

**San Antonio Public Library
Director's Report
September 23, 2009**

Administration

Director's Office

Preparation for budget presentations to the City Council by Library Board Chair Jean Brady and Library Director Ramiro Salazar occupied much of late August. Both presentations took place on September 1 and were well received by the Council.

The Library Director and Assistant Directors attended the City Council District budget town hall meetings, along with members of the Library Board, the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation, who advocated for restoration of the Library's book budget to the Fiscal Year 2009 level.

Ramiro was interviewed by the *Express-News* regarding Dr. Boza Becica's bequest to the Library, by WOAI Radio about the proposed materials recovery contract, and by KENS-TV/Channel 5 regarding the materials recovery contract and the new branch library schedule. Assistant Director for Public Service Kendra Trachta was interviewed by WOAI-TV about the materials recovery contract, and Interim Assistant Director Kathy Donellan by KTSA Radio on the same subject.

On September 10 Ramiro participated in the kick-off of State Representative Joaquín Castro's annual book drive at Wrenn Middle School. He also spoke at District 1 City Council Representative Mary Alice Cisneros' open house on September 11 to celebrate the reopening of Westfall Branch Library.

The Library is planning the utilization of the \$285,000 appropriated by Bexar County for library technology upgrades. With the success of the pilot laptops-for-checkout program in mind, it has been decided to use the County funds to purchase additional laptop computers to expand the program throughout the SAPL system. Factors considered in coordinating the deployment of the new laptops included how many computers, both desktop and laptop, the location currently has and the demand for computer access at each location. Cody Branch Library will receive 1 laptop; Bazan, Brook Hollow, Landa, Las Palmas, Maverick, Pan American, San Pedro, Semmes and Tobin will each receive 3; Memorial, Pruitt/Roosevelt and Thousand Oaks will each receive 5, Forest Hills, Johnston and McCreless will each receive 6; Carver, Collins Garden, Cortez, Great Northwest, Guerra and Igo will each receive 10; and Westfall will receive 11. An additional eight computers will be added to the portable computer lab used for public computer training. Each laptop computer will carry a label noting that it was provided by funding from Bexar County, and a news conference will be planned to announce the appropriation and deployment of the laptops.

The Bexar County Elections Administrator has notified the Library of the locations selected as early voting sites for the November election, listed below:

Brook Hollow	Johnston
Cody	Semmes
Collins Garden	Las Palmas
Great Northwest	Maverick
Guerra	McCreless
Igo	The Tobin Library at Oakwell

Early Voting starts on October 19, 2009 and runs through October 30, 2009. Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

Children's Services system-wide

The final numbers for Summer Reading 2009 are in and the children's services staff has much to celebrate. The registration goal of 22,000 was exceeded by 582 children. Of that total, 8,300 completed the fifteen-book requirement and received their certificates and free paperback books. In association with Summer Reading, the Children's Services Librarians presented 903 public programs with a total attendance of over 39,000.

As happy as the staff was with the summer results, they were all anxious to move on to the next project: Hispanic Heritage Month 2009. This year the Children's Services Librarians are celebrating with the theme of *Música y Murales de México*. Special thanks to the Friends of the Library for their ongoing financial support of children's programming, including this year's Hispanic Heritage programs.

Young Pegasus 2010 kicked off on Tuesday, September 15, with the launch of the new website (<http://guides.mysapl.org/youngpegasus>) and a much-improved on-line submission form. Glenn Parker of Digital Services worked diligently, not only on the form, but also on the reports that can be created via the Young Pegasus database. His efforts, which are much appreciated now, will be even more useful when the 2010 Anthology goes into production next spring.

Children's Services coordinated an appearance by SAPL at the grand opening of the Big Bugs exhibit at the Botanical Garden over Labor Day Weekend. Staff members from around the system gave out library information and registered a total of 53 attendees for Library cards.

Digital Services

The Digital Services Team has been working on the completion of the Young Pegasus 2009 web and reporting components. The Young Pegasus call for entries will run from September 14 through December 21, 2009, and will give an opportunity for many young poets to showcase their creative talents. The web portion of this project allows contestants to provide contact information along with their poems to be judged. The reporting is accomplished using a staff-only client application that allows filtering and the generation of Microsoft Word documents to be evaluated by judges. They will also be able to generate a Microsoft Excel master address file that can be used for mail merge during the winner notification process.

Along with working on the Young Pegasus project, the team has been working on a variety of other improvements to the public website. They recently launched a new services web page on mysapl.org to highlight some of the library's top service offerings. The services page can be reached by clicking the services button on the header navigation bar that is visible at the top of every page. In order to bring these services to the attention of mysapl.com users, the team has also included a rotating, clickable banner in the top left-hand corner of the home page. If there is a corresponding web page or third-party service, the click will launch it directly from our website. Otherwise, the user will be redirected to the services page where they can get additional information.

Public Relations

The back-to-school mall blitz signed up 62 new cardholders and resulted in a potential new partnership with Simon Properties, owner of Ingram Park and Rolling Oak Malls in San Antonio.

Public Relations Manager Beth Graham coordinated Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros' open house on September 11 to celebrate the reopening of Westfall Branch Library with District 1 staff.

Beth and Graphic Designers Ana Farr and Tiffanie Wilson have been coordinating design and production of items such as bookmarks and signage to inform Library customers of upcoming initiatives such as the new branch library schedule and materials recovery contract. Beth worked

with Glenn Parker in Digital Services to develop and post a new page to inform users of mysapl.org of the new branch library schedule, and Ana developed a graphic for the home page to direct users to the schedule information.

Ana and Tiffanie also developed an eye-catching graphics package for this year's observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, including a banner for each SAPL location and the calendar of events, and worked on an invitation for the grand opening of the Molly Pruitt Public Library at Roosevelt High School.

The Library has received 25 media mentions in the past month.

Teen Services (system-wide)

Teen Program at TLA

The program proposal submitted to the Texas Library Association's Young Adult Round Table by Teen Services Librarian Violeta Garza (Central) and Librarian II/Teen Services Liaison Amy Thorne (Carver) was accepted. Entitled "Teen Services with a Japanese Pop Flavor," their presentation will allow librarians to gain a practical knowledge of manga, webcomics, anime and traditional Japanese games, as well as demonstrating practical applications for complementing a library's teen collection through related teen programming. Although the proposal was turned in on schedule, the Young Adult Round Table had already established their TLA 2010 programs months in advance. However, TLA felt the topic was so timely and important that the program was added to the agenda - a testimony to the ingenuity and innovation of SAPL's Teen Services staff!

Violeta's and Amy's presentation is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 16, the first time either librarian will present at a professional conference.

Teen Fall Programming: from *Twilight* to Tenochtitlán

Piggybacking on the release of the next *Twilight* film, "Full Moon Fever" is the theme for teen library programming. Among other projects, teens will make moon pies, candy kabobs, foil hats and star cascades.

Teen Hispanic Heritage Month Programming

For Hispanic Heritage Month the Teen Liaison Committee proposed the theme "Blood and Chocolate" (which is also the name of a popular novel). Featuring innovative programming that links pop culture to the ancient past, teens will learn the history of (and sample!) chocolate treats as well as creating artwork and being exposed to a variety of cultural resources.

