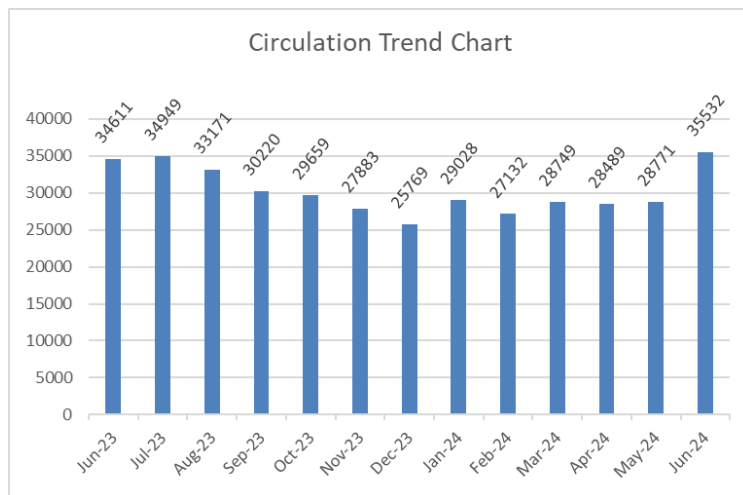


Mammen Family Public Library

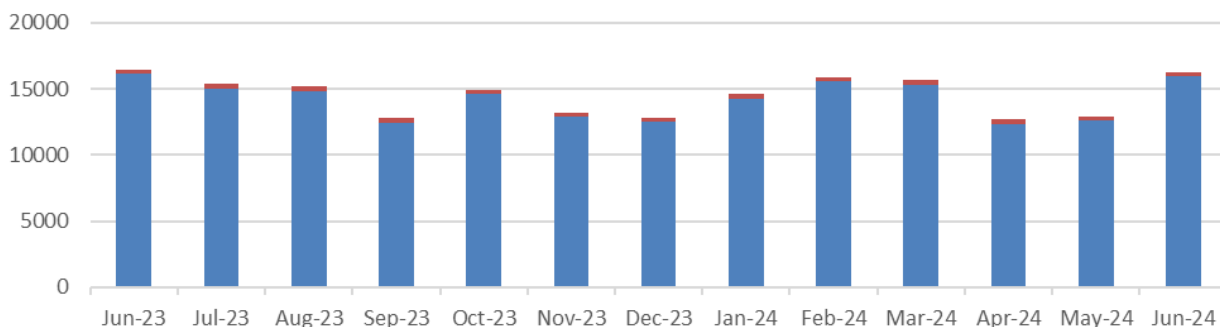
Monthly Report – June 2024 Activities

Circulation Team Report

- Number of visitors to the library: 16,285
- Total items circulated: 35,532
- New cards issued: 462
- Number of active members: 9,758
- Total volunteers: 127
- Total volunteer hours: 875
- Patron internet use: 1,808
- Collection size: 65,177

