San Antonio Public Library Director's Report May 2015

Grand Opening Ceremony, Encino Branch Library

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Opening of the new Encino Branch Library: The new Encino Branch Library opened the public on Thursday, April 30, 2015 with a soft opening. A Grand Opening event followed on Saturday, May 2, 2015 with over 200 attendees. San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor and District 9 Councilman Joe Krier delivered remarks during the event and participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. The Branch Library was busy with patrons visiting the library and taking part in scheduled activities and programs.

Opening of the New Teen Library at Central Library: The Library hosted a Ribbon Cutting event for the new Teen Library at Central Library on Tuesday, May 12, 2015. District 1Councilman Roberto Trevino delivered remarks during the program and a ribbon cutting ceremony followed.

Celebrating Central's 20th Anniversary with Central Day: On Saturday, May 9, 2015, the San Antonio Public Library offered a day filled with family friendly activities at Central Library to celebrate Central Library's 20th Anniversary. Activities included:

- Programs and activities on every floor for the public
- Scheduled tours of the art and architecture of the building
- A "concierge" on each floor that informed the public about the features of the building on that floor, services offered, and programs scheduled
- Opening of the terraces for the enjoyment of photographers and artists and general public
- Music, Food, dancing, and more truly kicked the celebration up a notch

Library Foundation's Gala to Celebrate Central Library's 20th a Success: On Friday, May 15, 2015 the Library Foundation hosted a gala to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Central Library. Over 450 individuals were in attendance, including Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro; State Senator Jose Menendez; Mayor Ivy Taylor, Councilmembers Roberto Trevino and Ray Saldana and City Manager Sheryl Sculley.

Job Fairs at Library Successful: The Library hosted four successful Job Fairs at Learn at SAPL sites (Bazan, Carver, Cortez and Westfall Libraries) during March, April and May 2015. The job fairs were held in conjunction with Workforce Solutions Alamo and sponsored by Capital One Bank and the San Antonio Public Library Foundation. The job fairs offered opportunities to job seekers including résumé assistance, on-site interviews and guest speakers among others. A total of 440 attendees connected with library or partner resources and with employers during the fairs and the total number of employers participating in the fairs was 35. During the job fairs, total of 12 programs were conducted during the fairs with an attendance of 180 individuals.

Libraries Served As Voting Sites: Fifteen libraries are serving as Early Voting sites for the May Joint and General Special Election. Five Libraries were in the top seven (7) early voting locations. Thirteen (13) libraries served as Election Day voting sites on May 9, 2015.

Libraries as VITA Sites: Seven library locations served as VITA sites this Tax Preparation Year. At the Library sites, VITA volunteers transmitted 11,280 tax returns and $19,154,160 in refunds. VITA sites at libraries were successful with five libraries in the top ten of VITA sites in the City.

Library Discontinued Service from One Streaming Video Vendor: The San Antonio Public Library discontinued Hoopla streaming video services beginning as of May 1, 2015. The Library continues to offer a wide variety of movies, videos and music online at mysapl.org/digital and

through the OverDrive or Freegal Music apps. Library patrons were informed of this change in service and Library staff has been available to assist patrons with connecting to the other stream services provided by the Library.

The decision to discontinue was taken based on Hoopla's fee structure. With Hoopla, each time a library patron checked out a movie the Library was charged for that use. That was significantly different from most other services the Library provides. With other digital services, the Library pays one time and each additional use of the item (paper book, digital book, movie, etc.) is free for the Library. With OverDrive Movies, there is a "one copy, one user" model, much more like a paper book. The Library determined Hoopla's price structure was unsustainable in light of the availability of other similar services.

Library staff will continue to evaluate the rapidly-changing digital content marketplace for libraries to provide the best experience for patrons at the greatest value for taxpayers.

REFERENCE

In addition to individual presentations, Reference staff teamed with other Branches and Departments to promote National Small Business Week and to celebrate Central's 20th Anniversary.

Pannaga Prasad and Pat Rodriguez presented another in the 'Explore Asia Vegetarian Recipe' series; on April 18, attendees learned how to prepare a popular Indian dish, Rice Pulao.

To celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Ms. Prasad and Diana Starrett organized two program series for Branches and Central entitled, "Violins and Vocals" and "Indian Classical Dance." Attendees of the "Classical Dance" program enjoyed the graceful dancing and exotic music.

Several Reference Staff contributed to the success of the National Small Business Week programs and workshops that began on May 4. Julia Selwyn, James Laferla, Deedee Lu and Gamini Haluwana explored topics ranging from Creative Commons to protecting intellectual property through copyright and patent and trademark searches.

On May 9, staff participated in 'Celebrate Central Day.' Cindy de Leon and Martha Loewen gave guided tours of the Central Library, sharing 20 years of memories. Reference staff, Roland Casias and J. D. Elizondo, from Teen Services provided live music for the celebration with electric guitar renditions of popular songs from the 1990's as well as their own jazz fusion. As the featured artist for one set, Mr. Haluwana entertained by singing hits from the Nineties, including a lively version of a Sri Lankan favorite, "Kandukare."

In honor of Central's 20th Anniversary, the Texana Room hosted a bright and festive display celebrating the enchilada red building. The information materials used came primarily from the SAPL Archival collection and they, along with all the decorations, were arranged and made stunning by Sylvia Reyna.

Matt De Waelsche spoke at Parman on April 18 about the various ways to preserve family treasures to ensure they will be available for generations to come.

On Saturday, May 2, Ms. Reyna participated in "El Paseo por el Westside," a community event celebrating the history and culture of San Antonio's Westside. In addition to hosting an information

table, she also discussed how to use cemeteries in genealogical research and assisted in a guided tour of San Fernando Cemetery #1.

Andy Crews led a program on the new and improved HeritageQuest® genealogy database on May 5. Patrons were excited to discover the newly added San Antonio City Directories and the updated census indices. They were also thrilled to learn they can access this database from home.

Mr. De Waelsche finished processing the Beacon Hill Area Neighborhood Association (BHANA) archives. The collection is approximately 5 cubic ft. and contains information on zoning, association correspondence, maps and annual calendars featuring homes from the neighborhood.

On May 11, Deborah Countess conducted a class at Encino, “Ancestry.com – Who will You Find?” and explained how to use and search various collections within the library version of this very popular genealogy database.

MARKETING

The marketing department worked on the planning and opening of the Encino Branch Library, assisted in the opening new Teen Library and Celebrate Central Day.

Graphic Design
The graphic designers continued their work on materials for Encino opening, Teen Library opening, Celebrate Central Day, Foundation Gala, Asian Pacific American Heritage and Pride Month graphics, Summer Reading Program web graphics and the June print newsletter.

Public Relations
Public Information Officer Marcie Hernandez assisted in the development of Staff Spirit Week during National Library Week.

Hernandez participated in the planning and production of the grand opening of the Encino Branch Library on May 2 and Celebrate Central Day on May 9. She also pitched and secured a story with the Rivard Report about the “20 Things You Didn’t Know You Could Do at the Library” and attended social media training.

In her continual media communications work, Hernandez produced and distributed press releases about: Encino Branch Grand Opening, Celebrate Central Day, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Día de los Niños, New Teen Library at Central. In addition, she also produced press releases for programs at Igo, Parman, Bazan, Forest Hills, Encino, Central, Westfall and Memorial.

SAPL received 131 media mentions during the reporting period. Also, the total value of broadcast coverage equal $57,179.

Social Media
Public Information Officer Arturo Gallardo continued getting acclimated with public information functions, including the Director’s Report, newsletters and social media. Some events received special attention: The Teen Library and Encino Branch Library openings, Asian Pacific Heritage Month events and the Learn at SAPL Job Fair.

Facebook has 8,390 followers, Twitter has 2,632 and Instagram has 395 followers and numbers continue to grow.

Gallardo recorded audio segments and wrote blog entries related to the Central Library's 20th Anniversary Timeline, during the reporting period. Also, he performed outreach during Earth Day and Día del Niño events and the Unidos Meeting.

Gallardo also created the May newsletter, submitted articles to the City's eConnections electronic June newsletter. He also attended social media training and continued working on "This Weekend at SAPL."

Marketing
New Marketing Specialist Karla Vasquez, started acclimating herself to the marketing functions.

CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

San Antonio Public Library's annual Young Pegasus Competition is complete. The anthology has been printed, the poets have been honored and plans are already underway for next year's competition. The 89th edition of the Young Pegasus Anthology included 49 poems written by 36 young poets, ranging in age from six to sixteen. Three of this year's poets were home schooled with the remaining 33 representing 21 schools public, private and parochial. The awards ceremony was held on May 3 at the Hermann Sons Grand Lodge with 32 of the poets and their families attending. Jean Brady, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees and Karen Matson, President of the Friends were also in attendance.

Viki Ash, Coordinator of Children's Services, attended the Texas Library Association Conference in Austin April 14 – 17. Ash was an invited attendee to a special half day work session on diversity in children's publishing. The working group comprised of librarians, reviewers, authors, illustrators and publishers discussed both the difficulties and the opportunities for putting diverse books into the hands of children. In response to this thought-provoking discussion, Ash has asked the SAPL children's librarians to be particularly mindful of the books they read aloud to young children as well as the books they recommend to older children, asking themselves if their selections reflect a diversity of cultural situations, authors and illustrators.

Ash has also been working with the children's librarians who serve San Antonio's most impoverished neighborhoods. Using the Business Decision database, staff determined that Bazan, Carver, Memorial and Collins Garden serve the lowest income areas (median household income less than $30,000) with Mission, Las Palmas, McCreless, Pan American and San Pedro following close behind (median household income less than $35,000). Finding ways to best serve the children in these low income families is by no means an easy or quickly accomplished task but establishing such service as a priority is the first step.

The 2015 Mayor's Summer Reading Club begins on June 1. "Every Hero Has a Story" is the theme of this year's reading club and accompanying programs. The library is once again partnering with COSA Parks and Recreation to bring summer reading to a wide number of participants. COSA Head Start and San Antonio Youth Literacy are also active partners this year as is San Antonio College. Kids Time, the summer programs aimed at school-age children, will feature a wide variety

of heroes including superheroes, animal heroes, fairy tale heroes and environmental heroes. The children's librarians anticipate an engaging and energetic summer for children and staff alike.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Teen Library

The new Teen Library at Central is complete and open for business! The Teen Library offers teens out-of-school learning opportunities to engage in a variety of cutting-edge activities. These experiences, led by professional library staff, will develop collaborative skills that allow peer-to-peer interaction in a safe, enjoyable space and prepare teens for college and employment. Spaces within the Library include: a "Pop-Lab" that allows teens to explore 3D printing and emerging technologies; a recording studio that allows teens to create content (such as podcasts, video and music) to be showcased on the SAPL Teen blog (210teenlibrary.wordpress.com); a Wi-Fi lounge area, gaming space and computer lab for projects; and the teen book and resources collection, which includes teen fiction, STEM materials, Manga and graphic novels.

On May 8, Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez led the Teen Library donors through a walk-through of the space. Caroline Mossing used the MaKey MaKey invention kit and a bunch of bananas to make a piano for donors and visitors to play (and play they did!). She also oversaw a 3D printing demonstration for guests and answered questions about those and other technology resources at the Teen Library. On May 11, Teen Library staff hosted a pastry and fruit breakfast for Central Library staff to offer them a look at the new space. Finally, the grand opening of the Teen Library took place on May 12 and included remarks by Library Director Ramiro Salazar, District 1 City Councilman Roberto Treviño, San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees Chair Jean Brady, San Antonio Public Library Foundation President Tracey Bennett, and Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez. Over 120 high school students from the Henry Ford Academy (almost the whole school) attended the grand opening, which also included a ribbon-cutting, a teen DJ and plenty of jelly beans and grumpy cat plushies to give to the teens that attended. JD Elizondo was the primary liaison between the Teen Library and the Henry Ford Academy.

Off-Site Service

On April 22, Kathleen Fordyce (Teen Library Assistant Manager at Central) and Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant at Central) were invited to staff a table, representing the SAPL, at Fox Tech High School's Health Fair/Earth Day event. Kathleen and Regina spoke to approximately 300 students and parents at the event and provided information about all that the Library offers for teens, including promotion of the new Teen Library at Central.

Kathleen Fordyce and Marco DeLeon (Teen Services Librarian at Las Palmas) visited St. Anthony Catholic High School on April 28 to present information about library services and resources for teens. The following day, Caroline Mossing (Teen Services Librarian at Central) and JD Elizondo (Teen Services Library Assistant at Central) visited St. Anthony's to present to more students at the school. During the visit, Elizondo began partnering and cross-promoting between Teen Services and St. Anthony students and their jazz band to develop programming.

Partnerships

Teen Arts Festival

On April 15, JD Elizondo attended a meeting with representatives from the Southwest School of Art and Artpace to discuss the planning of the Teen Arts Festival in November. More details will follow as the event draws nearer.

San Antonio Food Bank
To fulfill one of the Food Bank's Kids Café requirements, Kathleen Fordyce and Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant) rotate their attendance at the monthly nutrition lessons at the San Antonio Food Bank. Teen Services staff incorporates what they learn from these nutrition lessons in teen programming at the Central Library.

Inspire U
Staff involved in the Inspire U Workplace Mentoring Program through Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas (part of SA2020), met with their mentees from Edison High School in the Central Library Auditorium for their monthly lunch in April. May's lunch will be the final meeting of the school year. Kathleen Fordyce continues to serve as the liaison for this program.

Professional Development
Teen service librarians and liaisons met for their regularly scheduled meeting on April 15. Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez led a training session on Business Decision, a library database, to show the group how to run demographic reports to learn more about their service area, identifying ways to better serve teens in their community.