Teen Read Week

Teen Read Week Preparation is completed. This year's national theme is "Read Beyond Reality," and the teen services Teen Read Week committee has devised an outstanding activity that will encourage teens system-wide to read during Teen Read Week. Teens will be asked to read their favorite science fiction or fantasy books and write reviews of them for posting on the Teen Services website and in the Library. Each teen who submits a review will receive a glow bracelet.

As a grand finale to Teen Read Week, the Central Library Teen Services Department will present a Supernatural Movie Marathon on Saturday, October 24, featuring classic science fiction, fantasy and "creepy" films.

YALSA Online Professional Development Courses

Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez developed and instructed an online professional Development Course for the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA, a division of the American Library Association) this past summer. YALSA has requested that Jennifer allow her course, "Serving Today's Diverse Teen (Beyond Booklists)" to be used as the prototype for all future

online courses offered through the organization. In addition, all existing YALSA online courses will be reworked into this format.

Teen Services in the Media

Teen Services Librarian Kathleen Fordyce (Central) and Library Assistant/Teen Services Liaison Marisa Sparks (Bazan) appeared on "Cover to Cover" to promote upcoming Teen Read Week activities. Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez was interviewed on KISS radio by Kelly Kendal. The interview highlighted the Live Homework Help service and other resources and activities for teens offered by the Library. Jennifer was interviewed by a film crew from the Texas State Library regarding the importance of broadband access to urban teens.

San Japan and Teen Services @ SAPL

For the second year in a row, Teen Services has created and staffed a Teen Manga Reading Room at the San Japan Anime Manga Convention. Through this initiative, spearheaded by Teen Services Librarian Violeta Garza, library staff set up a reading lounge with more than 230 manga (Japanese graphic novels) for teens to browse, showcasing the Library's collection of these popular items. This year more than 650 teens visited the "Reading Room," and Teen Services' participation in this event has already produced an outstanding return of teens who make visits to the library after learning about teen services. Special thanks goes to the Collection Development Department who, via responsive collection building, enabled the Reading Room to expose teens to many new, high-interest book series.

SAPL staff working the Reading Room included Librarians Connie Hejl (Cody), Heidi Novotny (Las Palmas) and Martha Loewen (Central Reference), and Library Assistant Marisa Sparks (Bazan). They were assisted by thirteen teen volunteers. Special thanks are due to Marisa Sparks who thoughtfully provided snack for the teen volunteers.

To view photos of this outreach and many other SAPL teen events visit:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/210teenlibrary/>

Kudos to staff - Customer comments

Rosario Rodríguez called to say how pleased she is with the library. She said she had not visited a library in about 35 years, but recently started visiting the McCreless Branch Library, and that the branch is always clean and staff are extremely friendly and very knowledgeable. Ms. Rodríguez said that she had never been a reader before but that she had been diagnosed with cancer and her doctor recommended that she read to offer some relief from her concerns. She said that the staff at McCreless have been helping her use a computer and that she enjoys reading so much now. She just wanted to call and let the Director know how happy she is with the work he is doing for the city of San Antonio – reported by Norma Ramírez, August 26

(continued on next page)

202 Chichester Place #4
San Antonio, TX 78209-5367
August 23, 2009

Director of Library Services
c/o Norma Ramirez, Executive Secretary
Office of the Library Director
San Antonio Public Library
600 Soledad St.
San Antonio, TX 78205

Dear SAPL Director,

I want to tell you how much the outstanding SAPL interlibrary loan staff helped me these last several years. I am professor emerita of history at Loyola University New Orleans, and moved to San Antonio three years ago. I had contracted to write two history books, and, removed from my home university library, was concerned about getting access to the materials I would need. I depended heavily on the SAPL interlibrary service, and they were wonderful. I made many many requests, most of books published in the nineteenth century, and almost all of my requests were met.

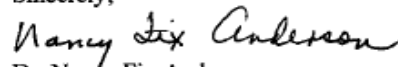
My most recent book, *The Sporting Life: Victorian Sports and Games*, will be published by Praeger Press in the spring of 2010, and I have acknowledged the help of the SAPL ILL staff in the book. I will send the library a copy when it is published.

I also profited greatly by the use of the nineteenth-century periodical collection that Central Library has on microfilm. The staff member in the microfilm room was very helpful.

In addition to the great ILL service and the repeated use I made of the SAPL holdings, I am grateful to the central library security staff and a staff member in the DVD/video room (I'm sorry I didn't get anyone's name.) Just before last Christmas, I left my wallet next the check-out machine in that room. I didn't realize it was missing until the next day. I went immediately and in panic to the library, and they had it at the security desk. The librarian had found it and turned it in. I had intended to write a note of thanks at that time, but I got so caught up with writing my book that I only now am expressing my sincere gratitude.

For all of the above reasons, I am sending this enclosed check for \$250 as a donation to the SAPL library.

Sincerely,


Dr. Nancy Fix Anderson

Sellmark

Dear Viki:

September 14, 2009

On behalf of the San Antonio Botanical Garden and Society, we would like to thank the San Antonio Public Library for partnering with us for the *Dave Rogers' Big Bugs* exhibit. It is quite a spectacular display and opens the door to many educational opportunities.

Opening weekend was a great success – largely due to volunteers, including those from the public library. Attendance for the weekend was over 6,500 plus 215 new members joining the San Antonio Botanical Society.

Being able to offer the library-card-carrying public a discount helps both of our organizations. We can continue to honor this discount throughout the exhibit (which has been extended to December 31, 2009.) The kids' page of the *mysapl.org* web site is fantastic! We hope many refer to your suggested book list and learn more about insects and nature. Check out *sabot.org* for a link back to this page. We also appreciate the space you gave us in your creative newsletter.

It is through partnering with other non-profit organizations that the Garden is able to reach so many San Antonians on a limited budget. We sincerely appreciate your help with this and enjoy working with you.

Please extend this note of thanks to the librarians who gave up some of their well-deserved time off to come out to the Garden on Labor Day weekend.

Included are a few samples of media coverage we received before Opening Weekend. Enjoy!

Sincerely,



Dianne Powell
President, Sellmark



Mary Byrd
Marketing consultant, Sellmark

909 NE Loop 410, Suite 717 * San Antonio, TX 78209 * Off: 210-824-9474 * Fax: 210-824-9318

Central Library

Alamo Area Library Systems

Besides the System and TANG grants, AALS staff have been busy with two other grants from the state library. The Joint Automation Grant with the Central Texas Library System converted cataloging and patron data in 13 AALS libraries during August. These libraries are in the process of upgrading from Athena to Biblionix systems and are expected to complete the upgrade in September.

AALS staff have completed the Systems Negotiated Grant (better known as SYNG) for workforce development for all 46 libraries. Libraries will receive advanced training in workforce and job issues; computer equipment with enhanced software; and a two-year subscription to Resume Maker.

The AALS Fall Membership Meeting was held on September 18 at Central Library. Stephen Biles from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission presented a program on the new digital readers from the Talking Books Department, and Irene Scharf from Palo Alto College introduced the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program for libraries.

