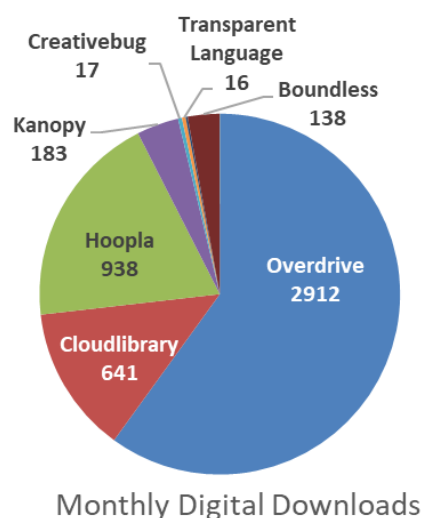
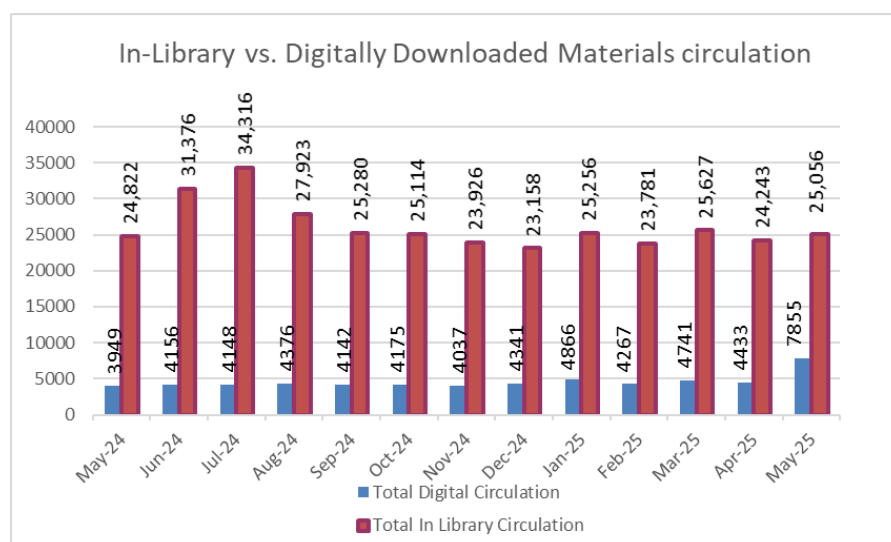
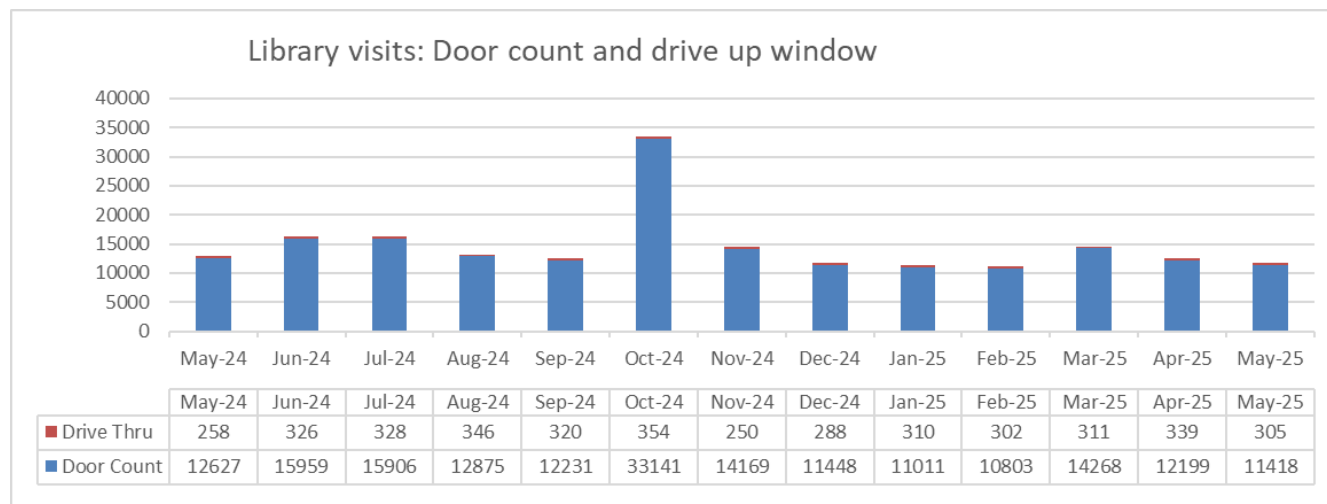
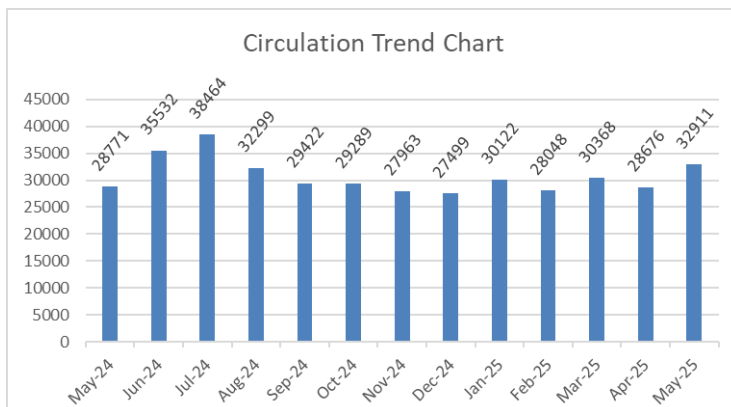