Programming
To assist in filling in for Tobin at Oakwell Library's Teen Time, JD Elizondo brought his Eclectic Electric music programming to the teens. Elizondo introduced teens there to the basics of playing guitar.

On May 9, JD Elizondo, along with Library Assistant Roland Casias, played three jazz fusion guitar sets for the 20th anniversary celebration of the Central Library. Elizondo and Casias were accompanied by Reference Librarian Gamini Haluwana on vocals for the middle set – and they rocked them all!

CENTRAL LIBRARY TEENS

Weekly Programs
Mondays with JD Elizondo (Library Assistant): Elizondo ran Eclectic Electric with art, music and gaming every Monday. On April 13, JD facilitated a poetry slam program in Teen Services. Teens were invited to read their own poetry or other published poetry. During Teen Services' Fiesta week, Elizondo led a fun and hilarious chicken dance program, followed by teens making cascarones. On April 30, Elizondo met with a Henry Ford Academy teacher and a student to begin planning fashion programming at the Teen Library at Central.

Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I): During the reporting period, Caroline hosted Science & Tech Tuesdays. Teens designed Teen Services Fiesta medals for 3D printing, and printed objects using Makerware and the Makerbot Replicator. Teens also learned to use Silhouette Studio software to create digital papel picado designs, and then cut their designs using the department's Silhouette CAMEO Electronic Cutting Tool. Tech Tuesday participants continued to tinker with LittleBits

modular electronics systems, creating music and noise with the Korg synthesizer set and responsive gadgets with the Smart Home set. Teens explored robotics using the Cubelets modular robotics system, combining different sense and action cubes to create simple responsive robots. The MaKey MaKey invention kit gave teens the means to make everyday objects into computer inputs.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): On Wednesday nights, teens pick their favorite video or board game and engage in friendly competition with their peers. In addition, teens have the opportunity to express their creative side by participating in craft or art projects of their choosing. During the reporting period, teens have enjoyed playing the WiiU games, as well as board games like Chess, Apples to Apples and Monopoly. In addition, teens made tissue paper flowers and crowns/garlands during Fiesta Week. On May 6, the City of San Antonio's Project Worth facilitated a program for teens to promote the National Month to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Teens participated in an online quiz and discussion of pregnancy prevention. Afterward, they were treated to deli boxes from Jason's Deli, t-shirts and other goodies, all courtesy of Project Worth.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): During this reporting period, teens expressed themselves creatively, artistically, and culinarily. To fulfill our Food Bank nutritional lesson and celebrate Fiesta, teens learned the benefits of choosing wisely whilst out and about at food booths. Using a toaster oven, teens roasted fresh ears of corn and used spray butter and spices for flavoring. Teens chopped, blended, and strained fresh fruit, then added water to make refreshing *aguas frescas*. Playing *Just Dance* continued to be the teens' first choice for video games. In anticipation of the move of Teen Services to the new Teen Library on the 3rd Floor, teens had an all-out blowout of a food craft, video games and clay art for their last Thursday night program on the first floor. Pictures from Thursday programs as well as system-wide programs can be found at http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary.

Tours and Groups

During the reporting period, several classes from the Henry Ford Academy visited Teen Services frequently to use computers for research. Since Teen Services was in the process of moving to the third floor and the regular computers were already moved, teens were able to use laptops to do their work.

On April 29, two different schools brought students for a tour of the library. Teen Services staff provided tours for both Trinity Christian Academy and the Academy of Careers and Technologies.

Students and teachers from the Academy of Creative Education (ACE) came to the department to learn about 3D printing. Caroline Mossing did a 3D printing demonstration and answered questions about the department's 3D printing and the wider relevance of 3D printing in a variety of fields, including engineering, business, medicine, and fashion.

On May 1, JD Elizondo conducted a library tour for Jefferson High School students.

CHILDREN'S

The Central Children's Department invited all to a big birthday party on Celebrate Central Day. Families wished Central well with a birthday card craft, shared things they loved about Central Library on a collaborative wall banner and enjoyed cupcakes as an added treat. During the birthday

bash, children created wacky paper hats to wear while sculpting Chihuly Fiesta Tower replicas out of brightly colored play dough, pasta and other mixed media.

Spring programming at Central ended with a bang this year, with several special programs wrapping up the season. System-wide Play & Learn programming was developed by the Spring Early Literacy Committee, chaired by Jasmin Salinas, and was enjoyed twice by Central audiences. The program was constructed around Every Child Ready to Read principles that help strengthen early literacy skills for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. At the Build it! Program, children ages 0 to 5 enjoyed listening to a construction themed story, discovering sound blocks and sensory bottles, hammering with toy hammers, drawing in sand, playing with play dough, building with blocks, and reveling in a sand sensory experience. Children even put on a construction worker vest and hardhat to engage their imaginations as they enjoyed a morning of building at the library.

Kate Simpson chaired the Spring Programming Committee that developed a system-wide Family Fun Día de los Niños program. When it was celebrated at Central Library, the families in attendance listened to stories about the world, explored atlases and created their own global collage with tissue paper and magazine clippings.

During a special Fiesta-themed Family Fun, Kate Simpson led the children, dressed in paper capes and crowns, on a joyful parade through the 3rd floor. Finally, Ms. Salinas rounded off the Family Fun spring session with a taste of summer and got families excited about the upcoming Summer Reading Program.

The Central Children's Department was thrilled to host two groups from Pre-K 4 SA South for special visits. Four classes from that center were chosen as winners of their Ready Rosie challenge at the school. The prize was a fun-filled visit to the Central Library where they enjoyed a Play & Learn program complete with play dough fun, sensory activities, crafts and a collaborative banner they decorated and later displayed at their school.

Through tours and outreach visits this month, Central Children's staff helped foster relationships between SAPL and various school districts, while spreading the word about the Mayor's Summer Reading Program. The connections included Southside ISD with a field trip by Julian C. Gallardo Elementary students, South San Antonio ISD with an outreach visit to over 700 students at Frank Madla Elementary School, San Antonio ISD with an appearance at Austin Academy's Literacy Night, and Harlandale ISD with a visit from a Morrill Elementary parent's group.

Central Children's Department outreach connections continued to strengthen this month as staff members made their regular visits to Central Christian Childcare Center, Madison Square Child Development Center, and San Antonio College Early Childhood Center. Connections with the Mission Road Ministries parent group were continued with a development training session for staff and a chance to visit with residents.

The Central Children's Department bid a fond farewell to Amy Lewis, who was hired by Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD as the School Librarian for their newest school. In her time at Central, Ms. Lewis led Play & Learn programs which were always well attended and included a dedicated group of regulars who will miss her as dearly, as well SAPL staff!

LITTLE READ WAGON

Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Parents
Little Read Wagon concluded the workshop series at the Burleson Head Start center. An additional workshop series was completed at the Fenley Head Start Center. This series was coordinated through Avance and included parents from several Harlandale Independent School District early childhood sites.

Julia Lazarin and Cresencia Huff offered “Learning Through Play” on May 6 at the Igo Branch Library with assistance from Children’s Librarian Nancy Rodriguez. The program was well-attended and received positive feedback from participants. One participant commented on her evaluation that the program helped her understand to “Be simple during playtime and look for books that relate to her (child’s) interests and situation at the moment.”

Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Teen Parents
The early literacy kits for Seton Home are nearly complete! Corinne Sanchez, Xelena Gonzalez, and Elizabeth Huber have carefully selected items to put in the several kits which will be made available to residents and staff at Seton Home.

Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Gonzalez and Ronnie Webb, II have also been busy presenting programs to teen parents at area high schools. Campuses served this reporting period include John Jay, Pickett Academy, Academy of Creative Education, South San, Churchill, Marshall, East Central, Kennedy, and McCollum.

Library Promotion
Ms. Huff spoke at the Bowden Elementary Principal’s Coffee on April 17. Ms. Huff, Mr. Webb and Ms. Sanchez had an information table plus activities with the VROOM at Any Baby Can’s Fiesta on April 18. Ms. Huber joined Viki Ash at Little Flower’s Día de la Familia on April 26. Ms. Lazarin and Dr. Ash represented the Library at Pre-K 4SA’s “Move” event on May 2 at Camargo Park.

Play & Learn
The Play & Learn series at Villa Coronado Park concluded on May 5. The series had a core group of new families that attended each week. The small group size was especially good as several families brought children with special needs. Parents and Little Read Wagon team members were pleased with the progress the children made in following the opening routines and participating in group activities. Some remarkable advancements in communication skills were also noted as children were encouraged to say which activity they would like to try next.

Workshops for Early Childhood Professionals
Ms. Huber, Ms. Gonzalez, Mr. Webb, and Ms. Huff presenting Music and More Early Literacy Moves to the Early Childhood Instructors for Northside Independent School District’s Title 1 Family Literacy Program. The workshop was presented mid-week as part of the group’s staff development day. The workshop was repeated on May 9 at Central Library. With heavy rain and Mother’s Day the following day, Little Read Wagon staff were surprised that almost all of the registered participants attended. The auditorium was full with the 55 participants who spent the morning making song books and

props, singing and learning more about how music and movement support early literacy development.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN

Bazan Branch Children's Services Librarian Hope Sonnen wrapped up book clubs at several elementary locations in anticipation of summer. The children who participated all year long received a certificate as well as some treats. On May 9, cellist Ryan Murphy, a member of the San Antonio Symphony, performed at the Bazan Branch. The patrons enjoyed listening and asking questions about the San Antonio Symphony.

The new Bazan Branch Adult Education Specialist Emily Sauer began work on April 20. The Learn Center space was remodeled and revitalized, with a designated private area for the Department of Human Services Counselor Deborah Romo to work one-on-one with clients, and an area for small group learning experiences and set up that allows the Adult Education Specialist to more easily interact with students. Patrons have expressed the most interest in ESL learning opportunities and basic computer training. An ESL class has been programmed for Wednesdays at noon. Daily activities of the Adult Education Specialist have included assistance with job applications, resumes, filling out forms, ESL, basic computer training and GED registration and practice.

On May 6, together with Adult Education Specialist Deborah Carter (Westfall), Mrs. Sauer attended a VFW Fair and networked with several community outreach organizations to publicize the Learn Centers' programs and resources.

On May 7, Adult Services Librarian Patti Soderberg and Mrs. Sauer participated in the Friends in the Barrio meeting at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in the West Side neighborhood. The meeting was quite productive and several working relationships were formed with community agencies on the West Side. As a result of this meeting, Mrs. Sauer participated in the Rhodes Middle School West Side Fair on May 9 and publicized the Learn Center's services and the branch's Summer Reading Program and activities to students and their families. She met with the school's Director of Community Engagement and parent leaders, all of whom showed great interest in the programs and services offered at the Bazan Branch. Many community members, including representatives of other community agencies, were pleasantly surprised to learn about the digital resources available to customers.

The VITA tax preparation service offered at Bazan ended on April 15. During the 4 months that VITA prepared taxes, the total number of sessions was 73, and the total number of tax returns transmitted was 1879, the most of any library and the fourth highest of all VITA sites.

On April 20, the Bazan branch hosted the third of four scheduled Learn Center Job Fairs. The very successful event saw 88 job seekers register and visit with employers. Attendees received assistance,

provided by Workforce Solutions Alamo, to register with workintexas.org and workshops were also held that taught skills to help improve job seeking and job interview skills.

BROOK HOLLOW

On April 18, Brook Hollow hosted a celebration of Outlander – a bestselling series of books – by Diana Gabaldon that has also been adapted into a popular television program. This program, sponsored by the Friends of the Brook Hollow Branch Library, featured presenters from The Scottish Society of San Antonio and The San Antonio Herb Society.

Brook Hollow has added a new program to the lineup of regularly recurring adult programs. On Tuesdays, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., patrons can attend the Tech Tuesday eReader Clinic to receive help with downloading library materials to their personal devices.

Brook Hollow Branch hosted the final Play and Learn session before summer programming began. On May 5, 65 people participated in a “greatest hits” Play and Learn program for the school year. Some of the favorites included salt writing, tunnels, sensory tubes and other activities.

The Children’s Department continued to weed nonfiction. All juvenile nonfiction has been shifted, so that the branch can make more room for juvenile fiction.

Children’s Librarian Rachael Barrera, completed a system-wide collection development project that assessed the city’s award book collection, weeded grubby copies, and ordered replacements for needed titles.

Children’s Librarian Rachael Barrera continued work on the Early Literacy committee, which she chairs. Along with Shannon Seglin (Semmes) and Nancy Rodriguez (Igo), the team is working on a system-wide Play and Learn program with a camping theme to be presented in the fall.

CARVER

School children participating in San Antonio’s Read & Lead program visited the Carver Library on Saturday, April 18, where Branch Manager DL Grant and Jodi Miller conducted a tour and shared a story time, respectively.

Assistant Branch Manager Monty Holcomb once again reported mounting interest in teen activities, such as Wii. The Teen Life Skills group, which he arranged as a library partnership, has continued to have successful meetings, having three such meeting during this period. On Thursday evenings, his chess games are an anticipated activity here, attracting both teen and adult players. In addition to his in-house programs, he continued his outreach in the Carver service area. He facilitated five book club meetings at the District 2 Community Center. Mr. Holcomb and Learn Center Training Officer Jeanne Johnson visited the center together in early May to provide training to seniors in using OverDrive and the SAPL’s wall cling.

In celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month, percussionist T-Bow Gonzales and Aloha Entertainment both performed at the Carver Library. On Saturday, May 9, Branch Manager DL

Grant addressed the Phi Delta Kappa Sorority at their monthly meeting. He invited members to visit the branch and take advantage of services the library offers.

Children's Librarian Jodi Miller visited Tynan Early Childhood Center and St. Philip's College Early Childhood Education Center; she represented San Antonio Public Library at the Carroll Elementary School literacy fair. In addition, she continued to offer Wednesday afternoon baby time at the Landa Branch.