Children's Services Department

School is back in session and so is Storytime at the Central Library. Central Storytimes have traditionally been presented on Monday mornings, but this fall the sessions were moved to Tuesday in hopes of increasing attendance. (Often it is hard for families to get up and get going first thing Monday morning so staff decided to give Tuesdays a try.)

Work on cleaning and weeding the picture book collection continues. Work began on the picture book collection, with a departmental goal of taking every picture book off the shelf for examination and cleaning this fall. Children's Services Librarian Rachael Pensiero has also been hard at work refreshing the children's biography collection. Additional biography purchases were made possible through a grant from the Texas Book Festival received in the spring.

Government Documents

The Government Documents unit has completed its weeding project, with 3,685 boxes of documents eliminated. About 20 more recycle bins and all of the materials which the State Library gave permission to dispose of will be gone. The unit is now in the process of compacting the collection to make room for non-fiction.

Outreach Services

The bookmobile traversed the city in a three-day-long mall run. During the Tax-Free Weekend, the purple van made seven visits to six shopping centers, in two-hour blocks. Huebner Oaks, Neiman Marcus and Ingram Park were visited on August 21; Neiman Marcus was visited on August 22; and Rolling Oaks and Alison's Corner were visited on August 23. A total of 62 library cards was issued.

Joining Beth Graham and Outreach staff on these runs were Richard Reeves from Tobin, Sherrin Bossart from San Pedro, Timothy Johnson from Guerra, Liz Area from Las Palmas, Monica Bustillo from Guerra, Luanne Bloom from Great Northwest, and Karen Sebesta from Johnston. Thanks to all who accompanied the bookmobile on its journey and thanks to all the branch managers for allowing these staffers to participate.

Library mascot Libro the Lion and the bookmobile were out again on September 10 for State Representative Joaquín Castro's book drive at Wrenn Middle School. Thanks to Jesse Aguilar from Carver for playing Libro. Outreach also made library cards at the Neighborhood Place's Back to School event, District 3's Back to School event, and the Botanical Gardens' "Big Bugs" weekend.

The bookmobile visited We Care Kids Day Care so that the teachers could introduce library etiquette.

As part of its regular runs, the bookmobile serves the ARC of San Antonio, an organization that provides classes and care for people with disabilities. On a recent visit to the ARC's Pamela Stephens Center, bookmobile staffers David Casares and Barbara Celitans met a new client, an adolescent with a passion for sports and a worry that, unlike most of the other students, he wouldn't be able to come on board the bookmobile, because he was confined to a wheelchair. Feeling left out of the fun – and kept apart from the sports books – the young man hung back from the other students. But “Miss Barbara” assured him that he was welcome onto the bookmobile too, and “Mr. David” lowered the wheelchair lift.

A little apprehensive at first, the young man nonetheless drove his wheelchair onto the lift. As David secured the wheelchair, Barbara explained that the lift would give the student a ride into the bookmobile. When the lift had reached the top and the student realized he was now inside the bookmobile, he beamed at the staff. After selecting some books about car racing, the student indicated he was ready to go back down, and he drove onto the lift without hesitation. "See ya next time," he grinned.

Little Read Wagon

School is back in session and Little Read Wagon's calendar is quickly filling. Registration for teacher workshops is also keeping the phone ringing. On August 14 and 15 Little Read Wagon held two teacher workshops, one part of staff development week for Avance's early childhood program, and the other a regular teacher workshop with participants from several child development centers.

Play and Learn programs will continue through the end of September and start again towards the end of October. The well-attended series at The Neighborhood Place concluded on August 26. Families that had participated throughout the summer were sad to see it come to an end. Also in attendance were seven new caregivers who eagerly took information about upcoming Play and Learn opportunities. Currently Little Read Wagon is holding a Play and Learn series at the Miller's Pond Community Center. Parks and Recreation has been very gracious in allowing the use of the facility, including hanging a banner advertising the series on a tower outside the building. September 14 was the last Play and Learn Party Night at the Memorial Branch Library. Funding for the programs offered at Memorial was provided by Making Connections-SA, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Little Read Wagon staff were delighted to attend an AALS workshop on September 11. The workshop, entitled “Magic of Music: Using Music with Children,” provided additional resources and ideas as well as affirmation of what Little Read Wagon staff has already implemented. Music is a significant component of the Play and Learn programs. It also relates to the teacher workshops, which have featured the use of music for developing phonological awareness.

Reference

On August 22 instructors from the South Texas Chapter of the National Association of Investors taught a beginner's class on how to read Value Line, a trusted source used by business analysts to judge a company's bottom line.

Thirty SAPL staff members are going to the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind to receive training in the use of adaptive software and technology. They will also receive a tour of the Lighthouse facility and training on the proper etiquette when assisting a blind individual.

On August 19 Sally Bauer hosted a SMARxT: Medications Safety Class taught by four physician assistant students from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. They

discussed how to properly store and dispose of old medication, the importance of clear communication with a doctor or other health care provider, and how to properly read the label on a medicine bottle.

Sally was also host for an August 22 program, "Using Essential Oils for Health and Spiritual Well Being," presented by April Mier. April discussed the history of the use of essential oils, modern-day research, how to determine the quality of essential oils, and taking charge of one's personal and family healthcare. She had samples of many different essential oils for attendees to try.

Pannaga Prasad and Carmen Roja organized a program "College Prep and Scholarship Tips for Teens and Parents" on September 12. It was presented by Empowerment 21, a non-profit agency based in San Antonio. This program is part of a series offered to teens and their parents. The auditorium was filled to capacity and the audience was very appreciative.

Didi Morganti is being promoted to the Branch Manager position at Tobin, Jody Hampton to the Librarian II position at Cody, and Peter Watts to the Librarian II position in Collection Development. All of them have been true assets to the department and they will be missed.

Technical Services

On August 26, Martha Knott, Margo Guzman, and Kellie Hight attended an Innovative University webinar on Fiscal Close procedures.

On September 10, the City Council approved the Baker & Taylor contract for print materials.

During the week of September 14, Baker & Taylor and Midwest Tapes delivered the opening day collections for the Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School.

Teen Services Department

Weekly Programs

Mondays with Librarian Violeta Garza: On August 17 and 24, teens played *Super Smash Bros. Brawl*. Teens played a popular baseball video game, *Mario Super Sluggers*, on August 31. Then on September 15, teens went back to playing their favorite game, *Brawl*.

Wednesdays with Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano: With the last week of summer vacation Sylvia held the last Wednesday afternoon summer program. On August 19, she hosted Wii Wednesday, with ten teens playing *Brawl*. With the start of the pre-season of the National Football League, Sylvia offered *Madden '09* for the Wii on August 26. She also signed up teens for her fantasy football league on Yahoo Sports. Teens will follow the regular pro football season with their picks for weekly games.

Thursdays with Library Assistant Regina Almanza: On August 20, teens played *Super Smash Bros. Brawl*, a favorite. Teens used paper, glitter and yarn to create original works that are now displayed in the Teen Services Department. Photos can be found on flickr.com/210teenlibrary. Teens played *Brawl* again on September 3. In what is sure to become a new favorite craft in Teen Services, teens used Perler Beads on September 10 to create video game icons, such as Pacman, Mario and Pokemon. Photos of the craft are also on the teen Flickr page.

