volunteer hours were contributed by the library's teen and adult volunteers. The library was open for 396 hours. There were 66 in-person programs and two passive activities held with a total of 2,557 patrons participating overall.

This period is also one of the peak periods of outreach. Our Children's Librarian provided outreach at local schools to promote the Summer Reading Program, and staff tabled at a Science Night at Montessori Center School and at the City of Goleta's Public Works Week event at Camino Real Marketplace. Through these efforts, staff made connections with a multitude of community members, with a total of 3,079 interactions recorded overall.

As June marks the end of the fiscal year, the City Librarian will soon begin gathering data for the annual California State Library Public Libraries Survey, which is due at the end of October. A review of this data will be shared at a future LAC meeting.

POLICIES:

An ongoing review of policies and procedures has been conducted over the past twelve months to ensure that library operations reflect modern industry practices, support efficient and streamlined staff workflow, and facilitate excellent customer service. The Commission's participation in the review and response of select policies, procedures, and forms has been highly valued during this process.

A staff report including a summary of these updates was prepared and adopted by Council at the July 16, 2024 City Council meeting. At the time of this report, the updated documents are being finalized per the City Clerk's Office standard practices and then will be posted to the library website for staff and patron access and use.

GRANTS:

Zip Books

Data from the 2023/24 Zip Book program has been consolidated and reported to the California State Library.

During the June 4, 2024 City Council Meeting, Council adopted the Zip Books Policy and Procedure and approved applying for the grant in future application cycles. The City Librarian applied for \$20,000 in Zip Books grant funds for the 2024/25 grant period. The estimated timeframe for award notifications is late summer or early fall.

This is a highly popular program that increases access to information and equity in library services to the community. It is also a way for library patrons to have a degree of involvement in the collection development process.

Building Forward

The Building Forward grant remains a popular topic among the community and staff. Council voted to award the contract for architectural and engineering design services to Jeffrey Miller Architecture and Design (JM|A+D) at the May 21, 2024 City Council meeting. Initial meetings with the City project team are underway as information continues to be gathered for use in the development of plans.

The project, which will focus on improving accessibility and safety, must be completed by mid-2027 per grant requirements. Updates, timelines, and possible impacts to library operations will be shared at this Commission and with the community as information become available.

Review By:



Elizabeth Saucedo
City Librarian

Approved By:



JoAnne Plummer
Neighborhood Services Director