In spite of heavy rains in mid-May, the Friends of Carver Branch LIbrary held a successful two-day book sale. President Shirley Coleman called the event one of the most profitable sales they have ever held.

CODY

Tweens participated in their own Poetry Jam/Poetry Slam on April 13, as they created artistic expressions of their own poetry. All of the tweens in attendance wrote acrostic and tyburn poems. Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta exhibited these in the children's area during Poetry Month.

Ronald McDonald visited Story Time on April 15. He presented a puppet show that featured some of the great children's books in the library and how important it is to take care of them.

On April 18, San Antonio Symphony musician Jeff Garza shared his love of music and his experience as a French horn player in the orchestra with Cody families.

Games! Games! And more games! On April 20, students had an opportunity to choose between indoor golf, bowling and Twister for Tween Time. Acosta provided materials for the Tweens to create their own portable board games out of recycled materials in commemoration of Earth Day.

The Lego Club met on April 21 for their monthly competition. Groups worked on creative displays to reflect the theme of Earth Day. Acosta exhibited their creations in the library.

Children celebrated Earth Day by making several eco-friendly projects on April 22. The children learned about "reduce, reuse, and recycle" in a fun way by making birdfeeders, binoculars and tic-tac-toe board games from recycled materials.

On April 27, the Tweens busied themselves with straws and connectors as the boys challenged the girls for the most creative construction. Several of the tweens showed their determination in constructing the tallest or biggest without falling down.

Loot: How to Steal a Fortune by Jude Watson was the book selected by the Cody Tween Book Club for April. Tweens discussed and expressed their feelings regarding this mystery. Acosta provided them with materials to "chart and diagram" their favorites and least favorites parts of the book. Members previewed some of the new books for checkout, and snacks were provided.

Cody celebrated Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros on April 30 with Come-and-Go Crafts. Children and their parents made the celebratory crafts reflecting the theme Mi Mundo/My World. World maps, rainbow streamers and festive flags were the popular crafts of the event.

For Mother's Day, Acosta demonstrated a simple food craft during Tween Time on May 4 that tweens could make for their moms. After trying it out, they all agreed that their moms would want them to make seconds. Tweens also made sun catchers to give to their moms for Mother's Day.

On May 7, children enjoyed making arts and crafts as gifts for Mother Day. Children took their time personalizing their cards for their moms.

Acosta hosted Play and Learn "Build It!" on May 8. Families in attendance said the children enjoyed all of the centers, but the sandbox was their favorite!

It was the boys versus the girls in a heated battle of charades at Tween Time on May 11. After three rounds, the girls were victorious. Tweens also were able to create chalk art while jamming out to some tunes provided by Acosta.

Acosta continued her early literacy outreach to the Pineapple School, Kids Campus, Discovery World, and Chabad Gan-Gani Pre-School this month.

Acosta also began her visits to the elementary schools to announce sign-up for the Mayor's Summer Reading Club.

Teen Time continues to grow with Cody seeing 76 teens in attendance. Teen Librarian Kristin Yourdon kept the teens busy with a variety of activities.

On April 14, teens learned how to make glow-in-the-dark bouncy balls out of the household materials of glue, borax, corn starch, and water.

Teens celebrated Earth Day on April 21 by using recycled comic books and magazines to create make comic book magnets and magazine bead bracelets. They also learned how to make a variety of crafts using regular household items.

Cody's Library Leadership Council met on April 28, with Teen Leaders soliciting program ideas from all attendees. Teens were especially excited about planning a scary movie night. They watched several scary movie trailers and then voted for their choice.

On May 5, teens celebrated Cinco de Mayo by making mini piñatas. Some teens used templates to create Tardis and burro piñatas, while others designed their own originally designed piñatas.

Finally, on May 12 teens chose to make duct tape crafts. Teens made wallets and flowers out of differently designed duct tape. Teens are looking forward to attending the programs they planned for the rest of the month

At the end of April, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program coordinator Sheila Anderson Ruth shared some statistics with SAPL regarding the popular program. Cody staff learned that their branch was the 5th busiest VITA site in the city. Sites throughout the city helped put almost 59 million dollars back into the community in the form of tax refunds.

From April 27 to May 5, Cody Library served as an early voting site for local elections. 3,175 votes were cast during the period.

On May 5, Adam Spana visited the Adante Senior Living Community and demonstrated how to use the OverDrive collection. The house was packed -- 35 seats were filled. Five library cards were issued the same day to new patrons wanting to download their own eBooks.

COLLINS GARDEN

Collins Garden is beginning to prepare for its scheduled closure. The entire collection has been reduced through judicious weeding. Other locations have specified whether or not they want to add parts of the remainder to their collection to fill gaps and strengthen their offerings. Sending parts of the Collins Garden collection to other locations will allow the materials to circulate even while the branch is closed during its six-month renovation.

Collins Garden Elementary teachers are bringing students to the library to teach them about library use and introduce them to summer reading. Even though Collins Garden Branch will be closed this summer, it is hoped these tours will encourage students to participate in summer reading at other branches.

Children's Librarian Leigh Bedford attended LibGuide Training. Although she has created LibGuides in the past, some of the features have changed. The training enabled her to learn what features are available in the current LibGuide application and keep her skills current.

Collins Garden Branch Library hosted Early Voting for the City Council Election and was also an Election Day site for said election.

CORTEZ

The branch is hosting a new program in partnership with The Children's Shelter. iParentSA is a free parenting workshop. Children are welcome to attend and there are socialization opportunities for children and snacks on Mondays at 2:30 p.m.

During Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 12-18), each of the 5 Cortez volunteers was presented with a personalized branch certificate of appreciation as well as a token of appreciation from the Cortez Friends group, along with the pin from Volunteer Services. Active recruitment for Cortez summer volunteers remains ongoing and flyers have been posted on the branch community information kiosks as well as with the City volunteer website.

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Cortez presented the program Japanese Folktales and Folkways to 11 curious patrons on May 7, with staff members Connie Hejl reading folktales and Michelle Ricondo introducing patrons to imported Japanese snacks with a sampling of roasted green tea. The branch hosted the programs Violins & Vocals and Classical Indian Dance on May 2.

The Meet the Mayor event on May 14 was a success, as approximately 10 Cortez patrons and area community members took time to speak with the Mayor and pose for pictures. Members of the Cortez staff took a photo with the Mayor as well.

The branch received a visit from the Literacy Caravan on April 21. Young patrons enjoyed early literacy activities and received free books thanks to the San Antonio Public Library Foundation.

On May 16, the branch enjoyed a visit from San Antonio Symphony violinist Eric Siu for the Symphony at SAPL program.

Students at Kindred Elementary, Gillette Elementary, Miguel Carrillo, Jr. Elementary, Alamo Academy, My Little Team Texas Daycare, and DePaul Center received visits from Children's Library Connie Hejl. Story Time continues every Wednesday at 11 a.m., Game Time is at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, and Family Fun is every Tuesday at 4 p.m. Patrons enjoyed watching *The Box Trolls* during the monthly Movie Time on the first Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Michelle Ricondo's Monday Morning Outreach to the Willie Cortez Senior Center from April 27 to May 11 to provide library services to the senior center book club has yielded a 17% increase in participation. The Book Club chose *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult for the April selection and the May selection is *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger

The Cortez Film Appreciation Club discussed cult classic films on Saturday, April 25, had 8 loyal fans in attendance and was led by Michelle Ricondo. The Film Appreciation Club will meet on Saturday, May 23, to discuss musicals and the unfortunate case of remakes.

The Gettin' Crafty Cortez Crafters' Group continues to be a popular program to make interesting creations and socialize. Fabiola Rodriguez won first place in a cake decorating contest for her cake inspired by the movie *Up* and won a certificate and a cake decorating set.

The Once Upon a Crime Book Club is reading *A Stolen Life: a memoir* by Jaycee Dugard.

The English as a Second Language continues weekly on Saturday mornings with loyal attendees.

Teen Time continues to offer a place for teens to hang out with friends, play video games, and grab some snacks on Thursdays at 4:30 pm.

Zombie Meet with Madeline Vasquez continues to be a popular program on the second Saturday of the month. At May's meeting 13 members met for a ghost tour with program leader Madeline Vasquez. They always welcome new members to join their zombie survival team.

ENCINO

At Encino Branch Library's Grand Opening on May 2, the community enjoyed refreshments and messages from special guests, including Mayor Ivy Taylor, District 9 Councilman Joe Crier and Library Board Trustee Loyce Ince. The first book was checked out by Unnati Penta of Girl Scout Troop #183. Unnati earned her silver star for assisting the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's fundraising efforts for Encino Branch Library.

Entertainment at Encino's Grand Opening included: an energizing performance by the Johnson High School Drumline; a crowd-pleasing performance by the San Antonio Lion Dancers; Meet the Mascot with Libro, Spot the Dog, and the Johnson High School Jaguars; and demonstrations of the unique services provided in each space. Librarian Shannon Seglin hosted interactive story times throughout

the day in the Children's space. Create hosted a green screen photography studio, with Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Library Board Chair Jean Brady utilizing the space to cut the ceremonial ribbon. Volunteers demonstrated the use of green screens and iPads to make unique photographs.

A partnership with Fitness in the Park has already proven successful, with over 25 people attending the Martial Arts program and a steady crowd of 17 attending the Zumba classes. Interest in Collaborate continues to grow, as patrons have begun reserving and checking out the space for their digital meeting needs. Assistant Manager Barbara Kwiatkowski hosted a local Boy Scout group on May 4 in Collaborate for a class in using the library's digital collection.

Encino hosted its first Baby Time and Story Time programs on May 5, with visiting librarian Leigh Bedford entertaining the ample crowds. Librarians Leigh Bedford and Robin Alcorta hosted 32 children and their caregivers at the Build it! Play & Learn on May 8. Ms. Alcorta also hosts the weekly Kids Time, with over 15 school age children in attendance each week.

FOREST HILLS

National Library Week was celebrated by children with Ojos de Dios crafts and yarn bracelets made during the week. A Lego Club twice monthly rejuvenated young minds and parents for the design challenges of animals, signage, characters, and vehicles instigated by Valerie Shelley the Children's Librarian. Children were celebrated with positive reminders that they are not to be hurt (Child Abuse Prevention Month) when a blue pinwheel garden was created by the children for the front of the building. Rain came and dampened the pinwheels a bit but the joy of seeing them was not diminished.

The Toddlers completed their introduction to the printed alphabet by hosting a party of letters and words. They created alphabet placemats and played letter games showing great skill and excitement for their knowledge.

Día de los Niños was a festive day of exploring the globe and creating a tissue map of our hemisphere. Xavier Garza appeared for Story Time with the children and parents at the Cinco de Mayo and tribute for María de Hernández fiesta.

Outreach progresses to the end of the school year for the learning centers. The teachers clamber for books to enhance the curriculum for their children. The children gather round to listen as Miss Valerie reads from the new selection to their class books so eager that it catches her be surprise from time to time.

Teens persist in their endeavor to volunteer at Forest Hills. The novelty of the FLASH Volunteering fetches teens from various areas around the city to contribute to the successes at Forest Hills Library.

Adult Programming
As National Poetry Month came to a close at the end of April, Forest Hills hosted poetry events on April 20, Octavio Quintanilla delivered his poetry performance, and then on April 27 when 2nd Verse Sophisticated and Soulful Spoken Word Poetry performed.

On May 2, the Forest Hills Branch hosted the Fiesta Bonita Cinco De Mayo event celebrating the life of María L. de Hernández for whom the Forest Hills meeting room was named. Sra. Hernández was a Mexican-American civil rights activist and midwife here in San Antonio during the 1930s and up until her death in 1986. She played an active role in promoting educational equality for Mexican-American children and health services for women. It was an exciting day, full of music, stories, and family. The descendants of Sra. Hernández were so appreciative that the library went to such extents to memorialize her life in such a way. The branch was honored to have in attendance her last living child, aged 82. She was absolutely thrilled to take part in the celebration of her mother's life. Support for the program came from multiple sources, including the Forest Hills Friends (funding for the musical guests), Celebrate Diversity Committee (funding Xavier Garza presentation), and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (provided refreshments for reception). Extensive news coverage for the event, which aired on KAAB FOX SA and News 4 WOAI, educated even more residents about the life of María L. de Hernández and the impact she had on Mexican-American history right here in San Antonio. The original portrait of Sra. Hernández which hangs in the Forest Hills meeting room was featured in many of the news clips and served as background for interviews of family members. Barry Picture Framing on Broadway did an excellent job in restoring the piece to its original luster before the event. Councilman Lopez made an appearance and commented to the audience that he appreciated the fact that this younger generation was taking the time to celebrate such an important figure from our past. He stayed for a large portion of the event and delivered many compliments to the staff on the quality of the program. Overall, this event was a hallmark for Forest Hills and is an example of the type of programming the staff believes to meet the needs and interests of the surrounding community.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Adults

Great Northwest Thursday Book Group met on May 14 to discuss the novel Atonement by Ian McEwan. Adult Services Librarian Cindy Moreno shared the Adult Summer Reading events to the group and the group was excited about the upcoming events, among them: Memoir Writing, Senior Hula Dance classes and a Book & Movie program. Ms. Moreno also shared that the library will be giving away, courtesy of the Friends, tote bags to those who complete their Adult Summer Reading.

Teen Services

Great Northwest Branch Library has a Teen video gaming program every Wednesday evening where teens can bring their own controllers and games and play the Wii U and Play Station 3. During this period, four events were held on Wednesday evenings. Teens interested in gaming played games with each other and exchanged techniques and other pieces of useful gaming information in a fun environment.