Mammen Family Public Library

Monthly Report – May 2025 Activities

Circulation Team Report

- Number of visitors to the library: 11,723
- Total items circulated: 32,911
- New cards issued: 262
- Number of active members: 10,673
- Total volunteers: 94
- Total volunteer hours: 549
- Patron internet use: 1,473
- Collection size: 65,574



Programming, Outreach and Community Collaboration

Adult Programs (Alex Depree, Hanna Stratton, Sophia Bard)

As May came to a close, so did some of our spring programming. Our language instructors wrapped up their courses by mid-month and are now taking a well-deserved summer break. We are grateful for another successful season of learning and community engagement, and we are already looking ahead to a vibrant fall schedule.

Most of our language programs will resume in September, with the exception of our English Language Learning (ELL) courses, which will be returning a bit earlier—in early August—to better support our participants' needs as they prepare for the new season.

We also have some exciting changes coming to our Beginning Spanish course. Dr. Alicia Villarreal, who has led the course with passion, will be stepping away from teaching this fall. We are thankful to Dr. Villarreal for her contributions and wish her all the best.

In her place, we are thrilled to welcome Mabel Brown as our new Beginning Spanish instructor! Mabel brings a wealth of experience in language instruction and a fresh, engaging approach to the classroom. Her classes will begin on September 8th, and she will be offering two one-hour sessions per week. To better accommodate our patrons' schedules, Mabel will be teaching both a morning class and an evening class, giving participants the flexibility to choose the time that works best for them.

We look forward to another enriching semester of language learning this fall!

Sit and Stitch launched in May, and we are thrilled to share that the response has been very positive. Led by the welcoming Jeewon Edwards, the group offers a cozy, inclusive space for creativity, learning, and community. Whether you are a seasoned crafter or just curious about picking up a new hobby, Sit and Stitch is open to all skill levels and interests.

The group focuses on fiber arts such as crocheting, knitting, and cross-stitching, but participants are welcome to bring any handwork project they are working on. Each session provides a relaxed environment where attendees can work on their own creations, share techniques, exchange patterns, and offer advice and encouragement.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Summer Reading Program for Adults, packed with engaging and educational events that bring our community together in creative and meaningful ways.

Lunch and Learn Series – Kicking Off June 10

Our Lunch and Learn series launches on Monday, June 10, and we could not be more excited about our very first guest speaker: Erin from the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Erin will present a talk on the vital role birds play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem and how local bird populations impact our daily lives here in the Hill Country. This is a great opportunity to gain a deeper appreciation for the natural world around us.

Crafty Tuesdays – A new project every week!

Starting this summer, Crafty Tuesdays are here to inspire your inner artist! Each Tuesday, adult participants will enjoy hands-on activities that align with the week's summer reading theme.

Whether you are a seasoned crafter or just looking to try something new, these sessions are designed to be fun, relaxing, and creatively fulfilling.