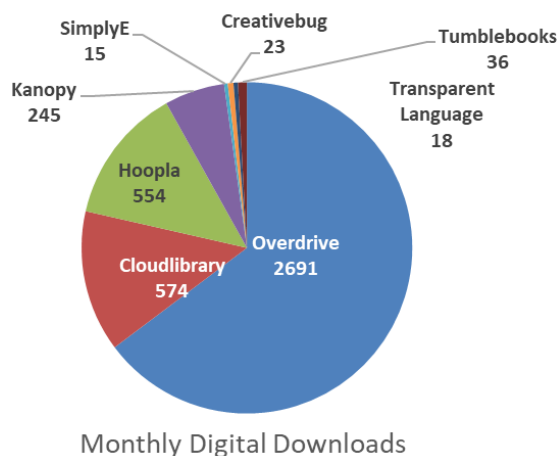
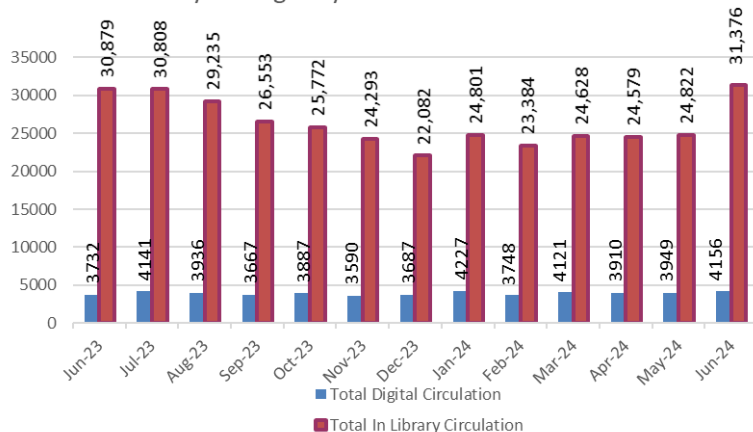


Library visits: Door count and drive up window



	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
Drive Thru	343	413	363	337	293	292	282	361	345	341	383	258	326
Door Count	16119	15011	14798	12442	14578	12890	12509	14217	15527	15303	12348	12627	15959

In-Library vs. Digitally Downloaded Materials circulation



Programming, Outreach and Community Collaboration

Adult Programs (Hannah Johnson & Hanna Stratton)

The Summer Library Program is in full swing! As of the end of June, we had a total of 330 adults registered for the Summer Library Program on Beanstack, which means we have already surpassed the number of adults who participated last year! In 2023 we had a total of 308 registered adults by the end of summer. Of the adults we so far have registered for this year's summer program, 152 adults had logged books, 61 had logged attendance at programs, and a total of 343 prizes were redeemed by the end of June.

During the month, we worked on continued planning for the Fireside Chat with the World Affairs Council of San Antonio on July 13th, Library Mini-Golf adult event on August 3rd, the rescheduled Aging Well Resource Fair on August 7th, and the Literary Festival in March 2025.

Program Highlights



At the start of June, we were excited to welcome back Drs. Steven Grainger and Larry Sunn, from Rain Bees, for the weekly Water Conservation Series. Last year, we hosted this series as a 10-week course, and due to high demand we brought back the series this year and have expanded it to twelve weeks! We are very appreciative of Drs. Sunn and Grainger, along with their guest speakers, for volunteering their time and expertise each Monday for this

program. We have received an outpouring of interest in this program (including a *Herald-Zietung* article), which has so far received anywhere from 41 to 54 attendees each week.

This month we also had two successful jigsaw puzzle programs! During the Summer Library Program kick-off, we offered a jigsaw puzzle swap, which had 31 attendees. Later in the month, we hosted our very first jigsaw puzzle competition! We had five teams competing to see who could finish a 300-piece puzzle the fastest. It was a fun group of competitors, and a great way to spend a Saturday morning! We hope to offer another competition in the fall, and another jigsaw puzzle swap in December.



In mid-June we offered a Tie-Dye Tote Bag program to give adults a chance to try their hand at tie-dyeing techniques. While we had a very successful start to the event, mid-way through the program a huge rain storm hit! It made for a memorable program, as that was the first time that our current adult programs team had ever been caught in a storm mid-program. While we had to cancel the remaining portion of the program, we were able to offer the program a second time in June to give a chance for those who didn't make it the first time to come back out to tie-dye a tote bag. We were impressed by the variety of tote bag designs and the attendees' creativity!



Duffy Hudson made a return to our library toward the end of the month, performing as Nikola Tesla, the Master of Lightning. In addition, we had a healthy smoothie-making class featuring a bicycle-powered blender courtesy of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Methodist Health Ministries, the return of the Great Decisions series featuring virtual author talks, our always-popular art classes, a special five-part book club for our intermediate English

Language Learners, and a full Beginning Mahjong class with Martina (we had to schedule a second class in July to accommodate the waitlist!). It was a busy and exciting month here at the library!