Great Northwest Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez visited the school library at Brennan High School to provide a teen program to the students during their lunch period. The monthly program, which is held during lunch time, drew 200 participants. Teens enjoyed gaming and were able to make buttons during the event. This popular event is held in collaboration with the Brennan High School Librarian Hugues Caby and is a way for the branch to reach out to teens in their environment.

Branch

Great Northwest Branch Library celebrated National Poetry Month with a fun and easy poetry activity for all ages. All month long patrons are encouraged to make their own Blackout Poem to be displayed in the library during the month of April. Blackout Poetry was created by author Austin Kleon and is poetry created from newspapers or book pages by rearranging words on a printed page and eliminating the words or phrases that are unnecessary to the poem.

Library Assistant Monica Trejo and Teen Librarian Stephanie Vazquez both created a special Star Wars Reads book display celebrating May the 4th Be With You that was on display at the Great Northwest Branch Library until May 4th. Included in the display are adult and juvenile fiction books, books about the making of the movies and the effect the movies have had on Pop culture.

During National Library Week the Great Northwest Library celebrated with different activities throughout the week. Patrons were encouraged to share why they visited the library and their responses were put on display. Patrons also had the opportunity to make National Library Week buttons, participate in a Where's Waldo in the Library Challenge, and make their own Diary of a Wimpy Kid book cover.

Great Northwest Branch Library celebrated National Pretzel Day by learning fun facts and the history of the pretzel. Activities for the family included making pretzel necklaces and learning how to roll pretzel shapes using play dough.

The Great Northwest Library hosted various new programs in partnership with local organizations. iParent classes were presented by the Children's Shelter staff. These classes teach parenting skills and provide parenting support to individuals. In addition, the Early On program, in partnership with Northside Independent School District, began offering classes for parents and children in May.

Ongoing programs held throughout the month included the Knitting Group, which meets every Saturday at the branch. The American Sewing Guild continues to meet at the branch as well.

Plans are almost finalized for the Summer Reading Program at Great Northwest Branch Library. Children's, teen, and adult programs are being planned for the kick-off in June. This year, staff will also be participating in a weekly programming series called "Summer Fun @ GNW." Staff at all levels will lead and host programs for the community as part of this effort. The Friends of the Great Northwest Branch Library continue to be very supportive of branch programming. During their last meeting, they approved money for programming and some much need supplies.

Children's Services

During the second week of April, the children, in both the Toddler and Story Time groups, celebrated the letter "Ss" with scarf dances and used sticks to practice some great rhythm. The book selections included much rhythm so the children could interact with their sticks. They also got to practice a little with the idea of different sizes and measuring. There were a total of 261 in the 4 groups.

The third week of April focused on the letter U. The Toddlers explored an underwater theme featuring several underwater stories, including I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry and underwater sensory bins. There were 141 in the two programs. The ABC Club focused on Unifix Cubes, which gave them a chance to explore graphing, the idea of more and less, patterning

and building. The children were very involved in their activities this week. There were a total of 166 at the two programs.

The last week of April involved the celebration of the alphabet, featuring Chicka-chicka Boom-boom by Bill Martin Jr. The children made coconut tree hats with the alphabet on them. The weeks of May included lighthearted programs with blocks and painting to encourage their creativity. Several school visits have been planned for the days ahead and the Summer Reading program is just about ready to commence.

GUERRA

The VITA program concluded its assistance on April 13; total for the program was about 650. Mayor Ivy Taylor met with members of the community on April 23. The branch was a polling place for early voting, starting April 27 through May 5, with Election Day on May 9. A quarterly branch staff meeting was held on May 14. The high point of the meeting was the announcement of the selection of two new permanent staff: Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl and Library Aide Chloe Parham.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman provided four outreach programs to the Careplex Adult Day Center on April 14 and 28 and May 16 and 13. Content included stories and guitar music and songs. He attended the COLS meeting on April 23, most of which consisted of a useful presentation by Susan Brown, Library Director/Chapel Hill Public Library on how to create excellent book displays. He shared the key points at the branch meeting in May. He provided two computer classes on May 15. He provided LIC coverage at Tobin on April 29 and 30. On May 6 and 7, he was part of a Circulation Attendant panel chaired by Tina Hudec, Librarian II/McCreless. The third member was Rhonda Davila, Librarian II/Memorial. The panel interviewed ten candidates and selected finalists for vacancies at each branch represented.

Assistant Branch Manager Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard moderated the Clube do Livro (Portuguese language book club) on April 25. The group discussed *The Fire Horse Girl* by Kay Honeyman. The Thursday Evening Club met on May 14th to discuss *Blood Will Out* by Walter Kirn. Cristiane participated in the interview panel for Library Aides on April 23. She attended SET Recruitment Module on May 12. She facilitated the program "Tea Tasting" celebrating Pacific Asian American Heritage Month.

During the reporting period, Children’s Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs planned and presented fourteen in-house programs – four Kids Times, five Toddler Times, and five Story Times. On April 17, Richardson-Gibbs visited Lil Dragon Den daycare where she presented story times to 52 and, later that day, at Marbach Daycare where she read stories to 81. On May 8, she visited greatest Gifts Daycare and presented story time to 45. Children got the opportunity to read to Foxie and Chico during two Read to a Dog programs on April 16 and April 30. On April 22, Richardson-Gibbs attended a Strategic Planning Committee meeting where support for educational and learning opportunities was discussed. On May 9, Richardson-Gibbs hosted Patrick Montgomery, a member of the San Antonio Symphony. Patrick shared his knowledge of the trombone and then entertained patrons with musical selections for 45 minutes. On May 18, she concluded spring programming for children. Arlene is now preparing for Summer Reading Programs 2015.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson moderated the Club de Lectura (Spanish book club) on April 30. The club discussed *El Sueño del Celta (The dream of the Celt)* by Mario Vargas Llosa. During the week of April 20, he recognized branch volunteers with refreshments and gifts. On May 2, he represented the branch and SAPL at the ground breaking for the Carpe Diem charter school located two blocks from Guerra. He provided LIC coverage at Tobin on May 15.

Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held Game-Ra sessions on April 16, 23, and 30 and May 7 and 14; total attendance was 35. The teens had their photo taken with Mayor Ivy Taylor on April 23. He participated in an outreach to Brennan High School with Great Northwest Teen Librarian Stephanie Vazquez on April22. The program included a Teen Services video, information about upcoming workshops for college preparation, the summer reading program, summer employment opportunities with COSA, and the opportunity for the students to play video games; over 100 students participated.

Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl created a “Mom’s the Word” Mother’s Day display with materials for and about mothers, from cooking to the DVD “Postcards from the Edge.”

Library Aides Beatrice Leal, Celicia de Los Santos, and Chloe Parham each designed one Come & Go craft during National Library Week. Celicia and Chloe worked together to design and install a Fiesta display.

IGO

Children’s Services

In keeping with the Library’s Strategic Plan to foster relationships with community partners, Children’s Librarian Nancy Rodriguez visited children and teachers at the University of Texas at San Antonio’s Child Development Center on Monday, April 13, to conduct story time sessions in celebration of the center’s annual observance of the Week of the Young Child. Toddler and preschool classes were treated to a variety of favorite children’s books, finger plays, songs, and puppets. Mr. Bear, the Igo Branch Library’s Story Time puppet mascot, gave bear hugs and high fives to all the wonderful young listeners.

Ms. Rodriguez was also invited to Scenic Hills Christian School on Monday, May 4 to speak to students in grades pre-kindergarten through ninth grade about San Antonio Public Library’s annual Mayor’s Summer Reading Club. Scenic Hills’ pre-kindergarten class, under the supervision of Teacher Karen Watt, has been making monthly library visit to the Igo Branch Library to encourage students to use the library to support their early literacy goals. Teacher and students were extremely excited about all of the programs and services the San Antonio Public Library has to offer throughout the summer.

In addition to outreach, weekly story time, and ongoing children’s afterschool programs, the branch also offered two special enrichment opportunities. Families with preschooler 0-5 years participated in the early literacy *Build It! Play and Learn* on Friday, April 17. This hour long session focused on literacy and constructive play which allowed guest to tap toy hammers, pour and shift sand, build with play dough and block, as well as, retell favorite stories through dramatic play and felt board pieces. Mommies and daddies enjoyed the play as much as their little ones.

Igo patrons were treated to a special Saturday, violin performance by San Antonio Symphony’s extraordinary violinist Bassam Nashawati. Mr. Nashawati delighted the multi-generational audience with beautiful music and shared his experiences as a professional musician.

To recap this reporting period at the Igo Branch Library, Children's service staff presented 42 programs and served 2,023 children and their caregivers. As staff prepared for this annual Mayor's Summer Reading Club 2015, the library is sure to be the place to be for enriching programs, great books, and summer fun.

Teen Services

Teen Services at Igo has continued to succeed during its transition in staffing. Teen Librarian Marco De Leon has been temporarily assigned to help Igo continue its strong tradition of teen programing. Teen Night continues to be popular as over 90 teens attended the program during this reporting period.

Teen Movie Night, a new program created by the Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC) during their monthly meeting (second Wednesday of every month), was a big hit. The teens chose to watch The Lego Movie and fresh popcorn was made for all to enjoy during the movie.

The Anime Club, which meets every third Wednesday of the month, decided to plan, along with the TLLC, a second annual Anime Fest for May 30. Preparations are currently underway to create all the items needed for the Anime Fest. The teens have created anime-based banners, lanterns, flyers, and anime video playlists for the event. The Anime Fest also calls for a cosplay contest where it is expected that many will want to compete. In an effort to support the cosplay event during Anime Fest, Mr. De Leon has gotten a commitment from Cos4ACause, a local cosplay group, to show up to the event.

The Anime Fest will provide plenty of opportunity for interaction as there will be a gaming component to it and there will also be a green screen set up for cosplay participants and visitors to take pictures with various backgrounds behind them. There will also be light food and refreshments served during the event. The Igo Branch strongly encourages anyone with an interest in anime to come to the event for plenty of fun!

Adult Services

On April 21, the Genealogy Club had a special treat when librarian Wilson Plunkett, wearing a traditional kilt, introduced them to the Highland Games, in which he has been a long-time competitor. eReader and Tech Help one-on-one patron help sessions continue to be very successful with thankful patrons who are able to successfully use library digital content after their meeting with staff experts.

Meanwhile, the Afternoon Book Club discussed Nathan Philbrick's *The Heart of the Sea.* On May 6, the Mystery Club discussed Harlan Coben's *Missing You* and the Romance Readers Book Club read *Agnes and the Hitman* by Jennifer Crusie. On April 27, the AFI Film Club watched and discussed *Philadelphia Story*. The Options Trading Club met on March 13 and April 11 and had a total of 35 participants. The San Antonio Novelists @ Igo group and the San Antonio Romance Authors both held meetings during the reporting period with author presentations and panel workshops for attendees.

May 16 was a big day at Igo, as patrons of all ages celebrated the film/book/game phenomenon *Star Wars.* Along with crafts such as "Peep Wars" dioramas (Peeps, the marshmallow candy, were decorated to resemble *Star Wars* figures) and "light saber pretzels" (guests dipped pretzel sticks into frosting, then sprinkled them with glitter), puzzles and games, patrons enjoyed a talk by Drew Karpyshyn, author of the "Darth Bane" series and developer of the *Old Republic* online game. Members of the Rebel Legion fan club came in costume to lead children in craft-making and games.

On May 7, twenty-two Igo Elderberries joined Tom & Patsy Inglet's bird walk around the Igo Branch Library. Twenty-three different species of birds were observed, including doves, hawks, swallows, wrens, finches, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, phoebes, flycatchers, and black-throated green warblers migrating from South America to Nova Scotia. The Inglets generated a checklist of the species observed, which can be viewed at http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S23288075. Master Naturalist, Patty Leslie Pasztor, who in May of 2014 led a plant walk for the Elderberries in the Bonnie Conner Park, had already set up a birding "Hot Spot" for the Park on the eBird website. The Inglets also shared extensive birding resources with the participants.

Irene Scharf conducted outreach at the Camargo Park for the Seniors Day in the Park event on May 8. Ramona Lucius represented the library at an outreach event at the Babcock North Apartments Community Fair. I Solo'd with Soli – a traveling concert for kids – partnered with the Igo Branch in April to provide a concert for Igo Library patrons.

JOHNSTON

The Johnston Branch Library celebrated Staff Spirit Week and National Library Week from April 13 to April 17 by wearing team jerseys, sporting mustaches, wearing college shirts, and creating Fiesta Medals. Johnston also celebrated National Volunteer Week by recognizing the many volunteers who dedicate time and energy. One of Johnston's longtime volunteers, Sarina Hackworth, was highlighted on a Facebook post during the week. Johnston and served as Early Voting Site from April 27 to May 5. Johnston's circulation continues to increase over last year. In April, circulation was more than 5% higher than April of 2014. Staff also worked together on displays for Mother's Day, Happiness, and Memorial Day.

During the reporting period, Johnston bid farewell to several staff members including Library Aide Hermelinda Reyes, and Branch Manager Heather Muller. Library Assistant Christina Martinez continues her service with SAPL at the Great Northwest Branch Library. Johnston is thankful to Brook Hollow Children's Librarian Rachel Barrera and San Pedro Branch Manager Diane Backhus for additional assistance. Cortez Branch Manager Cate Prazak will serve as interim manager for Johnston.

Former Branch Manager Heather Muller made her final contributions to SAPL by inspiring a Happiness Display and facilitating the April 15 Athena Readers Book Club discussion of The Rosie Effect by Graeme Simsion.

On April 13, Beverly Wrigglesworth, Children's Librarian recorded "A Library Book for Bear" by Bonny Becker for Dial-a-Story.

During April and May, story time themes included "Libraries," "Families," "Friends," and "Mother's Day."