Sylvia hosted the monthly anime/manga club meeting on September 5. Teens discussed program ideas for meetings for the upcoming year. They gave suggestions for naming the riceball used as the mascot for the club, and they viewed "Peach Girl" from Operation Anime.

Texana/Genealogy Department

This reporting period began with a visit from Dr. William Bush, Assistant Professor of History and History Department Chair at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The university is in the planning stages for its campus, including its library. Discussions and a tour of Texana/Genealogy revolved around ways SAPL could help their students. Dr. Bush was very pleased with the Texana/Genealogy area and commented that the collections were better than those in some colleges he has researched in. SAPL staff will continue to work with Dr. Bush and his faculty and students as this year progresses.

Texas State Historian and Professor of History at Austin College Dr. Light Cummins also visited Texana/Genealogy while researching a new book he is writing. He too was impressed with the local historical resources. The archival clipping files made research easy for him and saved him hours of researching through microfilm, periodicals, and other sources.

On August 20, Frank Faulkner attended a convocation of middle and high school social studies teachers from Northeast I.S.D. at Harris Middle School. A display table was set up with samples of Texana/Genealogy's resources, flyers, copies of the World War I poster from our exhibit last fall, and the new San Antonio map. The poster and map were quite a hit, as well as the teacher's packet produced for the World War I poster exhibit.

On August 31 and September 3 two architecture classes from UTSA visited the department. One was working on a downtown project, the first part of which was reviewing maps from the collection from the 1830 to present, showing how downtown has developed over time. The other class project requires students to design an archival and research facility. Texana/Genealogy is one example they are to visit.

Also on September 3, a graduate history class from University of the Incarnate Word which has as its focus San Antonio history and the environment met in Texana/Genealogy for a tour and viewing of some possible resources for class projects.

On September 5, a local Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout project met up with eight other scouts in Texana/Genealogy. His project is to inventory and update the Library's information on the Knights of Pythias Cemetery, originally a private cemetery, but now maintained by the City. Recently, the records of the Knights of Pythias Cemetery were given to the department by the Parks and Recreation Department, which maintains the City cemeteries. The scouts will compare this new data with what is already in the cemetery database and will go out to the cemetery and re-survey and photograph the gravestones. The final product will be the first complete survey of the Knights of Pythias Cemetery.

On September 12 three staff members presented classes at the annual Family History Seminar held at the Latter-Day Saints Family History Center in Windcrest. Frank Faulkner's class entitled "Did the Tax Man Come?" discussed the history of taxes and their use in genealogical research with 23 participants. Sylvia Reyna presented "Introduction to Hispanic Research" to a group of 28. Finally, Matt DeWaelche talked about "Preserving Your Valuables" to six individuals.

With more donations, the African American Funeral Programs collection now includes almost 2,600. After contacting organizations around the country, this appears to be the largest such collection in the country. It is regularly being used for local biographical and historical research.

Finally, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant has been completed. Debbie Countess has added the finding aids to WorldCat, and Andy Crews has sent them to be added to the Texas Archival Resources Online. Colleen Munds of the City Records Facility is

preparing the final report to be submitted by the Library Foundation. Her staff and SAPL staff exceeded all the goals set forth in the grant.

Branch Libraries

Bazan

The annual Diez y Seis de Septiembre Parade sponsored by the Avenida Guadalupe Association took place on September 12. Bazan Branch Library was represented by the manager Raymond Villarreal, who honored a special Bazan volunteer, guitar instructor Andres Méndez Torres, who has also been recognized with a Library Champion Award. The parade was well in spite of stormy weather.

Library Assistant Rosemary Lozano's quinceañera photo was selected to appear on one of the banners produced to publicize SAPL's observance of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Brook Hollow

Brook Hollow's Adult Reading Program wrapped up at the end of August after a very successful summer. The "Be Adventurous: Read a Book!" program had more than twice the number of participants from last year, with 125 enrollees during the summer of 2009. Thirteen weekly prizes and one grand prize were awarded as a result of weekly prize drawings. Eligibility for each drawing was based on the submission of a book review, of which 379 were submitted. Winners also qualified for a free book. In order to provide prizes to participants, Brook Hollow partnered with 14 area businesses. Librarian Tapley Trudell is responsible for this unique program every year.

Another successful adult program was Gemini Ink's First Thursday Reading, featuring authors Jay Brandon and Barbara Renaud González. This program was the third to be held at Brook Hollow and both the library and Gemini Ink are incredibly satisfied with the collaboration.

Brook Hollow's Children's and Teen Programming have started up as well, and are both coming to life quickly after the short end-of-summer break.

Circulation Attendant Kimberly King is a member of the Library's Disability Awareness Committee and has been busy helping to plan system-wide activities for the month of October. Librarian I Mary M. Smith, was recently promoted to Librarian II and will be moving to another location as of October 1. The Brook Hollow staff will be very sad to see her go but wish her the best of luck. Congratulations, Mary!

Carver

When the Read across Jamaica (RAJ) Foundation asked the question, "Got Books?" Carver Library staff and friends responded. Working with Carver friends and customers, they participated in the RAJ book drive, contributing books and donating funds to the effort to increase literacy in the Caribbean nation. Collected materials were to be distributed to students during RAJ Family Literacy Night on November 13 in St. James. According to RAJ, books will benefit more than 6,000 students.

In August, Carver Library Department Systems Aide Jesse J. Aguilar taught two laptop computer courses, topping off a week of computer instruction offered by the Department of Community Initiatives in such topics as web basics, Internet searching and email. Packed sessions were reported.

The Scholastic Literacy Van paid a visit to Carver on August 29. The very last of the Summer Reading finishers also visited the branch. Children's Services Librarian Amy Thorne is working with

Wheatley Middle School librarian Jane Cavazos on the school's Lunch Book Clubs, which are about to begin their first selections of the school year.

Anime Club members spent some of their meeting time in August discussing the idea of regularly adding art to their schedule. They have also enjoyed playing games on the Wii and displayed some of the most epic Guitar Hero skills ever witnessed by Teen Services Liaison Amy Thorne.

In late August a résumé workshop for college-bound teens attracted about 60 students and their parents. The event was co-sponsored by Carver Library and the Cherice Cochrane Foundation.

Former Negro League baseball player John "Mule" Miles visited Carver on August 30 to celebrate the release of his new autobiography *A Legacy to Leave Our Youth*. The book was penned by San Antonio author Antoinette V. Franklin.

The arrival of September marked the return of bi-monthly Heritage Gardening courses offered by ethnobotanist Vernon Mullens. The horticultural offering had been on a summer hiatus.

High-school students interested in attending college showed up with their parents for Chandra Murthy's free seminar "College Application and Financial Aid Made Easy" on September 12. Students learned about the types of loans available for college, how to write impressive admissions essays, and how to prepare for freshman year in college.

On September 15, Carver staff kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a photography exhibit by students of nationally known artist Cruz Ortiz. The art exhibit was complemented by the branch's own display, paying homage to the contributions and culture of Hispanics. Other events included the screening of the film *Quinceañera*.

Cody

Babies, toddlers, parents and grandparents were eager to resume Fall Storytime on August 24 and 25. Librarians Connie Hejl and Sheila Acosta were just as eager to jump right in, and what better way than with the favorite "Five Little Monkeys" theme?