Outreach (Stephanie Emerson)

June marked a significant step into summer and the successful completion of the Special Projects Grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (grant # LS253655-OLS-23), awarded by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. This grant spurred a year of growth for Outreach beginning in July 2023, allowing us to keep pace with our rapidly growing library district and bringing impactful changes that benefit all ages in our community. We have

enhanced and expanded almost every Outreach program with grant-funded tools and materials that will ensure their long-term sustainability.

One notable improvement was the launch of the Outreach large print book collection and the addition of five electronic reading devices. These resources have greatly benefited our assisted living, senior living, and homebound patrons by expanding their access to literary content in readable formats. Additionally, the creation of memory care kits has provided valuable resources for caregivers and family members, with usage expected to grow as we continue to update their content.

Our youth outreach has also seen significant improvements with programs at SJRC, Sanctuary of Hope, the Pop-up Library @ the Park, Share Center, and various Comal ISD schools. The grant purchases have enriched our program offerings, providing educational, engaging, and developmental materials, tools, and equipment as part of our outreach efforts.

Furthermore, several grant purchases have been utilized across all programs, adding to their overall benefit. Items such as the Gorilla cart, prize wheel, sensory toys, outdoor rug, magnetic sandwich board, outdoor chairs, and various other elements purchased with one initial focus in mind have enhanced the effectiveness and reach of all our programs.

For the month, Outreach served a total of 517 community members through various programs and events, contributing to a total reach of 3,563 individuals over the past 12 months.

BOOK CLUB: Books & Bites this month read *Listen to Me* by Tess Gerritsen. Everyone that attended had nothing but rave reviews. The book had quite a few characters to keep up with but in an interesting way that all came together at the end. Overall consensus is that it was very well written. It seemed to have something for everyone, and one person commented that it was full of some great life lessons. We had black & white cookies to enjoy while we discussed solving the many mysteries within this read.

ART SPOTLIGHT HALLWAY: The June spotlight was focused on the mixed media collage art students here at MFPL. Patrons were able to enjoy a uniquely creative mixture of subject and method.

SENIOR OUTREACH:

The Homebound Delivery Program currently has 5 patrons on our route. In June, we delivered 12 books in total.



At Bulverde Assisted Living (BAL), 16 books and 2 Kindle Paperwhites were checked out between 5 residents, while the large print borrowing bookshelf continues to be utilized regularly and we continue to rotate selections. We also continue to rotate 300 piece puzzles and delivery donated magazines.

Lobby stops at the Highlander Senior Village resulted in 19 books and 2 Kindle Paperwhites checked out.

YOUTH OUTREACH:

We held our eighth Life Skills class at SJRC as they slide into summer and non-school activities. We had 8 teens and 5 adults present as we showed them how to make a fantastic guacamole dish without a recipe. The focus was on which ingredients and why, how to wash and prep, taste test and perfect. We brought all the ingredients needed to make and enjoy this quick and healthy snack. Huge thank you to the IMLS Out and About Grant that provided all the supplies for this effort!



MFPL was invited to be part of the Comal ISD summer school programming this month. Outreach provided 3 storytime and craft visits to the Bilingual/ESL program at Johnson Ranch Elementary School. These are Kindergarten and 1st grade kiddos. Javier selected books based on their units

of study each week and the craft was a coordinating theme. The children were very excited about books and learning about the library. We hope to see many of them with their families in the near future!



SHARE Center families have been attending in library storytime this month. This provided them the opportunity to see everything that we have to offer for all ages and see the great efforts made at the library during the summer.

Pop-up Library in the park was the 2nd Friday of June. It was heating up so we went armed with ice pops. We had a few children stop by for the craft, chased a few bubbles and took a few stickers but no takers on a story. In all fairness, all the kiddos were heading for the splashpad!