Beginning April 21, and for the next four weeks, Gloria Merrell from "Readings from the Heart" organization presented Johnston's Family Fun programs. Each week, children "visited" a different country, including China, Egypt, Mexico, and India. On May 7 and 11, Beverly Wrigglesworth promoted the summer reading club at two elementary schools: Big Country and Allen. On May 14, Beverly Wrigglesworth read stories to pre-school children at Nurturing Hearts Learning Center.

Library Assistant Elsy Jackson recorded *Lucas* by Tony Bradman for the Spanish Dial-a-Story on April 20. She, with assistance from Sarina Hackworth, set up and moderated the Teen laptop program on May 6, 2015. Mrs. Jackson presented a movie to the teen group on May 13.

Assistant Branch Manager/Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo attended the Texas Library Association Annual Conference in Austin from April 14 to 17. Of the many highlights of the conference, Monica listened to the Key Speaker and National Library Week Ambassador David Baldacci and met Children Author/Illustrator Chris Van Allsburg. Monica also began her tenure as Chair of the TLA Lariat Adult Fiction Recommended Reading List. On April 19 Monica hosted the Making Cascarones event which garnered the attention of Time Warner News. Monica attended the Central Library training titled "Building More Engaging Display" on April 22. Monica promoted the upcoming Summer Reading Program and Digital Services at the Springvale Neighborhood Association meeting on April 28 and again at the Communities in Schools event at Valley Hi Elementary on May 8. Monica participated in the quarterly Assistant Branch Manager meetings hosted by Kate Gray at Igo Branch Library on May 5.

LANDA

Children's Services

Landa's guest Children's Librarians Jasmin Salinas (Central) and Jodi Miller (Carver) are doing a terrific job filling in while Clair Larkin is out on maternity leave. The size of the crowds shows that these programs have lost none of their popularity. Old friends and new recruits continue to attend and enjoy the weekly Baby Time and Toddler Time programs. Landa Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta assumed responsibility for the Thursday Story Time and also has large, enthusiastic groups of children, nannies, parents, and grandparents. Many thanks to Salinas for taking over the Thursday Story Time duties while Sebesta was at TLA. Volunteers from the Landa Staff are overseeing the monthly Lego Club and Come & Go Crafts during Clair's absence.

Teen Services

Landa Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC) ended their two and a half, award-winning, Tutoring for Young Children program, at the end of May 31. There were simply not enough tutors to keep up with the demand. On April 26 Bea Canales, Landa Teen Services Liaison, SAPL Teen Volunteer Services and Landa Friends of the Library all helped out to give teens a volunteer appreciation celebration. There was a presentation and food brought in by parents of the children the tutors helped. The final program statistical numbers are: approximately 586 duplicated children served 30 unduplicated children, and 25 unduplicated, teen tutors. The tutoring program received the 2013 Library Champions award, nominated for the 2014 United Way Volunteers of the Year award, and recipient of the Spurs Foundations' Silver & Black Give Back grant. The TLLC will continue to help Landa with teen programming, including Teen Summer Reading, and a possible return of their popular series, "Science Demonstrations for Young Children" in the fall.

Bea Canales was accepted to be a Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) blogger for 2015-2016. She will be blogging was a variety of topics ranging from Teen Library Leadership Councils to STEM programming.

Adult Services

Landa hosted an open mike program in observance of Poetry Month. Library customer Donald Mathis presides over an active poetry club that sponsored this program where seventeen enthusiastic poets performed their creations. Landa hopes to have this become an annual event. Parks and Recreation concluded its outdoor Zumba classes that went on throughout the month of April. These classes were very well attended by animated dancers who braved the heat and humidity to get some exercise! Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta continues to draw a faithful crowd to both Readers Ink and the Senior Mystery Book Club. The selections for the group were *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt and *The Black Box* by Michael Connelly, respectively. On May 14, Landa held its last Silver Screens Classic movie event with *The High and the Mighty*. Movies at Landa will now go to occasional presentations.

This month Landa welcomed Mollie Gates as a new library volunteer. She joints several other adult volunteers as well as a host of teens. Karen serves as the Volunteer Liaison for Landa.

Karen had the opportunity to attend the 2015 Texas Library Association Annual Conference which was held in Austin this year. Karen has served for the last year as Secretary-Treasurer of the Programming for Adults Roundtable (PART), a professional interest group in the Texas Library Association. She returned full of exciting ideas and enthusiastic about all of the possibilities for public service in the San Antonio Public Library.

LAS PALMAS

Teen Services Librarian Marco De Leon has continued to promote the Teen Night at Las Palmas, The Super Cool Awesome Teen Gaming Block 3000, where teens are given the option of choosing their entertainment. While temporarily providing Teen Services support to another library, Carlos Loera currently serving Memorial Library has been providing program support, along with Las Palmas Circulation Attendant Patricia Perez. The teens were treated to two movies, The Hobbit and Mockingjay Part I.

The teens also created and decorated cardboard posters in support of library week. The posters are now on display in the YA Collection area. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Loera to support the branch with teen programming.

Mr. De Leon performed outreach at St. Anthony's High School to promote the digital services geared towards teens in a collaborative event for the Teen Services department.

In the month of April, Bilingual Story Time participants enjoyed listening to stories about spring and parades. Children enjoyed decorating their own fiesta crowns. Friends of the Las Palmas Library generously donated building blocks and snacks in support of the program.

Children's Librarian, Gina Brudi attended the Perales Literacy Night where she shared information about library services, programs and resources with parents and teachers. Ms. Brudi continues to present Family Fun and Lego Club programs and to visit Avance, Madonna, and Good Samaritan early literacy centers with story times and outreach collection.

Coming soon, the American Indian Library Association is publishing an article by Library Assistant Anne Schuette. The article covers the library system's major Native American Heritage Month events featured in November 2014.

MAVERICK

The branch was both an Early Voting and Election Day site during the reporting period. Thanks to the staff who opened early and stayed late. The Friends of the Maverick Branch Library brought a catered lunch for all the staff during National Library Week. Maverick Friends are awesome!

Programs, including new ones, occurred during the reporting period. Librarian I, Pat King, initiated a Book Review Club. Attendees were to read a book of a certain theme then come to the meeting to share what they had read. Three patrons came in April and 2 attended in May. Library Assistant, Lucy Villa, continued her teen programming with fiesta halo making, creating paracords, playing 4 square outside, Fit Night using the Dance Dance Revolution game and teen book club. Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, wrapped up her spring Story Times on May 13. This year, she made certificates for those attendees who were moving on to kindergarten. Some of the kids started out in Baby Story Time at this branch! Ms. Roberts set up visits to 6 schools in the Maverick area to promote the Summer Reading Program. The Ladies Book Club continued to have exemplary attendance with 13 people participating on April 25.

Also during this time period, Librarian II, Ben Longoria, and Branch Manager, Jef Martin interviewed candidates for Library Aides and Circulation Attendants respectively. The April circulation statistics increased by 4%! Circulation Attendants Brittany Gates and Sarah Borque created a display about moms for Mother's Day. In addition, Ms. Gates put up a display using items about barbecues and grilling. Mr. Longoria also attended Small Business Week on May 4 at Central, promoting finding jobs using library resources. Ms. Roberts attended the Texas Library Association in Austin April 14-17. She continued in her position as Councilor for the Children's Round Table in addition to attending Tech Camp and other workshops.

McCRELESS

Librarian II Tina Hudec conducted three Wednesday evening Teen Times during this period with a total attendance of forty three.

For movie time this month, the Branch showed the animated film, *Planet 51*. We had fifteen people in attendance.

Hudec also conducted a Book-a-Librarian session (one on one help) this month. She assisted a patron with setting up her new iPad, connecting her to the wireless network, and downloading the Overdrive console.

The branch was an early voting and Election Day voting site with a lot of traffic and heavy campaigning by interested parties and their supporters.

Hudec and Branch Manager Cammie Brantley both were involved with conducting interviews this month to bring the branch up to full staffing.

The McCreless Friends Board met on Monday, May 11, to plan out sales and expenditures for the rest of the year and to make arrangements for hosting the “Big Friends” meeting at the Branch on May 17.

Five Story Times were presented during this time period. Children learned about jobs, planes, pigs and crocodiles. Projects included a crocodile stick puppet, paper airplanes, a torn paper pig and a tool box with tools. Many of the Story Time programs included a play time with children working together to build various structures and participate in other activities.

Five Family Fun programs were held. Themes included Spring Bingo, Fiesta Flowers, Birds, Día de Los Niños and Cinco de Mayo. Participants listened to stories and music, made craft projects and played Bingo.

In addition, A Come-and-Go Craft activity was available for families for three days during National Library Week.

A Tour and Story Time was held for a second grade class. On another occasion, a Story Time was presented to a visiting preschool class.

Librarian Kathleen Brown made four visits to Pre-K 4 SA South to present 13 Story Times to approximately 90 children in the after school program. She also visited P.F. Stewart Elementary School to participate in Family Night.

MEMORIAL

The Memorial Branch Library held a reception for local artist and San Antonio College Professor Marleen Hoover on April 21. Her exhibit entitled *Recycled: Toys, Beads, Art,* prompted many library customers to stop and view her works of recycled art including children who were especially drawn by the embedded toys and colorful beads.

Along with other libraries, Memorial hosted Medicare/Medicaid presentations on April 12 and the 19. The information sessions explained how to enroll in both programs and shared important details about each of the government programs.

On April 14th, Memorial sponsored a workshop by the San Antonio Cat Coalition. The group requires that cat owners attend the course to obtain free services, or low-cost, spay/neuter services. The program also included use of a free trap to transport animals for surgery. Many customers were grateful that the workshop was offered at the library and other locations.

Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Davila volunteered to help pick up recyclable materials at the Battle of Flowers Parade on April 24. The program was part of a City-wide initiative to make a greener event and preserve the environment. On May 14, Ms. Davila visited local businesses, popular eateries and churches in the surrounding Memorial neighborhood to promote the Library, as well as Memorial’s upcoming events.

The children of Memorial Branch Library enjoyed Story Time, Family Fun, and Come & Go programs by listening to stories, performing finger plays, and making crafts about Fiesta, Earth Day, Día de Los Niños, gardening, and butterflies.

A special Family Fun program was hosted by Maureen Hoover, art professor at San Antonio College, to introduce children to recycled art in celebration of Earth Day. The creations that the kids made were fabulous and were displayed during a reception celebrating Ms. Hoover's artwork.

Memorial's Children's Librarian Trina Smith attended the Building More Engaging Displays workshop, presented by Susan Brown, Director of Chapel Hill Public Library. She also attended Family Night at Martin Elementary School to promote library services and the Summer Reading Program to over 200 families. The Cub Scout Troop of the Westside toured the library and listened to information about our resources and the Summer Reading Program.

During Tuesday Teen Time, on May 12, fifteen teens participated in a Project Worth survey. The survey was part of Project Worth's efforts to promote healthy behaviors among teens. Several teens also volunteered for the Friends of the Memorial Branch annual Oyster Bake parking fundraiser. The fundraiser helps support programming all year round including Teen Time.

MISSION

On April 13, a community meeting was held at the library to discuss building of a YMCA. The information shared included that the facility is being designed by Marmon Mok architects and will consist of 3 phases. The first phase is slated to be completed in 2016 and will be a 15,000 sq. ft. building. It will include a cardio/weight room, a Childwatch space, a teen space, group exercise room, lobby/member services center, and community rooms (meeting spaces). Later phases will include a pool and gymnasium with the entire facility reaching a size of 32,000 sq. ft.

Community members discussed some of their suggestions for the new YMCA, which included walking trails, a café, outdoor basketball courts for youth, saunas, a teaching kitchen, vegetable gardens, a physical rehabilitation/special needs component, and a B-Cycle station.

Funds for the project will include $2.5 million from a city bond and $2.5 million from the YMCA. The city will own the land while the Y leases from the city. Community members also discussed possible partnerships with the Lighthouse for the Blind and Mission Road Development Center.

Ongoing programs at Mission include Cult and Classic movies, Trivia Game night, Chess Club, and an Embroidery & Craft Group. Also this month, AARP held two *eTablet* workshops for Adults on April 17. The classes were well attended.

A STAAR test preparation event for Harlandale students was held on April 18. A class was also held for students taking court ordered classes. The instructional sessions help young men fulfill court mandated directives. The library hosts both students and instructors.

Mission Branch Library was part of the *Big Give SA 2015* itinerary on May 5. Eight Big Give SA participants attended Mission's Adult Table Tennis Program that afternoon. The Adult Table Tennis program continues to be very popular. Regular players have improved their skills and gotten a good workout in the process.

On May 9 Mission had its yearly *Día de la Familia* (family day) event with many fun activities and programs for the entire family. A Friends of the Mission Branch Library book sale was also held on the same day.

As part of Asian Pacific American Heritage celebration Mission library had a tea tasting program for the public on May 10.

Continuing partnerships at Mission Branch Library include Fitness in the Park; yoga and cycle circuit classes, Affordable Care Act enrollment, Familias en Acción, San Antonio Film Community and The Central Texas Drone Users group.

Teen services had a total of 10 programs with 218 in attendance. Teen volunteers were instrumental in facilitating several activities for Mission's Día de la Familia celebration. Teen volunteers painted faces, facilitated video gaming sessions for younger patrons, and created "zombie bites" for the public. In addition to in-house programming, the Teen Librarian visited with students at Brooks Academy for their Career On Wheels day and spoke to 19 different classes for a total of 444 students and staff of the school. A visit to Harlandale's Cultural Arts Festival by the Teen Librarian and Library Aide Cherrie Gonzalez brought a total of 40 visitors to the library's information table. Teen volunteers contributed over 47 hours for the reporting period.