Documentary Nights

For those who love meaningful stories and powerful visuals, Documentary Night is perfect for them. Twice a month on Wednesday evenings, we will screen thought-provoking documentaries that tie into our summer themes of environment, creativity, and community. Each screening will be followed by a short, optional discussion to connect with fellow viewers.

Special Event: Family Birdhouse Workshop – June 21

We are excited to announce a collaboration between Adult Programs and the Makerspace Team for a Family Birdhouse Workshop on Saturday, June 21! This event invites families of all sizes and ages (10+) to come together to build and decorate birdhouses while learning about bird habitats and conservation.

Crime and Coffee:

Our May Crime and Coffee meetup brought together ten true crime enthusiasts, all eager to dive into one of the most chilling cases—the murder of Dan Markel. Markel, a respected Florida State University law professor who was tragically gunned down in his driveway in July 2014. What initially appeared to be a random act of violence was soon revealed to be a carefully orchestrated murder-for-hire plot. Investigators later connected the crime to a bitter custody battle between Markel and his ex-wife, Wendi Adelson, with mounting evidence pointing toward involvement from her family—specifically her brother, Charlie Adelson, who has since been convicted for his role in the murder.

Our discussion delved into the details of the investigation, including wiretaps, covert recordings, and the eventual unraveling of the conspiracy. As always, I loved the thoughtful conversation and insight shared by everyone in the group. There is something unique about connecting with others who share a fascination for the darker corners of human behavior and justice.

Looking ahead, our next meetup promises another gripping case: the disappearance and murder of Laci Peterson. This month, we will be dissecting the highly publicized trial of her husband, Scott Peterson, who was convicted of her murder in 2004. We will explore the media frenzy surrounding the case, the circumstantial evidence, and the ongoing debate over Peterson's guilt—especially in light of recent developments and appeals.

Outreach (Javier Gonzalez)

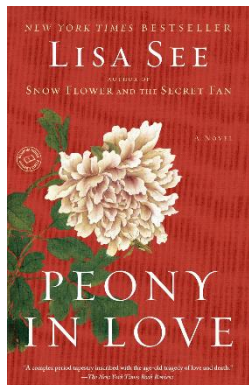
In May, Outreach directly engaged with **397** community members and impacted **many more** through books and materials.

Javier wrapped up his school year visits at the elementary schools and attended various events this month. Outreach is working with **The Hope Center** and **The Loft Coffee House** to



bring more programs and services to members of the community. Javier will be attending a monthly networking meeting focused on local resources as well as attend **Night of Hope at Riverside Community Church** once a month.

We are gearing up for a variety of **Pop-Up** activities to kick off the summer! Did someone say Chick-fil-A!?



BOOK CLUB: **Books & Bites** this month read *Peony in Love* by Lisa See. The book received mixed feedback from book club members but they still had a great discussion. There were 9 participants in addition to library staff.

ADULT OUTREACH: The **Homebound Delivery Program** currently has 9 patrons. A total of 77 books were circulated by our homebound patrons. At **Bulverde Assisted Living**, 22 books were checked out between the 2 residents that are avid readers. Lobby stops at the **Highlander Senior Village** have 7 regular patrons that attend our bi-weekly lobby stop. Between those patrons we had 22 books and 2 Kindle Paperwhite devices checked out for the month.

Bella Groves residents visited the library this month for a special "Cooking with Javier" class. The residents and their families made fresh salsa. Everyone enjoyed making their own bowl of salsa and then trying it with some tortilla chips.

YOUTH OUTREACH: This month we visited **Johnson Ranch Elementary** for the last preschool storytime of the school year. We had 28 children in attendance. Javier read fiesta themed stories and prepared a cute rainbow windsock craft.

Briana and Eva joined Javier for two events at the **Copper Canyon** activity center. The main event was the community's very own summer kick off. Eva did an amazing job registering families for library cards and promoting the Summer Library Program. She made a whopping **37 cards** during the event! Go Eva!





OUTREACH COLLECTIONS:

- The giveaway collections, consisting of adult and children's books and a few bilingual books in Spanish, continue to reach the

community at Provisions Food Pantry and Acacia Medical Mission.

- In May we purchased **31 new books** for the Trekker collection. We have more coming in June!
- Javier also ordered a variety of brand new bilingual and spanish language picture books, chapter books and board books for giveaways. **89 books** in total!