The last of three Movie in the Park events happened on the second Friday of June. The movie selection was Toy Store 4 and the evening weather was surprisingly nice for this time of year. It was a great turnout at about 300 people. Huge thank you to Chief Haecker for bringing it all together year after year!

Sanctuary of Hope baby and toddler storytimes had 4 babies and 3 kiddos attended toddler time. For this visit, we brought the bilingual board book "A Color of His Own / Su propio color". Montana read the English and the moms volunteered to read the Spanish. We also brought the

touch and feel cloth crinkle soft books and egg shakers for the babies. For the toddlers, we brought the new play & explore color-changing light center with crystal colored acrylic cubes and alphabet manipulatives, and the egg shakers were used as well. Egg shakers are loved by all! As always, there were great books read aloud by Montana and songs they love and request. *Thanks to the IMLS Grant purchases, we have the tools to encourage free play development, storytime content through bilingual board books, and the means to get it all there and back easily!*

OUTREACH COLLECTIONS:

- The giveaway collections, consisting children's books and a few bilingual books in Spanish, continue to reach the community at both Provisions Food Bank, the SHARE Center, Helping Hands Food Bank and Acacia Medical Mission.
- The Large Print Trekker Collection, made possible by the IMLS Out and About Grant, continues to expand and circulate. In June, we held our count at 226 large print books available to circulate amongst the various stops for large print users and placed 11 new large print books on order.
- The addition of the 5 Kindle Paperwhite devices last month for use by Outreach patrons has been a huge success in June. As of the end of June, there are 176 digital books available on the Paperwhites. There were 3 checked out for the entire month and two others for a regular two week period.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES / BOOKCASES:

- Books by the Bundle program has 3 patrons signed up and 1 that is a regular monthly user.
- Little Free Library and bookcase restocking is still lower than this time last year. The book placement numbers were **165** books for the month. There is a welcome trend at one or two locations that indicates more people are also leaving books and not simply taking them.

Makerspace (Lindy Hargrave, Marc Dunlap)

CERAMICS - the 'Ceramics for your Garden' classes went really well, the patrons had fun and expressed an interest in future classes. We were able to fire all of their creations in one go, and while there was a singular casualty, the majority of their pieces made it out with little to no defects! The lecture classes also had high attendance and seemed to be received well. While our 'bring your own ceramics to fire' program didn't have any patrons taking advantage of our kiln... we think it was due to a bit of miscommunication coupled with it being a 'new thing'. We plan to have firing days every other month in the future.

ENGRAVING - the Nameplate & Bring Your Own Wood to Engrave Drop-in programs were a lot of fun, and we made good use of the Zing Laser Engraver! The patrons that came were super excited to see the machine in action and were very impressed with its capability to engrave at such a high detail in less than 5 minutes a piece. We continue to make more and more strides at mastering the Zing and are excited to plan future programs around its capabilities.

FILM FESTIVAL! – We had a blast compiling films for our animated short film festival and a decent turn-out for another new event. We were granted permissions from Blender Studios and Brickfilms.com to showcase their work. We also compiled films from an adult Blender class and a homeschool group of 3rd-5th graders working with stop motion equipment. The best part of the festival however was two entries by a couple of super talented and creative teen patrons! In

fact, one—a 13 year old—will help the Makerspace teach more Blender programs. Very cool. Stop by if you want to see the films!

IN OTHER NEWS – We had a patron use an Explore the Makerspace session to cut a small home-made piece of carbon fiber on the CNC router and 3D print a few parts for a built-from-scratch rocket. Our sublimation drop-ins were threatened by a recently defiant and soon to be “Office Space’d” sublimation printer, but we prevailed with leftover prints and will find a suitable replacement/upgrade. And, as we adjust to the departure of our friend Sam, we've been fortunate to make some connections in the greater community that will keep us on track to offer more technical programs with our electronics kits and rendering programs. We also thank you for your continued support, patience and help with our programming.