The past month has been a busy one for the Mission Children's Department. Children's programs have seen increasing numbers with the last Baby Time having a record 27 participants, followed by 48 in Toddler Time. Outreach to PreK4SA was well received and Mission was invited to visit on a routine basis starting in the fall. Groups of teachers, parents, and children from the Harlandale grant continue to visit the library for tours and story times. All have been impressed with the beauty of the facility and the programs and resources offered. During these visits the Braille collection has been highlighted and the teachers are excited to learn of the availability of these materials for their sight impaired students. Mission staff also represented the library and spoke at a PTA meeting at Gallardo Elementary School about the upcoming Summer Reading Program.

PAN AMERICAN

The Pan American Branch Library continued to provide the community with quality, educational programs and services. On April 26 and 29, the branch held free college planning sessions where students and parents were given value insight into the college application process. In observance of National Poetry Month, the branch hosted a poetry reading by the Sun Poets Society on April 25. Finally, on May 13 the branch hosted Ms. Melissa Tijerina from the Center for Health Care Services and Dr. Geoff Gentry from the Clarity Child Guidance Center to speak about teen suicide prevention. Attendees were given valuable information on this important, sensitive topic.

In an effort to reconnect with the service area Cindy Pope and Nathaniel Laubner visited the HEB on South Zarzamora on May 9 to talk with shoppers about the Pan American Branch Library. Shoppers were encouraged to sign up for a library card and also told about all the great resources available at the branch. Guests were also given a chance to win a prize by spinning the prize wheel.

On April 25, Children's Services Librarian Carol Collins attended the annual United Way's Kid Festival at Lockwood Park. During the festival, Ms. Collins promoted San Antonio Public Library children's services and programs available at the Pan American Branch. Harlandale school-age

children and their parents continued to visit the branch as part of a literacy initiative developed by the independent school district. Ms. Collins also visited six daycares to hold story times and deliver books.

The San Antonio Public Library Foundation Literacy Van visited the Pan American Branch on Saturday May 16. The van delighted visitors with fun, educational literacy focused activities and games.

To celebrate Fiesta, Teens at Pan American were able to create medals with various trinkets, sequins, glue, ribbons, and pins. The branch also held games for teens such Mexican bingo, Wii video games, board games, and minute to win it.

PARMAN

Parman Branch Library's Do It Yourself University continues to bring adults in for a wide variety of classes. Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow arranged for Fiesta Court Artist Victoria Wasik to offer Fiesta Finery where students learned how to make the appliques used on the trains of Fiesta gowns. A couple of weeks before the class, Ms. Wasik brought in a gown to display in the library. The train of her gown featured the Princess and the Pea. Library Assistant Rebekah Corley taught Screen Painting. Librarian Matt DeWaelsche from the Texana/Genealogy Department brought Preserving Family Treasures to Parman. Library Assistant Robin Alcorta taught Resin Tile Coasters, and Public Services Administrator Cheryl Sheehan taught a two part intuitive Mixed Media Painting class. Library Assistant Christina Hess arranged for Leslie Bingham of the San Antonio Herb Society to offer a class on Basic Culinary Herbs. All of the classes have been well received.

As part of the DIY U series, the San Antonio Cerveceros Home Brew Club hosted an all-day brew at Parman on May 2. The event was held in the amphitheater and had a great turn out. The club showed participants the steps required to brew beer at home and offered samples at the end of the day. Library assistant Christina Hess made the connection with the group and is working with them to host more events.

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance and Circulation Attendant Megan Gilsdorf offered Exploring with Preschoolers, a class to teach parents of preschoolers how to prepare activities and toys at home to help their children actively explore their world and gain more skills that will help them be more literate. A cameraman from KSAT showed up for the event, and Ms. Vance and Ms. Gilsdorf were featured on the evening news. The spring semester continues through the end of May.

Parman Branch Library celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a Lion Dance and Viola performance. Senior Circulation Attendant Megan Stanley has recently started a new book club called YA for Adults. The group will meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

Children at the Molly Pruitt Branch Library have enjoyed a wide variety of activities this past month. They listened to stories about Fiesta and, along with their parents, enjoyed making colorful wreaths

using Styrofoam and small cocktail umbrellas. We celebrated Arbor Day by reading the popular story “The Giving Tree” and then discussed all the benefits provided by trees. Children also constructed their own trees using their handprints and tissue paper. During our Bilingual Kids Time, children celebrated “El Día de los Niños” as they read about and discussed the diversity of cultures locally and globally. They enjoyed listening to and discussing the book “What Does it Mean to be Global?” and participated in a map activity. Other topics included Mother’s Day during which children made and decorated Mother’s Day cards. Our most recent Kids Time was especially popular. Children eagerly listened to the popular title, Going on a Book Hunt, while learning about proper behavior in the library and about using the “5-Finger Rule” when selecting a book. The kids did a great job creating and writing their very own books. They did an awesome job putting them together, using paper bags and illustrating them. They wrote on a variety of topics such as summer, emergency vehicles, and “I Spy” books. All were eager to show off their creations to their teachers the following day at school.

During this month’s SPARK event, “Science Propelling Amor for Reading Kinesthetically,” children learned about planting and caring for a garden. Afterwards, they planted a variety of seeds into biodegradable pots which they were able to take home and plant directly into their yards.

During our monthly “Family Circle Book Club,” tweens and a parent participated in a lively discussion about the Newberry Honor selection, “The One and Only Ivan.” Parents and tweens are delighted to have the opportunity to participate in a “shared” reading. During Tween Times this month kids also had a chance to make Fiesta Wreaths, as well as, take part in a lesson on making fiesta tissue flowers.

Outreach was provided at a neighboring school Story time was provided to a class of 3-year olds and a class of 4-year olds. The children enjoyed listening to a story about the rainforest and made colorful parrot puppets. While there, the librarian also promoted the “Rainforest Adventure” program currently taking place at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. On other dates, the children sang nursery rhymes, listened to stories about Mother’s Day, and made cards to take home to Mom.

A librarian also attended “Family Fun Night at Camelot Elementary” where information on the library services and Summer Reading was handed out to roughly 150 parents and students.

Pruitt Teens have been busy preparing for the end of the school year, but teens still remembered their Moms and created corsages for Mother’s Day (May 10th). They gave corsages to mom, grandma, or that special person they considered “Mom.”

The Isshoni Anime Society hosted an Asian Tea Tasting and Asian Goody Feast. The teens enjoyed jasmine and green tea while snacking on Pocky, green tea and red bean mochi, gel fruits, sesame candy, shrimp chips, and preserved plum candy as they watched Cowboy Bebop.

The teens also participated in the National Day to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy presented by Healthy Futures of Texas on May 6th, but also on May 11th since this zip code is 2-3 times the national teen pregnancy rate. They presented the material in a fun Jeopardy-style game and the librarians popped popcorn to help make the topic more accessible and teen friendly.

Pruitt adults have enjoyed many great programs this month. The branch hosted the Rack & File Chess Tournament on Sunday, May 3. Thirty-six patrons competed in one of four divisions, Children’s Novice, Children’s Experienced, Teen, and Adult. Winners took home a trophy and a $50

bill. Pruitt hosts three tournaments per year and patrons look forward to the competition. On May 10, the branch hosted a tea tasting event for Asian Pacific Heritage Month. Thirty-nine patrons enjoyed different types of tea and received a nice corsage for their mothers. Some of the flavors were chai, golden oolong, chamomile, and green tea. Patrons especially enjoyed the chai. Zumba continues to be a popular event. Several participants attend each Tuesday and have formed friendships outside of the class.

SAN PEDRO

Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presented monthly story times to children at Educare Child Care Center (two classes), Study Hall Learning Center (two classes), and Monte Vista Montessori (two classes). Fifteen books were also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month. She also presented a monthly story time to two groups of children (each group was a combination of two classes) at Respite Care, a child care facility for developmentally disabled children. Books were left for each of five classes. In addition, she presented a special weekly story time at the library for some of the children who live at Respite Care's shelter facility.

On May 6, a group of children enjoyed creating with LEGOs on LEGO Day at the Library. After discussing Cinco de Mayo with the children, Ms. Dalton challenged them to build something related to Mexico and Cinco de Mayo. The children really rose to the challenge; there was a piñata, a battle scene between the French and Mexicans, and Mexican flags.

Children enjoyed Come and Go Crafts during National Library Week in mid-April. On one afternoon, Ms. Dalton read The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle and then the children made hungry caterpillars munching on a leaf.

Ms. Dalton presents a weekly Kids Time for Kindergarten through 5th grade students. Often the program was held outdoors in the park to enjoy the fine spring weather!

During this period, Ms. Dalton facilitated monthly books discussions at Monte Vista Montessori (4th) and Hawthorne Academy (4th and 5th grades) book clubs. The book clubs have 12-13 members each. The book clubs meet during the students' lunch period in the school library where the books read the previous month are discussed. In addition, Ms. Dalton also facilitated the Great Hearts 4th grade book club which meets monthly at the library. This month's selection was The Homework Machine, which provided the impetus for a lively discussion on cheating, integrity, and popularity.

Monte Vista Montessori brings approximately 25 students once a month to the library. These students range in age from seven to eleven, grades 1 through 4. When the class comes to the library, the Children's Librarian 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.

Ms. Dalton, along with Viki Ash, recently prepared the Summer Learning - Science Lib Guide for the Kids Page for the Summer Reading Program.

San Pedro Branch Library hosted two events for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: Violins and Vocals on May 2 and Classical Indian Dance on May 16. The Violins and Vocals program was

enjoyed by an audience of 21. The Classical Indian Dance was excellent and a huge success. San Pedro Branch Library had 63 people in attendance. The two young dancers were amazing in their dancing presentations. All of our patrons really enjoyed this program and some stopped to talk to the presenters after the program.

The Central Library was closed on Friday, May 15. San Pedro Branch Library welcomed users from that location throughout the day. Branch Manager Diane Backhus partnered with Diana Morganti, Martha Loewen, David Sanchez, and James Laferla to be sure staffing and enough computer sessions were available throughout the day. Branch staff Wilson Plunkett, Carmen Roja, James Sontag, Greg Cruz, and Selrico custodian Joseph Clark kept everything running smoothly and efficiently.

SEMMES

The Semmes Branch Library hosted early voting from April 22 through May 5. Staff welcomed a new early voting crew, the group that had been running early voting at this location since the branch opened in 2005, retired after the last election. Voter turnout was fairly high; this location was in the top five busiest early voting locations. Semmes will also be hosting early voting for the run-off Mayoral election in early June.

Children's Librarian II Randi Jones attended the monthly outreach book group at the Waterford Senior Living Apartments. The group had a lively discussion about "Saving Ceecee Honeycutt" by Beth Hoffman.

Children's Librarian I Shannon Seglin had a good group for Tween Time on May 6. The Tweens used the K'Nex building sets that were purchased by the Semmes Friends to build race cars. They then took turns racing their vehicles and tweaking them between races to improve their performance. Everyone in attendance had a great time.

Semmes employees welcomed a new staff member, Mary Pena. Mary is the new part-time Circulation Attendant for the branch. She previously worked at Brook Hollow as a Library Aide. She is replacing Alex Briseno, who was promoted to Full-Time Circulation Attendant at the new Encino Branch Library.

THOUSAND OAKS

Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser attended the display training on April 22 and found it to be a worthwhile experience, especially since Thousand Oaks Friends group recently purchased a display table (shaped like a tree!) for the children's area.

A number of fun children's events have occurred in the past month. To celebrate National Library week in April, children visiting the library could participate in a Come and Go Craft where they could make a bluebonnet or a wildflower craft to celebrate the beautiful Texas spring! Story Time and Toddler Time participants had a lot of fun with themes such as birds, butterflies, trains, frogs and bugs! Thousand Oaks had a symphony program on April 25 and Laura Scalzo, a violinist, played music and introduced parents and kids to the violin. Lego Time took place May 7, and more than 20 kids came to build!

Teens at Thousand Oaks enjoyed a night of board games and created their own zines during the month of April. In May, the Teens had fun making pancake art with colored pancake batter and banana boats in the toaster oven purchased for them by the Thousand Oaks Friends Group. The branch is excited about the upcoming creation of a Teen Space at the branch and the staff is looking forward to the opportunities for programming it will create.

The Thursday Afternoon Book Club met on April 16th to discuss the book, “The Romanov Sisters: the lost lives of the daughters of Nicholas and Alexandra.” Circulation Attendant Brenda Ramos led a spirited discussion about what they could’ve possibly done to avoid such a horrible fate. Overall, the book group enjoyed the book and found it refreshing to read a non-fiction title for a change.

Vital Record sales numbers continue on a steady climb as summer is approaching and parents and caretakers are gathering up documents to register children for summer sports and the upcoming school year.

The branch was a voting date site on Election Day, May 7th. The staff enjoyed seeing democracy in action and playing an important role in a civically engaged community.

The Thousand Oaks Friends group had a lunch for the library staff on April 22. The staff feasted on delicious baked potatoes and sides!

TOBIN AT OAKWELL

Tobin Branch Library hosted Early Voting for City Elections this period with very good turn-out, particularly on Election Day. Manager Tracey Knouse hosted a popular Tea Tasting event on May 16 as part of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. 38 attendees sampled multiple tea types and tried additions of fresh lemon, mint, raw sugar and milk.

Shannon Seglin, Children’s Librarian from Semmes branch, has continued with large numbers of toddlers coming on Wednesday mornings for her program. Reference staff enjoys creating Come and Go crafts for Saturday’s, where families are regularly returning for this all day activity. The branch has been hosting and arranging multiple school group visits. St. Peter Catholic School’s 5th and 6th graders came for a tour, learned how to look up items in the catalog and utilize the Live Chat Homework Help database on April 13.