Cody has become the library of choice for primary grade students of the Child Montessori School. Students and teachers toured the library and met the staff during a scavenger hunt of the library's resources hosted by Sheila. On their return visit, Sheila introduced the students to Dewey Bookbody and the online catalog.

In September Sheila also held three special storytimes for the three-year-olds from Country Home Day Care. Country Home has selected the Cody Branch Library as their first choice for field trip events.

Little Read Wagon sponsored a Play and Learn workshop for mothers and caregivers of three-year-olds and younger on September 3. This hour-long workshop was a result of parent interest and inquiry for "hands-on" training and information at the Cody Branch site.

Teens enjoyed the first two Mad Mondays held after school on Mondays. The first Monday kids enjoyed moon pies, star crunches and Tang while viewing *Race to Witch Mountain*. For the second Monday, teens challenged each other on Guitar Hero and a variety of Wii games.

Collins Garden

A stand-alone book drop has been installed on the entry apron of the branch to offer ADA access to the drop.

Collins Garden's "Résumé and Online Job Application" sessions garnered a nod this week when a patron who had participated came in to thank the staff for helping her find a job.

A crocheting group has begun to meet on Thursday evenings. The group is led by a volunteer instructor and is geared toward teaching young adults the craft.

A total of 133 teens enjoyed the weekly gaming sessions, which featured Guitar Hero and the Wii, and the screening of two films.

A Hispanic Heritage Month Saturday afternoon cooking demonstration by three chefs from Toyota was very successful. Thirty-five participants learned how to make tasty fish tacos.

The Friends of the Collins Garden Branch Library held a successful DVD and media sale at the branch on September 12. More than sixty people browsed the offerings and purchased materials.

Collins Garden continues to offer outreach and has added a new daycare to its list of locations that are being visited and entertained by Children's Services Librarian Leigh Bedford's energetic storytimes. This brings the list of active daycares to five.

Collins Garden staff members have created two new book displays to tempt browsers to check out materials. One display honors September 11 and the other honors Hispanic Heritage Month.

Collins Garden staff members would like to bid a fond farewell and wish much success to Elma Nieto-Rodriguez, who has been promoted to Manager of Forest Hills Branch Library, and to custodians Carmen Rodriguez and George Quiroz, Library Assistant Carlos Loera, and Department Systems Aide Dario Hernández.

Cortez

Renovation of Cortez continues at a steady pace. The concrete foundation for the new entrance has been poured and the metal frame for the roof of the new entrance is in place. Branch Manager, Rebecca Johnson arrived early one morning to open the building to allow welding that needed to take place inside the library in order to anchor the metal frame of the entrance. The contractor has also installed the frame of the new large library sign which will face Highway 16 and Hunter Blvd. Patrons are pleased with the work so far and are looking forward to its completion.

Two weeks of computer classes in English from the Department of Community Initiatives and in Spanish from Library Department Systems Aide Sonia Cruz were offered in September.

Cortez has received and displayed the Quinceañera banner celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. The banner hangs near the entrance of the library and above the book display of Quinceañera books and media.

The proposed new hours for the branch allow for the start of an evening storytime on Tuesdays.

Starting in late September the Texas Migrant Council will bring preschoolers to the regular Wednesday morning storytime.

Forest Hills

Forest Hills displays for August and September include Hurricane Season, *Diez y Seis de Septiembre*, Hispanic Heritage month, Employment, Information Center, Fall Storytime, and Library Card Signup Month.

Forest Hills' former manager Roberto Zapata has been transferred to Great Northwest, and Memorial Branch Manager Jimmy Jiménez has assumed interim branch manager responsibilities at Forest Hills. Circulation Attendant Priscilla Medina worked at Forest Hills while Westfall was undergoing repairs.

The Woodlawn Hills Neighborhood Association conducted their regular monthly meeting on August 25.

On September 1 the Thunderbird Hills Neighborhood Association held their directors' meeting, and their general monthly meeting on September 8.

On September 12 the Contrarian Viewpoints Book Club discussed *Bad Money* by Kevin Phillips.

Elma Nieto-Rodríguez, former Adult Services Librarian at Collins Garden, has accepted the position of Branch Manager at Forest Hills.

Great Northwest

The Great Northwest Branch Library has been preparing for upcoming events and programs.

The branch continues to serve as a meeting place for many community groups. The Quilting Bee, Knitters Group, and the Chess Club continue to hold their meetings at Great Northwest.

The Friends of the Great Northwest Library are planning for their upcoming book sale in October. In the meantime, they have created a space in the library that serves as an ongoing book sale for the group. The endeavor has proven to be very successful for the group.

The Texas Pastel Society held their annual art display at the branch on September 10. They have a large number of pieces of art displayed around the library. A Hispanic Heritage Month art exhibit is also on display.

Children's programming at Great Northwest Library has begun again and is in full swing. Children's Services Librarian Cari Raley thinks it's wonderful to see happy and eager children excited about their library time. The toddler times and storytimes started with full crowds and a lot of enthusiasm this season. The little ones practiced "Animal Noises" with full participation. Elspeth Blakeman took her "Animal Noises" out to several daycares in the area along with her two puppets Clifford and Midnight. Globalmania is running at full capacity. Over 70 participants attended last week. They checked out every book the library had available on maps and explorers and look forward to exploring different countries with books and stories all year long. The ABC Club began with over 80 in attendance the first week. Library Assistant Theresa Brader did a wonderful job providing activities throughout the children's area for the families to explore during the program. John Sobkoviak, the new head puppeteer, caused a major sensation with his puppet rendition of P.D. Eastman's "Flap Your Wings". The children didn't want to leave and all enjoyed the happy chaos of the club and were looking forward to the next one.

Adult Services Librarian Tracey Knouse attended the COSA Motivation and Team Building training session. Tracey also received DLA training and joined the newly formed Adult Programming Interest Group of Texas Library Association. A de-selection calendar for weeding has been developed and will be utilized by Great Northwest from Tracey's contribution to the Weeding Committee.

Library Assistant Christina Reedy coordinated a Greeting Card Workshop on September 12, and Tracey assisted with promotion of this event and the upcoming Family Fun Cupcake Decorating event.

Great Northwest received many new books to replace worn copies of classic and highly acclaimed literature. They applied a portable electronic tool to locate items in the collection which have radio frequency identification tags. This proved to be a more accurate and efficient use of time and also accelerated preparations for the upcoming floating collection.

The teen services staff took advantage of transition time in September to analyze the past year's programming and investigate fresh ideas to attract teens to the library in the coming year.

Guerra

Three staff from other locations – Monica Bustillos (Westfall) and Karen Michaelson and Cynthia Blancas (Las Palmas) – were detailed to Guerra because renovation projects had closed their home branches. Guerra staff enjoyed working with these staff members and found the information shared to be useful. The branch hosted the regular Library Board meeting on August 26. Branch Manager Dexter Katzman worked closely with staff from the office of District 6 Council Representative Ray López to make the backpack and school supply distribution on August 29 successful. Dexter also attended two neighborhood association meetings, Meadow Village on August 25 and Cable Westwood on September 1. At both, he answered questions about proposed changes in library service hours. He met with Friends Group members Lora Devlon Eckler and Delores Huber on September 14.