Youth Services (Montana Rindahl, Javier Gonzalez, Briana Gonzalez)

Our Summer Library Program is off to a running start! We had over 500 people attend our SLP Kickoff Party, complete with crafts, t-shirt pickup, and sno-cones! We couldn't have done it without the help of our Adult and Teen Volunteers that day!

Teens

For the summer, we brought back our Teen Tuesday program where each week we switch it up doing a variety of crafts and activities. In June, the teens decorated the teen room window, tackled a scavenger hunt and designed their own tote bags! We are starting to get a pretty



consistent group of 10-15 teens every week, which is awesome!

Every Thursday we are rotating between Anime Club and Movie Night for teens!

We even had a few teens dress up in cosplay for anime club, and they had a blast hanging out with their peers who also share their love of anime!

June also marked the beginning of our Summer Teen Volunteer Program! We currently have a total of 46 teens participating in the volunteer program. The teens get to sign up for shifts each week to either help us with a program or help man what we are calling the



beanstack table. Their job at the table is to distribute summer reading book prizes to patrons. All of our volunteers have been a huge help so far this summer, and we are so lucky to have them!

Children's

Our big June events included a tie-dye day, a Foam Party with Big Time Bubbles, and an inflatable Starlab Planetarium (on loan from Houston Public Library).

Weekly events include Monday's Crafternoon, Tuesday and Thursday Storytimes and Book Clubs, and Friday's Tween Club.

In Tuesday's Lunch Bunch Read-Aloud Book Club, Montana is reading *The Wild Robot* out loud while kids enjoy a picnic lunch in the library. We are halfway through the book now and are excited to finish it in July!

In Thursday's Beginner Book Club, we are traveling around the world through picture books! We learned about common North American birds and read *Paddle Perch Climb: Bird Feet are Neat* and explored the Texas Wildlife Association's "Bird Adaptations" trunk together. We learned about Italy, read *Strega Nona*, and created our own pasta art. Lastly, we learned about Japan, read *Kiki Kicks*, and had a fun mini-class with Trinity Karate Dojo!





For Tween Club, we partnered with the Bulverde/Spring Branch VFW Auxiliary to host a special Flag Day program for the tweens. They even brought out the Smithson Valley High School ROTC to help teach the kids how to properly fold an American flag and they ended the program with a flag raising ceremony.

Later in the month, we had Ms. Suzie host an art class with the tweens where they made mod podge lanterns!



Collections Reports

Adults (Kristin): We loaned 11 items to and borrowed 93 items from other libraries in the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) system. I proctored 1 exam in June. We worked one-on-one with 7 members to teach them how to use our electronic resources. In June the music CD collection was weeded and Texana was inventoried.

Teens (Montana & Javi): We fulfilled four purchase requests for YA material and sent one recommended reading list for YA material in June.

Children (Montana & Javi): We fulfilled 26 purchase requests for children's material and sent one recommended reading list in June.

We deleted 465 items for the following reasons:

- Weeded – 375 items
- Vanished – 40 items (due to inventory)
- Lost and unpaid for – 10 items (sent to collections)
- Lost and paid for – 34 items

Marketing & Public Relations (Hannah Johnson & Hanna Stratton)

In June we added a new social website to where we are sharing events. The library now has an official group on Meetup where we are sharing events to raise awareness of the free programs we offer to people who may be unaware.

We have also noticed the Herald-Zeitung's increased interest in the Bulverde Spring Branch area as they posted two articles about library programs this month! They shared an article featuring our Water Conservation Series for adults, and shared photos from the Foam Party for kids. The Foam Party article even made its way onto the front page of the newspaper!

E-Newsletter:

This month Mailchimp informed us that some email services had updated their security requirements and to ensure our emails went to inboxes and not the spam folder we had to verify

information. Rob was able to quickly help us verify the needed information. Before this verification we noticed a slight decline in the open rate of emails, after the verification our open rate has returned to its consistent percentage range.