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES:

- This month we distributed 3 **book bundles** to our subscribers.
- **Little Free Library**, bookcase restocking and prize give away books combined were at **138** books distributed in May!

Makerspace (Lindy Hargrave, Marc Dunlap)

May in the Makerspace was a whirlwind of busy fun, as we prepped for new programs, held a flurry of meetings on various topics, went on a "field trip" to learn about other area makerspaces, and planned for the Maker Fair!

A ton of progress has been made on both the organization of the Makerspace and how we get that information out to the public. We see a bountiful harvest in our future to be produced from all the hard work that has gone into scheduling, program planning, and general organization both physically within the Makerspace as well as within the structure of the department. We also had a great turn-out for the Maker Fair highlighting various creative programming at the library as well as area Makerspaces. We even had visitors from the New Braunfels library curious about how we operate our creative programming as they plan to expand.





We also started our first ever Maker in Residence program! Bill Andrews has been working in the Makerspace weekly. So far he has made butterfly wings for his grand-daughters costume using the glowforge, matte board and colorful

cellophane—detailed plans are available. He is also working on developing tools for making our own carpenter pencils in-house using the 3D printer and CNC router as well as developing a curriculum for the lathe.

Gina's sewing classes remain hugely popular and she switched to a full-day Sewing 101 model which has worked well. Open Maker Hours have also seen an uptick in attendance with one patron designing his own closet hanger belt organizers.

Summer is upon us and we have some great things in store for our Makers!

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

Teens

We ended our spring programming with a bang, with a Chopped Challenge for the teens! We gave them 3 mystery ingredients (eggs, spinach & chips) and they had to work as a team and create a dish using all three ingredients! Take a look at some of their tasty creations...



We also ended our spring volunteer semester this month. We are gearing up for our summer volunteer program, which has 65 teens signed up to volunteer at the library this summer!

Children's

Youth Services programming is on a short break from May 11 - June 6 to give our team time to rest, plan, and organize before the Summer Library Program Kickoff. Patrons enjoyed our last few Storytimes the first week of May and spent most of the month anxiously checking on our incubator! We had seven fluffy chicks hatch over the weekend of May 17-18. They are an annual library favorite!

Before the break, we celebrated the chicks hatching with an egg-themed Crafty Tuesday, where young patrons made some colorful paper chick puppets!



Our final Kids' Chess Club session for the season was also a success, concluding a productive few months for our Grandmasters-in-training with a lesson from the coach!

We repeated the chopped challenge with the tweens on Friday, and they had a blast using our library of things cooking equipment! We have some future chefs here at MFPL!

Collections Reports

Adults (Kristin): We loaned 5 items to and borrowed 63 items from other libraries in the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) system. We worked one-on-one with 9 members to teach them how to use our electronic resources. In May our movie collection was inventoried and in June I will focus on inventorying the TV and nonfiction DVDs. One adult was emailed a personalized reading list in May,

Youth (Montana): This month we weeded and inventoried the Board Book collection. Board books are one of the library's highest-circulating collections, with 40-50% checked out on a regular basis. We fulfilled nine purchase requests for children's material in May.

Large Print (Alex): Twenty-six (26) titles were purchased for the Large Print collection in May. I am still tracking best sellers available in standard print so that I can ensure our Large Print readers are able to access those materials as soon as possible. We are approaching the end of our fiscal year so I am focusing on filling in gaps in collections. I am also focusing on older collections that are coming back into the spotlight. The Hunger Games series has recently become high in demand due to Sunrise on the Reaping being released. I noticed we did not have this collection

in Large Print so I have since ordered the series. I think it is important for all patrons to have access to this collection.

Library of Things (Alex): The Library of Things collection continues to circulate at a steady pace. We had a station at our Makers Fair in May and were able to get the word out about the collection. As of right now, crafting materials seem to circulate the most. Patrons are interested in learning to crochet, knit, and watercolor. I plan on purchasing alternative storage options for some of the materials to make checking out the items easier for the patrons and staff.