Children's Services Librarian Yanira Vegerano planned and presented storytimes for children aged 5 or younger and their parents and caregivers. She included art, craft, and music components in these programs. In anticipation of the FY 09-10 schedule, she has begun to adjust her program times to reflect the new hours to begin on October 1. Feedback from parents was positive.

Adult Services Librarian Dorothy Blow met with staff at the Virginia Gill Adult Center and discussed schedule changes to take effect in October. Based on this meeting, Ms. Blow will be able to develop additional outreach programs sometime in October. She visited the Life Enrichment Center, distributed library information, and answered questions about library programs and services, including the change in hours. The sixteen persons present provided useful information about reading tastes and interests that will help Ms. Blow plan targeted programs for this user group. High-interest materials included music, DVDs, and books about arts and crafts. She started a materials delivery program to this location. Ms. Blow visited the Sterling Adult Day Care Facility and presented a program covering Halloween crafts. The seniors present found the program enjoyable.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson hosted the *Club de lectura* on August 27. The book for the session was *Viaje al centro de la tierra (Voyage to the Center of the Earth)* by Jules Verne. Readers enjoyed discussing and sharing impressions about this easy-to-read fantasy book. On September 8, he hosted the Evening Book Club, which discussed *The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington, D. C.* by Jennet Conant. Roald Dahl, author of many children's books, takes center stage in this treatment of great interest to military and intelligence buffs. On September 12, Stephen participated in a REFORMA-sponsored activity, helping to create bookmarks for customers attending a health fair at Memorial Branch Library.

Library Assistant/ Teen Services Liaison Tim Johnson had the pleasure of playing Libro the Lion at La Cantera as part of the "Be One in a Million" campaign. Tim hosted or arranged several events through out the month. There were two Game-Ra events during the reporting period. The first was combined with the monthly Yu-Gi-Oh tournament and took place on September 2, hosting 34 teens. There were three Wii Play events hosting an average of 35 teens. Tim also made arrangements with J.P. Hyltin, the chess team coach at John Jay High School, to offer chess lessons on Saturdays here at the library; eight teens attended this first program on September 2.

Igo

On September 12, the Friends of the Igo Branch Library had their third major book sale. The annual book sale is becoming so popular that customers started arriving almost two hours before the doors were scheduled to open. By the end of the second day, the book sale had definitely been a success as the Friends group continues to be an integral part of the Igo Branch Library. In August, a \$500 donation was made to the Igo Friends from the Dr. John V. and Mrs. Jay Mumma Trust/San Antonio Area Foundation in honor of the support that library namesake John Igo had given through the years to Mrs. Mumma's theater career.

Johnston

The fall children's program started off with a whole new look. Last year's Monday night Family Fun has burst onto the fall scene as B.A.C.K.Pack, meeting on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm. The children are arriving full of excitement about their new teachers and classmates and brimming over with reports about what happened at school that day. The staff look forward to upcoming Tuesday afternoons filled with books, crafts, music, and fun.

The Thursday morning storytime has such a good group of followers that staff are convinced they are doing something right. It's great to see the children who have been with us for over a year and keep coming back with parents and grandparents.

With the winding down of Summer Reading, Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta took the opportunity to participate in SAPL Outreach. On Sunday, August 23, she worked with Ramona Lucius, Beth Graham, and Veronica Anderson (along with a group of enthusiastic Junior League ladies!) signing up families for library cards at Rolling Oaks Mall. It was Karen's first opportunity to climb aboard the big purple Bookmobile.

Johnston Branch participated in the Pearsall Community Center Back-to-School Fair sponsored by the City of San Antonio on August 23. Families came to pick up free school supplies, and get free haircuts and free dental checks. Circulation Attendant Geri Carrillo and Library Aide Vida Salas talked to several hundred parents and their children. They were asked many questions about the library and handed out over 100 library card applications. They encouraged the children and their parents to come to the library – explaining that the library has books, movies, CDs, and programs such as storytime and the Wii. They also handed out free pencils and bookmarks

On September 6 Karen joined Leigh Bedford and Kathy Donellan at the Big Bugs extravaganza at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens to drum up library card business. They were all impressed at the interest shown by local families who signed up in the "Be One in a Million" Library Card Campaign. Fortunately, the Botanical Garden folks situated them under the welcome shade of a canopy and generously provided refreshments to keep them from wilting in the summer heat.

Adult Services Librarian Rich Fields' quest for slightly offbeat book display topics paid off handsomely this period with heavy circulation for items on the branch's display cubes. Recent efforts have included displays on sharks, serial killers, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and professional wrestling.

The Johnston Library Friends are preparing for their fall book sale in October. Friends member Marshall Mundorff was a presenter at the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library meeting. He shared how Johnston has an ongoing book sale using the old record storage bin to pre-sell books and magazines. The proceeds have been so good that the Johnston Friends have decided to hold two big book sales per year instead of three. Mr. Mundorff built the box to collect the money and has offered to build one for other branches to hopefully do the same.

Landa

In September Branch Manager Michael Kaminski visited the Lighthouse for the Blind. He toured the facility and got training on adaptive technologies for the visually impaired. He was also given information on interacting with blind people which will help the Landa Library staff when necessary.

Library Assistant Brooke Ballard put up a fabulous display about Banned Books Week that will run the entire month of September. The display is criss-crossed with caution tape and has a list of the Top 10 Most Challenged Books for 2008 and a sign with information about what Banned Books Week is about. It has already garnered a lot of comments and questions.

Landa Library's Hispanic Heritage Display went up early, as well, after receiving the fabulous quinceañera banner. Department Systems Aide Blanca Morales, Library Assistant Brooke Ballard and Circulation Attendant Lupe Flores decorated it with die cuts and paper flowers. They also decorated the circulation desk with a border reading "Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month" and brightly colored paper flowers. Both of these displays can be viewed on Flickr.

Landa will say goodbye this month to Custodian Precilla Valadez, Library Assistant Brooke Ballard and Department Systems Aide Blanca Morales. The remaining staff wish all of them good luck and will miss them each very much.

Response to a change in Landa's storytime schedule, necessitated by the upcoming reduction in hours, has been mostly positive. The new schedule went into effect September 8, and although there was a drop in attendance that week, by September 15 attendance had returned to normal, totaling 103 for the day.

Using money granted by the Library Foundation's Children's Enhancement Fund, Children's Services Librarian Ginger Payne was able to order educational toys for Baby Time. The new goodies included a set of size-sorting objects and two small sets of baby musical instruments. The toys were received on Monday and greatly enjoyed by the children attending Tuesday morning's Baby Time.

Michael Kaminski, who had been serving as Branch Manager for both Landa and San Pedro, has accepted the position of Branch Manager at Landa.

Las Palmas

It's down to the home stretch for completion of renovations at Las Palmas. With the front landscaping completed and the building newly painted Las Palmas looks just wonderful – new, bright and shining! Circulation Attendant Lisa Diaz, Library Aide Josie Garcia, Building Custodians Joe Roque and Jesse Huerta, and Branch Manager Becky Alvarez were busy the last few days of construction, dusting, shifting books, and putting everything back for the September 21 re-opening.