Wowbrary:

We have been working with Kristin to promote CloudLibrary items when she purchases them, and one of the ways we attempted to promote them was through Wowbrary. We noticed the CloudLibrary items were not appearing in the Wowbrary newsletters as they should have been. I spoke with Thomas at Wowbrary and we discovered CloudLibrary items have an unusual ISBN number and that was affecting them not being pulled into the Wowbrary report as they should have been. He told me they were going to work on a more permanent solution to this issue but in the meantime, he recommended we create a news item in the newsletter to mention CloudLibrary as we would for upcoming closures or special events.

Book Displays:

Our monthly book display this month was Adventure to compliment the start of the Summer Library Program in June. The books flew off all displays in June! We were constantly having to replace missing books. Books not only flew off the Adventure display but also the staff picks display, the L3 display, and Broaden Your shelf.

Our Facebook and Instagram pages have continued to grow and reach new people. In June our followers increased by 21.4% and 31.3% on Facebook and Instagram. Between both pages we reached over 8,000 people in June. Our most popular post on Facebook and Instagram was a post celebrating all we were able to add and accomplish with the Outreach grant in the last year. It received 37 likes on Instagram, and 29 likes, 4 comments, and 3 shares on Facebook.



Print Materials:

The memorial paver order form brochure was updated and ordered from Thompson Printing this month. We updated it to be a bifold to open to a form that will hopefully be easy to fill out. We also updated the pricing on it and added Space Force as a military branch option. These have already been received and are available at the front desk.

Technology (Rob Lerner & Marc Dunlap)

Marc: Though we do keep resetting the Public Computers individually to fix these issues, both the headset audio issue as well as the USB readability continue to pop-up from time to time. However it is not a great concern as very few patrons are actually impacted.

One-on-One Tech-Help highlights: Staying more flexible for patrons, and keeping on top of the 'waitlist' on the calendar has really proved fruitful. Many times people will sign up for a One-on-One and really only need a 15min rundown on something or for me to point them in the right direction... rather than a full hour sit down. Others do really benefit from a full hour on individualized time to parse out what their needs are and how they can meet them.

- While several people have come in for "Help with Social Media", there was one gentleman who requested a One-on-One session and who had yet to setup any kind of social media account. We had a very nice discussion on "what" social media "is" and how it functions; as he calls it "the powers that be". In the end we decided it best if he start with just one, get used to that, and then see if he wanted/needed to branch out into others.
- Several 'ad-hoc' sessions were on helping people gain access to our digital library resources. Many of them were astonished at the variety of Apps that they had "at their fingertips" via their phones/tablets. One lady, in particular, was simply ecstatic about the fact she didn't have to keep paying Amazon for books but rather could use Libby or Hoopla to read them for free!

Technology Help

We are slowing down a bit for our classes in the summer, but the "Everything Google" class was a great success this past month. While it wasn't a full class, those who attended had great questions and we ended up going a little over due to the fact almost everyone had a question that called for a 'live demonstration' up on the TV. Looking forward to July's class, and I am working on both a Microsoft Word class as well as a Microsoft Excel class.

Rob:

June was relatively uneventful, mostly because I was on vacation and then I got COVID. Montana and I did go too Houston to pick up the planetarium from the Houston Public Library and we did get a tour of their facility. It was validating they used the same management software that we do for their Public Access Computers and that we offer a lot of the same technology.

We started planning a "clean up" of our Server Room. Over the last 5 years we've added a lot of technology to our network and our original layout is no longer ideal. We literally have hundreds of patch cables running between our switches and the patch panels, and it's slowly becoming a bit of a spider web. Unfortunately, this is something that can only be done after hours and a piece at a time. The plan is to work on it on Fridays after we close. The end result should be something that is easier to manage and actually looks better.