Mission’s Teen Librarian Cynthia Cruz and Central’s Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo have been helping with Teen Time. Star Wars crafts, electric guitars and gaming have been some of the popular activities. Library Assistant Terry Verner is planning and hosting senior outreach each month at the City of San Antonio’s Northeast Center. Seniors still love to play trivia time for sugar free candy. Library Assistant Elvia Ramos plans and hosts a bilingual outreach at Stonebrook Manor each month with seniors and a similar trivia program.

The branch employees are particularly grateful and appreciative of the new lockers the Tobin Friends at Oakwell purchased. Thanks to the library’s maintenance department’s timely assembly, personnel and volunteers have a convenient and larger space to accommodate personal items. Kids and parents also are thrilled with the new board book case in the Juvenile area which accommodates passive programming with blocks and dominoes in colorful containers on the bottom shelf.

WESTFALL

The staff of Westfall Branch Library organized a talk by former Ambassador to the United Nations Sichan Siv. The Ambassador escaped from the killing fields of Cambodia in 1976 and arrived in the United States with an empty bag of rice, $2 and his mother's scarf. Ambassador Siv is the author of *"Golden Bones: An Extraordinary Journey from Hell in Cambodia to a New Life in America,"* and a regular patron at Westfall. The event was held at Central Library's Auditorium as part of the library's observance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

District 1 Councilman Roberto Treviño and his staff hosted Star Wars-related activities for "May the Fourth Be With You." Westfall had several displays of Star Wars books. Treviño, dressed as Hans Solo, and other members of his staff stopped by the library to read. Library staff also put out a craft so that children could make either Yoda ears or Princess Leia hair buns.

Children's Librarian Imelda Merino received a SAPL Staff Recognition award for outstanding customer service. Director Ramiro Salazar came out to the branch to present Miss Merino with a certificate and pin.

Miss Merino also visited Franklin Elementary School twice and met with approximately 100 people to discuss Summer Reading Program.

Westfall hosted the final of four Learn at SAPL Job Fairs on May 13. Employers included Primerica Financial Services, Remedy Intelligent Staffing, Venturepath, Mi Terra Café, Malone Solutions, Xclusive Staffing, Firstmark Credit Union, Costa Solutions, Burger King, Excel, Childcare Careers and the City of San Antonio. Those attending also could learn about Job Seeking Do's and Don't's; How to Answer the Background Question on an Employment Application and Interview, and; Resume Writing and Job Interview Workshop.

Librarian I Karen Sagun, who is a member of the Jobs and Small Businesses Committee, assisted with the Expo at Central Library on May 4 and gave tours of Central Library.

Karen, who also serves as Westfall's teen liaison, has organized Teen Advisory group to assist in developing and presenting teen programs this summer.

Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin is serving on the Workforce and Economic Development Strategic Plan Subcommittee that will recommend the library's focus in this area for the next two years.

PERFOMANCE MEASURES

San Antonio Public Library
Fiscal Year-to-Date Comparisons
Apr 2015 (58.3% of FY Completed)

Performance Measures	FYTD 15	FYTD 14	% Chg	FY 15 Goal	% of Goal Achieved	FY 15 Status
Total Circulation	4,035,119	3,991,698	1.1%	7,313,500	55.2%	✓
- Physical Circulation	3,523,165	3,653,165	-3.6%	6,471,500	54.4%	✓
- Digital Circulation	511,954	338,533	51.2%	842,000	60.8%	✓
Visits	3,021,749	3,020,582	0.0%	5,390,000	56.1%	✓
Program Attendance	178,257	165,215	7.9%	302,450	58.9%	✓
- Adult's Program Attendance	27,736	24,667	12.4%	39,000	71.1%	✓
- Teen's Program Attendance	28,462	24,916	14.2%	43,450	65.5%	✓
- Children's Program Attendance	122,059	115,632	5.6%	219,000	55.7%	✓
Hours of Computer/Wi-Fi Use	1,336,150	1,206,466	10.7%	2,202,000	60.7%	✓
Website Visits	1,897,151	2,073,341	-8.5%	3,400,000	55.8%	✓

Bexar County (Outside the City of San Antonio)			Customer Satisfaction*	
% of Circulation	FYTD 15	FYTD 14	2014	2012
Total Circulation	19.3%	18.8%	96%	94%
- Physical Circulation	18.4%	18.3%		
- Digital Circulation	25.5%	24.3%		

Goal Status ✓ = On Target ◆ = Monitor ⊖ = Not on Target

FYTD 15 Renovations/Closures:

FY 14 Renovation/Closures: Cortez Jun 9-29, Westfall Jul 28-Aug 3, Tobin Aug 4-31, Carver Sep 2-28

* From the Biennial City of San Antonio Community Survey

05/22/2015

San Antonio Public Library
April 2015 Usage

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Total Programs	Number of Programs Adult	Number of Programs Teen	Number of Programs Children's	Total Program Attendance	Attendance Adult Programs	Attendance Teen Programs	Attendance Children's Programs	Hours of Computer / Wi-Fi Use	Computers - Hours of Use	Wi-Fi - Hours of Use
Bazan	4,781	10,872	42.0	18	4	20	997	618	241	138	6,103	1,835	4,268
Brook Hollow	28,622	20,250	45.0	10	3	32	1,296	85	16	1,195	5,328	1,396	3,932
Carver	5,324	9,876	56.0	16	16	24	694	143	143	408	5,209	2,120	3,090
Central	27,584	68,029	239.8	23	98	119	6,223	1,474	1,604	3,145	46,030	14,474	31,556
Cody	35,417	24,190	48.0	8	4	36	1,520	81	55	1,384	7,015	1,599	5,416
Collins Garden	5,419	9,216	30.0	5	0	25	307	26	0	281	4,190	1,436	2,754
Cortez	6,381	7,706	121.0	79	5	37	978	227	64	687	4,501	1,827	2,674
Encino*	483	996	2.0	2	0	0	88	88	0	0	595	16	580
Forest Hills	7,726	8,292	43.3	14	2	27	541	109	27	405	4,299	1,179	3,120
Great Northwest	29,590	19,742	35.0	9	7	19	1,444	135	136	1,173	6,265	1,855	4,411
Guerra	12,602	15,219	46.0	7	6	33	960	94	139	727	6,283	2,014	4,269
Igo	26,947	21,417	69.0	17	10	42	2,366	272	200	1,894	5,339	1,442	3,897
Johnston	10,127	11,421	32.0	4	4	24	606	89	45	472	6,630	1,404	5,226
Landa	11,409	10,861	43.0	12	11	20	936	144	72	720	2,206	926	1,280
Las Palmas	5,738	11,556	43.0	3	5	35	485	36	17	432	5,293	1,820	3,473
Maverick	25,838	14,822	31.0	5	8	18	715	48	33	634	6,414	2,081	4,333
McCreless	12,729	15,254	26.0	4	5	17	451	97	53	301	5,593	1,888	3,705
Memorial	6,273	10,285	30.0	12	3	15	287	102	25	160	5,305	1,717	3,588
Mission	11,365	20,158	58.5	22	9	28	985	165	183	637	9,242	3,016	6,227
Pan American	6,505	9,462	52.5	17	4	32	566	199	4	363	5,098	2,071	3,027
Parman	33,547	24,472	84.3	27	5	52	2,383	250	76	2,057	5,023	878	4,145
Pruitt	6,551	13,524	60.0	15	20	25	1,154	291	355	508	5,802	1,256	4,546
San Pedro	4,297	6,482	32.0	5	0	27	299	8	0	291	2,258	653	1,605
Semmes	25,607	21,409	55.8	3	6	47	1,363	15	22	1,326	6,513	2,487	4,026
Thousand Oaks	11,605	12,302	34.0	7	5	22	407	12	37	358	5,166	1,259	3,908
Tobin	17,333	9,784	25.0	6	8	11	577	63	212	302	5,331	1,801	3,531
Westfall	16,787	15,587	46.0	34	0	12	259	135	0	124	6,979	2,344	4,635
Library Portal	N/A	1,474	0.0	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	463	N/A	463
Interlibrary Loan Lending	909	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Online/Phone Renewal	82,185	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital	79,393	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	**559,074**	**424,658**	**1,430**	**384**	**248**	**798**	**28,887**	**5,006**	**3,759**	**20,122**	**184,476**	**56,794**	**127,682**

Circulation includes Digital (Freegal, OneClick, Overdrive, Hoopla) and NEISD materials to SAPL patrons at Pruitt
* Encino opened April 30,2015

05/22/2015

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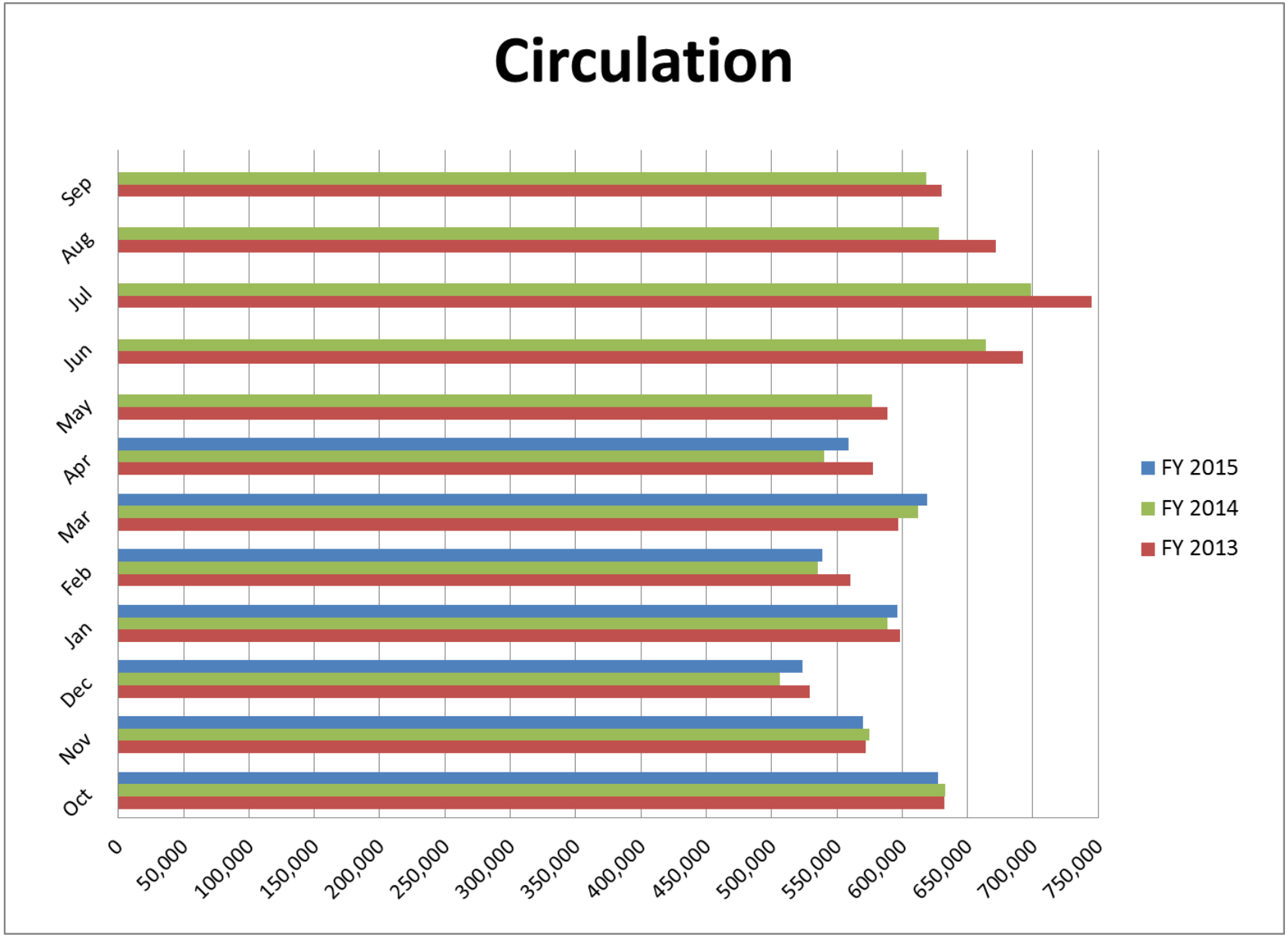