We deleted 240 items for the following reasons:

- Weeded – 125 items
- Vanished – 22 items (due to inventory)
- Lost and unpaid for – 66 items (sent to collections)
- Lost and paid for – 24 items

Marketing & Public Relations (Hanna Stratton)

In May, a primary focus for marketing was promoting the upcoming Summer Library Program. This was accomplished through social media publications as well as a Bulverde/Spring Branch Highlights advertisement. May also saw the start of our consistent ads in the Herald-Zeitung! These ads will run every Saturday in full color, online embedded in digital articles, and in black and white on a weekday. This ad is currently featuring the Summer program but can be changed as needed to promote different library happenings.

This month prompted a review of the MFPL Brand Guide created in 2023 to reflect some changes. A major change that is coming to the brand guide is the addition of a Makerspace branding page. This will highlight the Makerspace logos as well as special use fonts, and a set of "Made in the Makerspace" images for the Makerspace to use on their class projects and other creations. This will eliminate the need to create a new graphic for a project every time and creates a standard to ensure all projects are consistently branded.

I also met with Marc and Alisa to discuss redoing some signage around the library. We brainstormed what would work best both in placement and verbiage. Marc then created the signage and after being approved by all it was printed and some was hung. The three of us plan to meet to work on the rest of the signage but due to the business of summer it may have to wait until it slows down slightly.

Other notable marketing in May includes a special email newsletter to patrons who have previously used Beanstack notifying them of the Summer Reading Challenge becoming available, which had a fantastic open rate of 65%! We also finalized the mailers to be sent at the end of May by Thompson Printing.

NEW BRAUNFELS HERALD-ZEITUNG | Sunday, May 25, 2025 | 9

It's Wedding Season!
If you're getting married, or are in the life stage such as moving, having a baby or just if you have it, you may qualify for the special wedding period. **Not Sure? You Qualify! We are Here to Help!** Schedule an Appointment for Free Assistance Today! **Wedding Med** 210-977-7997 | EnrollUSA.com **enrollUSA**

Proudly Serving Those Who Served
Visiting Angels
Your VA benefits may cover the cost of home care services. Please contact us for more information. We are a proud preferred vendor for the VA Community Care Network. Community Care Provider #1813072233.
Visiting Angels - New Braunfels
1502 E. Common St. #500, New Braunfels, TX 78130
PH: (830) 625-5414 Fax: (830) 625-5395

SUDOKU
To complete this puzzle, place the numbers 1-9 in the empty cells, so that every row, column and 3 by 3 box (in bold outline) contains all nine digits. Each number 1-9 may appear only once in each row, column and 3-by-3 box.
Solution on page 6

BUILDING YOUR HOME BUILDING YOUR FUTURE
Building homes that are as unique as their owners. With our unique combination of owner control and expert help, UBuildIt is the perfect fit regardless of experience.
YOUR DREAM HOME • OUR EXPERTS • YOUR INSTANT EQUITY • OWNER CONTROL • A BETTER WAY TO BUILD

COLOR OUR WORLD
2025 Summer Library Program
June 7th to August 2nd
Reading Challenges, Speakers, Shows, Crafts, Free Books, Mini-Golf, And More For All Ages!
131 Bulverde Crossing • MAMMEN FAMILY Bulverde, TX 78163 • PUBLIC LIBRARY

Technology (Rob Lerner & Marc Dunlap)

Tech Help Desk (Marc)

One-on-One Technology Help: 10+ Patrons came to their appointments.

While we are still getting quite a few Patrons that just need some basic computer literacy and orientation with their devices, most do admit that they can't consistently commit to a series of classes that we might offer. Therefore, One-on-One sessions do seem to be the best way we can meet the needs of our community. To that point, I look forward to adding to the available timeslots this fall.

More and more people (it seems) are coming in with CDs that they need to print from and/or needing to transfer files onto a CD from their phone/flash-drive. Right now I am making use of the Makerspace's CD/DVD Read/Write drive that is normally used to convert old CDs onto laptops/hard-drives. There may be credit in the idea to set up a "standing terminal" (similar to our catalog computers) where people can do this work. That way it is set up and ready to go as needed.

Let's Learn Technology Together: This month's class was a total bust, unfortunately. While there were four registered, two canceled, and then there were two no shows. As much as I know these classes are valuable, and that we have received high praise in the past from those who have attended, this just adds credit to the idea of holding a twice-a-year Tech-Series; with the remaining months only having One-on-One sessions. But, until that can be ironed out, we may look into offering these classes at different times, in order to see where "peek availability" actually lands.