Facilities Management (Warren Pichon)

Study Rooms: 543 people used the Study Rooms

Public Meeting Room use: 191 people used the meeting rooms

Maintenance:

- Cleaned:
 - "Old Bulverde Wood Store" display case
 - drive up windows inside and outside and sanitized
 - Employee exit door glass
 - the built up grime and dirt off the book drop containers and Book Lockers and disinfected them
 - all windows inside and outside of the Children's area, newspaper reading area, study room
 - sanitized and cleaned all door handles throughout the building
 - Dusted and wiped down Sculpture
 - Changed the water filter in the water fountain in the main entrance hallway

- Cleaned stains and grime out of chair in Children's Area
- Restrooms:
 - Primed floor traps in mezzanine areas, employee restrooms and mechanical room
 - Tightened all toilet seats throughout the library including employee toilets
 - Septic System Treated with 2 gallons of Bleach
- Library grounds:
 - Inspected water drains on roof and cleared drains of standing water and debris
 - Treated water feature weekly with Algaeoff and "Sludge Away"
 - Cleaned fallen leaves from water feature and cleaned filter and screen
 - Did daily "Walk Around" that includes blowing debris from all entrance ways, walkways, patio areas and butterfly garden area. In addition: check grounds for trash and debris left by raccoons and others and for anything out of place
 - Cleaned the built up grime and dirt off the book drop containers and Book Lockers and disinfected them WIFI Antenna installed on top of generator
 - Loose Safety Cables around parking lots tightened

Chabelo Landscaping: Trimmed trees that were hanging too low, trimmed sidewalk hedges, trimmed Handicap walkway, trimmed hedges in front of front patio, cut grass on hill by cistern and at front entrance and at back gate, weeded curb areas near cistern, cleared paths in butterfly garden area 6.10.2024

Milburn Upholstery: Reupholstered torn and worn chair from Teen's area 6.11.2024. Also reupholstered 4 chairs in vinyl from kid's area 6.27.2024.

Parks Coffee: Repaired leaking water line on coffee maker in staff kitchen 6.11.2024

HomeTeam Pest Defense: Monthly Pest control completed 6.18.2024

Team Mechanical: Repaired mini split that was shutting off prematurely 6.12.2024

Advanced Door Control: Adjusted automatic doors at front desk entrance that was closing too soon...closing on someone exiting library main lobby 6.17.2024

Naturalist and Master Gardener's: Weeded and trimmed in butterfly garden 6.27.2024

Butterfly Garden Path Cleared 1



Hedges in front of FOL Patio Trimmed



Walkway in front of Children's Patio Trimmed



Chair Reupholstered in Vinyl



Chair Reupholstered in Vinyl



Chair Reupholstered in Vinyl



Administration (Susan/Cathy)

Susan worked with the Tye Preston board members to interview candidates for their open Library Director position. Jenny Rodriguez from New Braunfels Public Library was chosen as the new Director. She will bring many community connections with her and their service areas are so close it will be a great fit.

Susan submitted the Request for Reimbursement for the TSLAC grant. In July the grant year will end. We are very grateful for the \$17,200 TSLAC and IMLS provided to improve our community outreach!

Delaney Kavadoy, who worked with our Circulation team for almost 3 years, left us in May to move back to California. She will be missed but will be much happier. Sam Stephens, who worked with our Circulation and Makerspace teams for the last two years, resigned in mid-June and Luca Rodriguez, who worked with the Circulation team a little over a year, resigned as well but will work until mid-July.

Luckily for us, Eva Arriola, who just graduated from high school and will be heading off to Texas Tech in August, was wanting more hours for the summer so she could boost her savings. Eva will return during her breaks to help at the library but we will miss her. She worked every Saturday for the last two years and volunteered before that.

Presley Berry, our past employee who was home from college, also worked when she could in June and that helped with the hours needed. We will be hiring a new Circulation team member in August when Eva heads off and some other team members have taken on extra hours.