Becky offers a big thank-you to the managers and staff of the branch libraries that provided a welcoming temporary assignment station for the Las Palmas staff and expects that the Las Palmas employees will return with stories of positive experiences and with fresh ideas on improving customer service to the Las Palmas community.

Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi continued her outreach to Good Samaritan (60 children), Mirasol (58 children), Madonna (50 children) and AVANCE (60 children).

Eight book club members and Librarian Karen Michaelson met at a restaurant for their August discussion of the novel *Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein.

Two Tuesday Afternoon Young Adult Wii programs were presented to a total of 24 teens. Librarian Heidi Novotny was on hand for the "meet the author event" held at Teen Services for San Antonio native Veronica Golbach, author of *Deep In the Heart of High School*.

Becky Alvarez and Library Assistant Beatrice Canales participated in the Back-to-School Information Fair presented by Ignite the Harvest Church on August 22. Eighty persons stopped to get information on library services, Las Palmas programs, and database information. Eighteen library cards were processed.

Circulation Attendant Lisa Diaz will serve as the Las Palmas liaison to the SAPL TexShare initiative.

Training sessions attended by staff included Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi, Magic of Music (AALS) and Managing Interpersonal Skills (COSA); Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Area, Overdrive training and practice sessions (SAPL); and Department Systems Aide Michael Gutierrez, Special Needs Computer Software (San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind).

Maverick

The Maverick staff is dealing with several changes during this period. Teen Services Librarian Derika Bailey has decided to be a stay-at-home mom and her last day at Maverick was September 22. She will continue to host the teen book club on a volunteer basis. Custodian Joe Ruiz and Circulation Attendant Monica Flores will be transferred to other city departments on October 1. All will be missed. In addition, Adult Services Librarian Alice DeCristoforo has announced her upcoming retirement.

Children's Services Librarians Stacy Bosquez and Amy Roberts have had large storytime crowds and are informing patrons of the upcoming changes in storytime schedules due to the possible change in hours. The branch is happy to be able to keep Stacy at Maverick, as she will transition to Teen Services Librarian beginning October 1.

Recent adult and teen programs have included a crochet program presented by Liz Grimes on August 27 and a Parent-Child Workshop presented by Lou Thomas on August 13. Teen Services Librarian Derika Bailey continues to have a regular crowd for her teen book group. They read and discussed *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins on September 15.

McCreless

McCreless staff were twice treated with sweets in the last month. The Friends of McCreless Branch Library provided ice cream bars when the weather was at its hottest and a regular customer brought cookies on another day. A little sugar can brighten the day!

On September 2 Manager Cammie Gunter assisted a GED class from the Billa Learning Center by providing a tour of the library and an introduction to resources on astronomy. The class was very appreciative and those that did not already have library cards applied for them.

Cammie spent time at the Botanical Garden on September 5 as part of a library card outreach during the "Big Bugs" opening weekend. Most attendees already had cards but the staff in attendance signed up several people and talked to many more about library services.

Children's Services Librarian Beverly Bixler settled in to the less hectic pace that prevails after Summer Reading Program is over but still averaged twenty attendees at storytime. On September 11 she attended an AALS workshop on the Magic of Music.

Adult Services Librarian Ben Longoria hosted a *Lotería* event for Hispanic Heritage Month on the evening of September 15. There were 26 attendees of all ages and they had a great time and want the branch to host similar events in the future.

Library Assistant/Teen Services Liaison Tricia Masterson hosted what will be her last teen events at McCreless due to an impending transfer. She has grown the attendance for programming exponentially and it will be hard to replace her enthusiasm and dedication.

The book display for the past month was "Catch a Chill," featuring scary books for all ages. This is always a very popular theme and circulated very well. On September 15 the display changed to emphasize Hispanic Heritage Month.

Memorial

Beginning in August, the Memorial Branch Library added Babytime to the storytime schedule. Children's Services Librarian Trina Smith did outreach to the Happy Child Daycare Center near the branch for a storytime. On September 8 families were treated to ice cream, stories, and crafts in celebration of Ice Cream Cone Month. Children and adults enjoyed the book *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* – the movie based on the book will soon be released. The branch also celebrated the anniversary of Curious George by reading stories and making monkey paper bag puppets.

A very successful Back-to-School Fair was held on September 12. Guest presenters included approximately 12 city agencies and organizations such as the Metro Health District, Boy Scouts, Family Service Organization, REFORMA, the San Antonio Fire Department, Chase Bank volunteers, and a Ronald McDonald Magic Show. The first fifty families who presented a library card or applied for a new card received a reference book set compliments of District 7 Councilman Justin Rodriguez's office. The Fair was held in conjunction with the St. Mary's Learning Center. Thanks go out to all the library staff who made the event possible and to Adult Services Librarian Sandra Griffin, who was instrumental in planning the event.

Teen events went into full swing again with the start of the new school year. The most popular activity proved to be Rock Band where "four friends can jam together on drums, lead vocals, guitar, and bass as they choose from a number of licensed songs from rock's biggest artists."

Guitar classes were again in session at Memorial. The six-week course, which teaches beginning guitar, was presented by Moisés Hernández and sponsored by the Memorial Amigos/Friends of Memorial Branch Library.

Pan American

Several non-profit and for-profit organizations have discovered Pan American meeting room. Groups such as One-on-One Learning, Journey for Control, and the ongoing Tai Chi class brought new customers into the library. The Tai Chi class now has two sessions on Monday and Thursday evenings.

The San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition continued its series of workshops on September 8.

Children's Services Librarian Raissa Marking continued into the fall with ABC Club and Family Fun Time. 60 children attended these programs.

Blanca Hernandez showed *The Tale of Despereaux* as the most recent presentation in the branch's ongoing and very popular movie series.

Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library

The Bannwolf Library is pleased to announce a new variety of fall programs being offered to children. Children's Services Librarian Joan Dyer-Westacott has planned many activities for the young customers at the library. There will be a Kindergarten Club that will meet the first and third Mondays of the month to read books and have discussions of topics appropriate for kindergarteners. Joan has also planned a Bluebonnet Discussion Club for children in the third through the sixth grades. This group will read and discuss this year's Bluebonnet books. B.A.C.K.Pack will be held weekly on Tuesday afternoons and will feature exciting books and crafts.

Family Fun activities will be held once a month beginning on September 15. The first activity was Library Bingo. Participants played bingo by matching books with author. Families enjoyed both the game and winning prizes.

Storytime programming started the fall session with a large crowd on the Saturday of the Labor Day weekend. Forty-five attendees heard stories on alligators and then decorated a unique alligator to take home. Everyone enjoyed using glue, scissors, glitter and sequins.

San Pedro

Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton presented storytimes to 120 children at several different child care facilities, including the VIA Child Development Center, Educare Child Care, preschool class at the Circle School, and the San Antonio College Child Development Center. Fifteen books were also delivered to each child-care class for their use during the month. In addition, on September 15 Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz gave a presentation on SAPL databases and delivered applications and other information to the 26 members of a Literature for Children Class at San Antonio College.