Rob: In May we started our transition to Windows 11 of all the PCs in the Library. We had originally ordered six new All-In-One (AIO) computers to be used for our new catalogs, but a technical glitch caused a change in plans. We couldn't load the catalog software onto the new AIOs, so instead we used them to switch out the Circulation machines that we were going to have to replace anyway. The old machines couldn't be upgraded to Windows 11, but we could install the Porteus catalog software on them, so we killed two birds with one stone. We are back to having five catalogs on the floor and we're ahead of the curve on our upgrade.

We also upgraded our version of Porteus from the free version we have used for the last seven years to the licensed version. Unfortunately, they no longer have the free version that we used but the license is so cheap as to be practically free for software that runs our catalogs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year with minimal need for use to troubleshoot.

Speaking of running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, we had planned to replace two of our battery backups soon, but we had to replace them sooner than expected when one of them decided to fail. It had been working for well over a decade and an upgrade was planned for the near future but it just couldn't hang on any longer. Fortunately, we take part in a recycling/upgrade program with Schneider Electric and we purchased two new, more powerful, units at a substantial discount.

We also fixed one random issue with our voicemail. Our phone system is supposed to email us with the audio attached when someone leaves us a message. For some unknown reason it just stopped. We don't get a lot of voicemails and those that do check them on their phone regularly, so no one noticed when the service stopped. It was down a couple weeks before anyone realized it had stopped. We ended up having to change the email server we were using and it started again. We still have no idea why it stopped, but it's working now.

Facilities Management (Warren Pichon)

Study Room Use: 448

Study Booth: 50

Public Meeting Room use: 444

- Cleaned "Old Bulverde Wood Store" display case
- Cleaned drive up windows inside and outside and sanitized
- Cleaned Employee exit door glass
- Septic System Treated with 2 gallons of Bleach
- Monthly Pest control completed
- Tightened all toilet seats throughout the library including employee toilets
- Treated water feature weekly with Algaeoff and "Sludge Away"
- 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 and sanitized 24hour book drop, book lockers and Drive up window containers
- Swept up fallen leaves at entrances to the library
- Treated AC unit in the Data Closet with tablet
- Cleaned Inside Book Lockers
- Changed the batteries in sink faucet of Men's public restroom
- Painted repaired ceiling in men's employee bathroom
- Shampooed two cubicles
- Shampooed coffee stains near coffee bar and around cubicles
- Painted rain leak above Obelisk

Firetrol: Renewed monitoring contracts for fire alarm systems 5.01.2025

Water Cut Off Valve in Men's Employee Restroom Panel Installed

Berube: Repaired large hole in ceiling of employee Men's restroom and made cut off water Valve panel to cover hole in wall 5.10.2025

Gen Serv: Performed quarterly inspection of Generator 5.14.2025

TexAir: Changed filters in Air condition units 5.16.2025



HomeTeam Pest Defense: Monthly Pest control completed 5.20.2025 Master Naturalists and Master Gardener's: Trimmed and weeded in Butterfly Garden 5.22.2025

D-Tech: Performed schedule maintenance on 24 hour book lockers 5.22.2025

Chabelo Landscaping:

- Weeded in front of hedges at FOL entrance, pressure washed HEB children's patio, Weeded along parking areas and blew fallen leaves and debris from entrances 5.5.2025
- Pressure Washed FOL Patio and Handicap Ramp, trimmed along sidewalk Along hill, trimmed along front entrance at small fence and picked up fallen debris 5.26.2025

FOL Patio and Handicap Ramp Pressure Washed



Administration (Susan/Cathy)

Susan finished meeting with all the MFPL team members in May for their Spring progress meetings. We were able to adjust some schedules to better meet the staff member's and library's needs. For instance, we were able to adjust Marc's schedule so that his time was divided in a better way for him to be able to complete his makerspace and computer room commitments. This also helped us to create a schedule where other staff members could be assigned times in the computer room to offer more coverage for patron support.

Susan worked with various team members on their budgets in preparation for the new fiscal year starting in July. She also continued to reach out to other organizations, such as our health insurance provider, TML, to ensure the numbers we have for our budget are updated for the new fiscal year.