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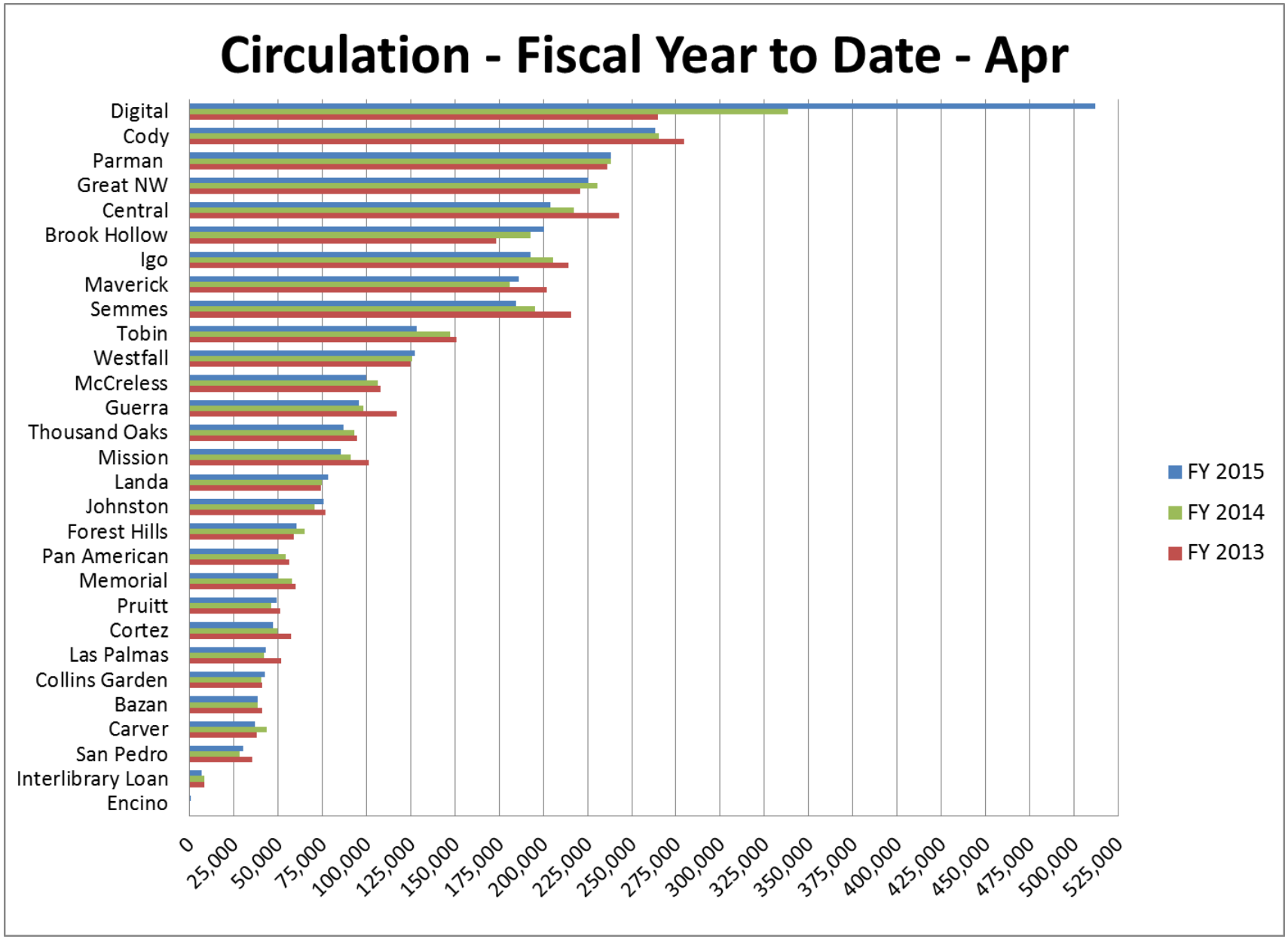

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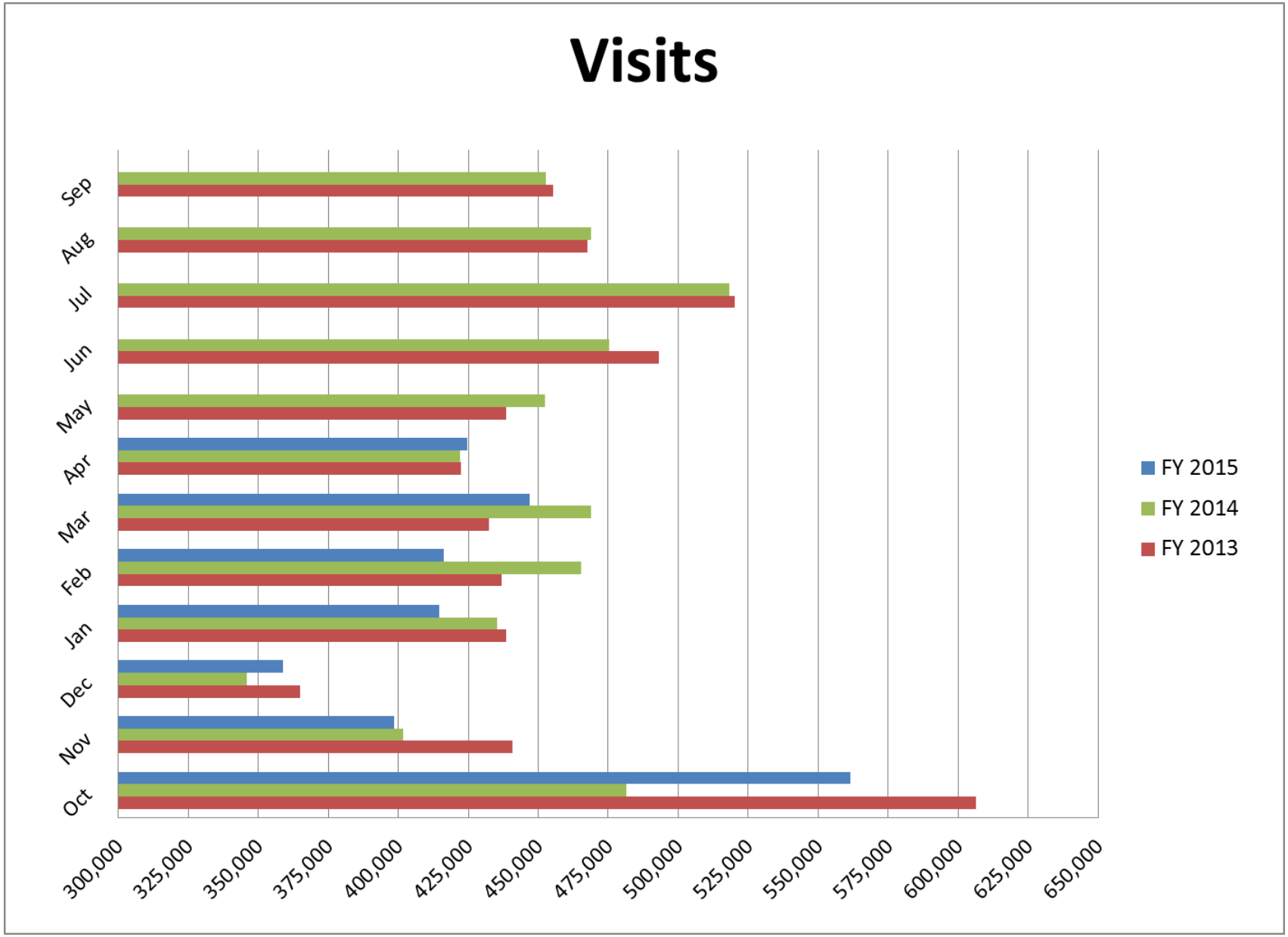

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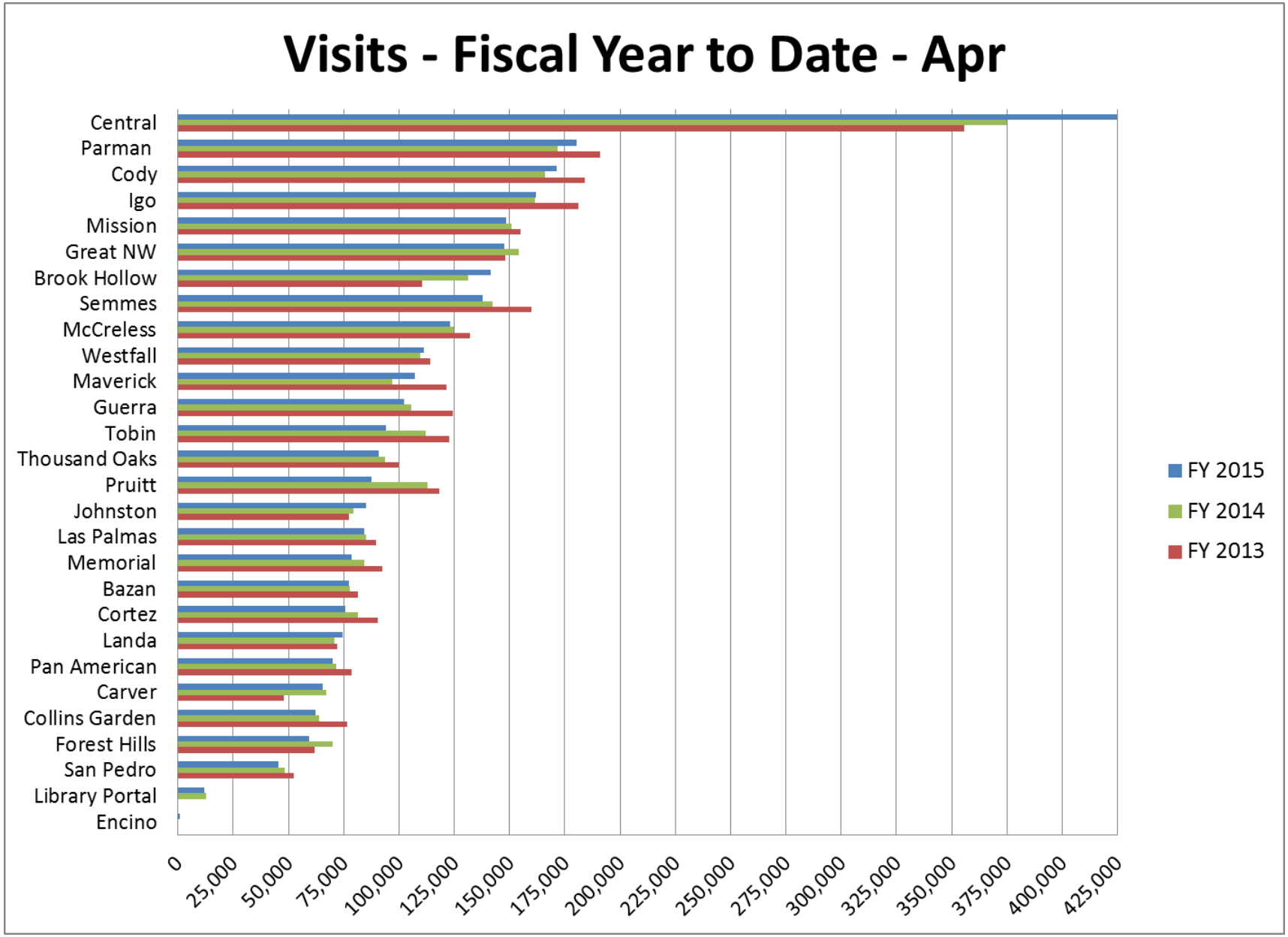

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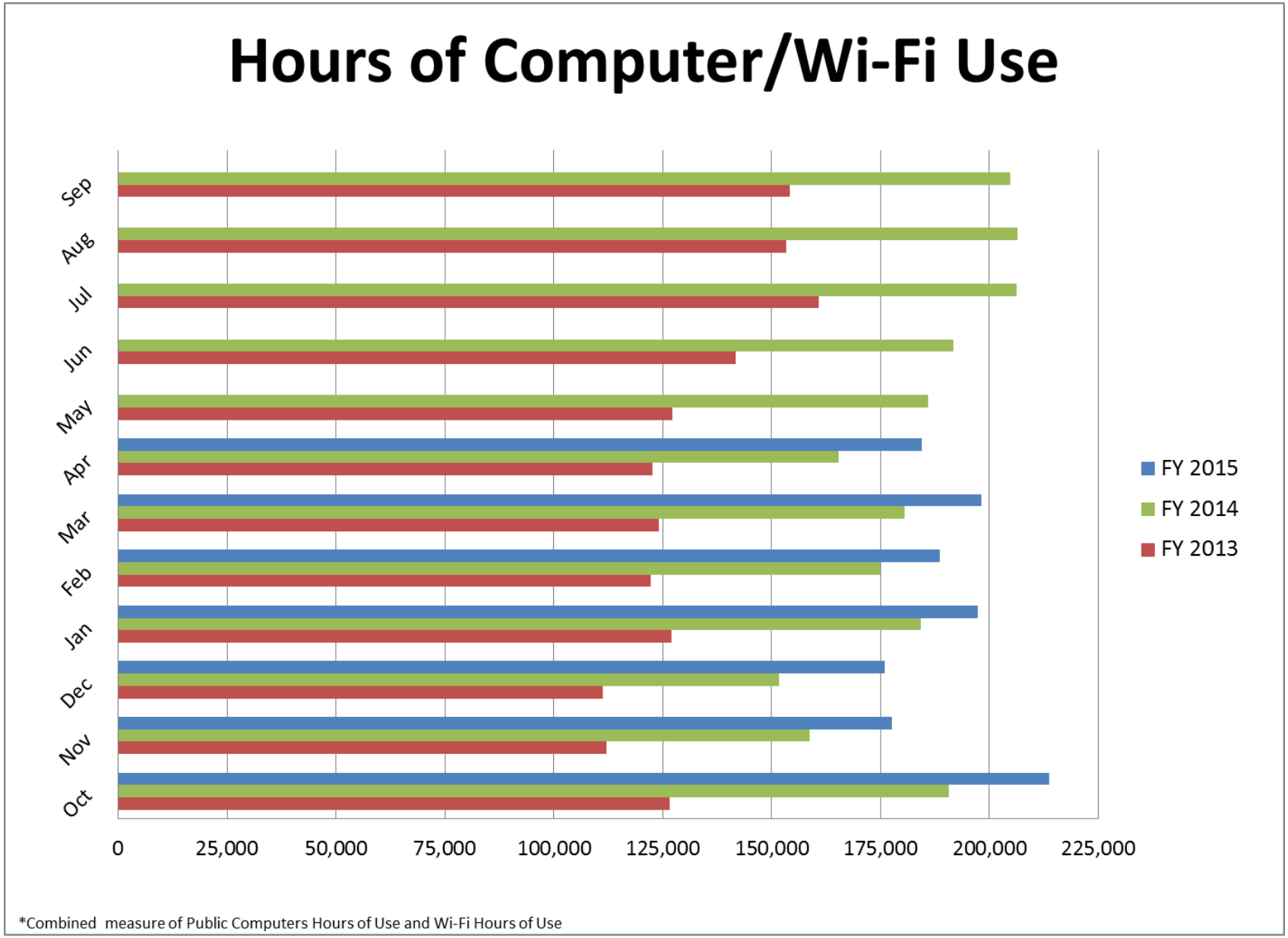

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