Reading Rocks!, San Pedro's onsite book club for second- and third-graders, held its second meeting on August 20. The kids read and discussed *How Oliver Olson Changed the World* by Claudia Mills. After the discussion, the kids voted Pluto back into the solar system and constructed a very colorful three-dimensional solar system! Department Systems Aide Hondo Aguilar took great photos and sent a link to Flickr to the author who responded with "Oh! What a completely darling photo!! And what a wonderfully clever program! I can't stop grinning. Thank you so much for sending this to me. I'll be hugging myself with happiness for the rest of the week."

Two schools, Monte Vista Montessori and Kriterion Montessori, bring classes to the library on a weekly basis. The students range in age from eight to thirteen, grades 2 through 8. When the classes come to the library, Betsy spends approximately thirty minutes with the students, suggesting books and helping them navigate the Dewey Decimal system, place holds, use the catalog and databases, and locate materials. The two schools bring approximately sixty-five students per week to the San Pedro Library.

San Antonio College Resource Specialist Nancy Coryell brought her Gateway to College class of 24 high school students to visit the library and to pick up books for a detailed project on one of four countries, as part of their semester study on "global vision." Department Systems Aide Hondo Aguilar was the contact person and he gave the tour and had selected relevant books from all over SAPL for Ms. Coryell's students.

Several programs were also presented at San Pedro during this period. Betsy, assisted by Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz, hosted Johnny Appleseed's Birthday Party on September 12. The children created apple prints, apple tree fingerprint art using green and red stamps, and apple puppets. In addition, the kids prepared a chart that indicated the Red Delicious and Granny Smith tied for favorite type of apple. Thanks to the Olmos HEB, which donated three bags of apples that were enjoyed by the 46 people attending the party.

Betsy presented four weekly storytimes and three weekly B.A.C.K. Pack programs. She also presented a special storytime and tour to the child care class from the First Mexican Baptist Church on August 20. The teens met four times during this period. They play Guitar Hero or Wii on the first meeting of the month. Department Systems Aide/Teen Liaison Hondo Aguilar also facilitates other weekly teen programs, where crafts, activities, and games are presented.

The Chess Club continues to meet on Thursday evenings. Hondo facilitates these events and sets up a display of chess-related books, periodicals, and media items. The Monday Summer Chess Night has continued into September.

The Women's Literature Group met on August 18 to discuss *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham.

Recognizing that ongoing training is essential to serving library patrons, staff members took advantage of various training opportunities. Circulation Attendant James Sontag attended training for the TexShare program. He will be San Pedro's liaison for the program.

San Pedro staffers continue to serve on various library committees. Branch Manager Michael Kaminski heads up the Floating Collections Committee and serves on the Library Design and Construction Committee. Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton serves on the Children's Cataloging Committee. Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz serves on the Adult Programming and Explore More Card Committees. Library Assistant Sherrie Bossert serves on the Idea Team, and Branch Department Systems Aide Hondo Aguilar serves on the Staff Development Day Committee.

Former Igo Adult Services Librarian Haley Holmes has accepted the position of Branch Manager at San Pedro.

Semmes

Summer Reading is now over, but the Semmes staff is now busy with fall programming and the back-to-school crowd. The Semmes Stargazers met on August 24, hosted by Circulation Attendant Joseph Knight. Anyone with an interest in astronomy is invited to come out and learn more about this fascinating subject. Children's Services Librarian Carrie Vance presented her last storytimes here at Semmes, since she will be leaving Semmes for another location in October. She will be greatly missed, by both Semmes' patrons and staff.

In anticipation of the new October schedule, staff members have been busily rearranging the branch's programming and events. This process has gone smoothly and all of the branch's programs have found a spot in the new schedule. Special thanks go to Adult Services Librarian Debye Nicholl for rescheduling the many different homeowners' association meetings taking place at Semmes.

September has been very busy with computer classes. There has been great interest in the classes thanks to some advertising on the Fox morning show. Staff are not sure how Fox news found about our classes, but do appreciate the boost in attendance. Adult Services Librarian Oscar González is doing a terrific job teaching these classes, which are averaging 15 people per class.

The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library met on September 2. They will be holding their next book sale on October 3. The Friends also approved the purchase of some Teen Read Week and Banned Book Week materials as well as the purchase of two new book trucks. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Thousand Oaks

In September, Jorge Chavez's book club returned to its original home on Tuesday night. The group had a lively discussion about Joe Hill's frightening novel, *Heart-Shaped Box*.

Programs for children and teens resumed at the end of August after a three-week break. Storytime and Toddler Time continue to have strong numbers on Thursday mornings. Thousand Oaks' new Teen Services Liaison Barbara Kwiatkowski started her teen program on Thursday evenings and has had great crowds so far!

The children's Summer Reading Program closed at the end of August. Thousand Oaks had 140 children turn in their reading logs to receive their free books and reading certificates. They also put their name on a Texas-shaped tag to display on the wall. Branch staff consider this great participation, considering that the library was closed for two weeks in July.

Patrons continue to comment about how nice Thousand Oaks looks after the remodeling in July. They are getting used to the new locations for holds pick-ups, and more and more people are using the self-check-out stations.

A new flagpole was also installed during the remodeling. The first time flag had to be lowered to half staff, Branch Manager Chris Palmer and Adult Services Librarian Carol Crawford received training about how to lower the flag from a Gulf War veteran who was visiting the library.

Jorge Chavez visited the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind. He received a tour and training on software available through the special-needs computer.

An unusual event took place at Thousand Oaks recently when a baby goat escaped from its yard in the local neighborhood and spent an afternoon in the library foyer. Hilarity ensued. It was an unexpected afternoon of animal wrangling! Thanks to Karen Gilsdorf, Brenda Ramos, Carol Crawford and Jorge Chavez, the baby goat remained safe until its owner came to take it home.

The staff at Thousand Oaks was happy to welcome Carolyn Bradley, a librarian at the new Molly Pruitt Public Library at Roosevelt High School, who spent the day at Thousand Oaks to get a feel for life at a branch after spending many years as a school librarian.

Bringing Books to Life took place at Thousand Oaks on August 19. The audience enjoyed hearing the reading from *The Soldier's Tale*.

The Tobin Library at Oakwell

Central Reference Librarian Dianna (Didi) Morganti has been promoted to manager of the Tobin Library at Oakwell.

Westfall

Westfall began this reporting period with a renovation project on August 17. After some setbacks, including a major roof leak during a rainstorm, the branch was able to reopen only a week later than planned. There still remain some small punch-list items to be taken care of before the project is complete, but feedback from the community has been positive, with many patrons particularly commenting on the increased soft seating providing comfortable areas for their WiFi usage; the cleanliness of the public restrooms, and the overall new look with a different color carpeting.

Since reopening, staff have been very happy to see many regulars returning to the branch, as well as many new faces! Programming is getting back into routine with storytimes, movie showings, book discussions, and outside meeting groups. Actors from San Pedro Playhouse presented readings from *The History Boys*.

Branch Manager Cheryl Sheehan gave a brief presentation to other branch managers at their monthly meeting on new trends in reference service. Library Assistant Theresa Ybarra has been continuing to plan system-wide programs for the annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Adult Services Librarian Monica Garza Bustillo welcomed a baby boy into her family.