

Executive Director's Report July & August 2016

ADMINISTRATION

By Ken Draves

Summer Reading Challenge

The annual Summer Reading Challenge (SRC), which concluded in August, was quite successful again this year. A complete report detailing participation numbers, completion rates and numbers, program attendance, and comparison to recent years is in preparation and will be available soon.

Facilities Master Planning Process

In late July and August, a team comprised of President Gabel, Ed Bonnette, Senior Buyer with COFC Purchasing Department, Jeff Barnes, and Tova Aragon evaluated the seven proposals submitted in response to the District's recent facilities master planning RFP. The team selected four finalist firms for in-person interviews. Following that process and reference checks, the team recommends hiring Humphries Poli Architects. The recommendation to enter into an agreement and proceed with Humphries Poli will be presented to the Board at this month's meeting.

Comic Con

The second annual Fort Collins Comic Con, held at the Northside Aztlan Center on August 27-28, was bigger and better than last year's, with over 2,500 enthusiastic attendees. The event raised funds for the Library District, as Poudre River PLD was designated as the recipient of the net proceeds of the event by Comic Con's organizers. See the Communications report for details.

Pay Plan Update

Following the Board's approval of a Library District pay plan, Year One market adjustments for all employees receiving adjustments became effective July 18. Please see the Human Resources report for further details.

Retirement Announced

After a 26 year career with our library, Carol Gyger, IT Manager, has announced she is retiring at the end of this year. Carol has accomplished so much during her years with the Fort Collins Public Library and then the Library District. We certainly will all miss her. We wish her well as she plans her move to her next adventure. In preparation for Carol's retirement, we will soon post the IT Manager position. Carol has graciously agreed to help participate in the applicant screening, review and selection process, which will allow us to take advantage of Carol's impressive technical and managerial expertise.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

By Tova Aragon

The Fitbit Zip is now available for check out from our Gadgets and Things Collection. They check out for 3 weeks and can be renewed.



The State Park Pass Backpacks have been very popular. It has been ten weeks since the program launched. The bags have checked out for an average of 9 times each. Karla from Council Tree created a list of helpful outdoor apps to add to our display of the State Park Pass and Bird Watching Kit backpacks.

**Safety First!
Apps for Outdoor Safety/ Survival**



National Weather Service and NOAA World Radar: NOAA Weather Radar is a powerful yet easy-to-use weather station right on your device. Real-time animated weather radar images on a highly interactive map won't let bad weather take you by surprise! World Radar also available. Price: Free Platform: IOS



Weather Underground: your everything weather app. Powered by our network of 100,000+ personal weather stations, this app provides hyper-local forecasts and current conditions, interactive radar, customizable alerts, and much more to ensure you're always prepared for whatever the weather brings. Price: Free Platform: Android, IOS



Official Red Cross First Aid: Contains videos, interactive quizzes and step-by-step advice. Price: Free Platform: Android, IOS



SAS Survival: An app version of the best-selling book by John "Lofty" Wiseman. Provides full text of the book, 16 videos of survival tips, a Morse code signaling device, survival checklist, survival in extreme climates, sun compass, first aid section, photo's depicting: animal tracks, knots, edible/medicinal/poisonous plants and much more! Price: \$5.99 Platform: Android, IOS



Knots Guide: SIMPLE quick reference collection of different knots. 92 knots, 10 categories: Bend, Binding, Climbing, Decorative, Fishing, Hitch, Looping, Running, Stopper, Whipping. Click/knot image to get a zoomed in view of the knot. Price: FREE Platform: Android



SkyView: You don't need to be an astronomer to find stars or constellations in the sky, just open SkyView® Free and let it guide you to their location and identify them. SkyView Free is a beautiful and intuitive stargazing app that uses your camera to precisely spot and identify celestial objects in sky, day or night. Find popular constellations as they fade in and out while you scan across the sky, locate planets in our solar system, discover distant galaxies, and witness satellite fly-bys. Price: Free Platform: Android, IOS



Peterson Bird Guide to Backyard Birds: Quickly identify over 160 common birds seen in the backyards of North America, with Roger Tory Peterson's innovative identification system, time-tested illustrations, and our unique display of similar looking birds for fast visual comparison. Price: Free Platform: Android, IOS



Audubon Nature Guides: Each app comes with high quality photos and in-depth species descriptions. Enjoy bird songs and identify species on your smartphone with Audubon Birds or browse wildflowers with Audubon Wildflowers. Other subjects include: Trees, Insects and Spiders, Mammals, Butterflies & mushrooms. Purchase individually or as a set. Price: \$3.99- \$19.99. Platform: Android, IOS



Edible and Poisonous Plants: There are images of more than 100 useful plants, in addition to images of poisonous plants to avoid. It also includes a timed-recognition test, and flash cards for study purposes. Price: \$9.99 Platforms: Android, IOS

Fishing Apps



Orvis Fly Fishing: It includes fly-casting instructions, a complete video and animated guide with step-by-step instructions to tying over 20 fly-tying knots, quick links to buying fishing licenses in all states, a field guide to the top 100 trout flies and the top 50 saltwater flies, and much more. Price: \$3.99 Platform: Android, IOS



Fishidy: Recently ranked #2 on World Fishing Network's list of "Top Mobile Fishing Apps", Fishidy is the most advanced, location-based app available for anglers to find fish faster on thousands of the most popular waterways across the U.S.. Great for fetching detailed information on species data, tips and more on waterways across the country and using interactive fishing maps that include contour lines, fishery facts and boat ramps. Price: Free Platform: Android, IOS



Old Town ■ Council Tree ■ Harmony
A LIBRARY BRANCH OF
FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AND Poudre River Public Library District
www.poudrelibraries.org
221.6740
Reasonable accommodations will be made for people with disabilities. Please call 221-6740 for more info.



Camping List: Helps avoid the possibility of ever forgetting a camping essential again. It comes with suggested items or you can add your own. So if a pencil and paper aren't your thing then this app could really help you prepare for a trip. Price: \$1.99 Platform: IOS



Packing List—Hiking and Camping: This app will remind you not to forget any important gear. It also can help you save time and increase safety when you're out on the trail. Create different trips, save frequently used equipment into templates for future use, reminders will be created automatically from the unchecked items. Price: Free Platform: Android



CampFinder: Access to more than 19,000 campgrounds throughout the U.S. Includes contact information, photos, rates, amenities and reviews. RV Parks are included, as are both private and government-owned campgrounds in national parks. Price: FREE Platform: Android, IOS



Chimani National Parks: You can access daily national park news, view photos and use interactive maps to navigate through more than 400 different national parks throughout the U.S. Includes Rocky Mountain National Park! Price: FREE Platform: Android, IOS



Project Noah: Capture all the images of your wildlife adventures, in addition to filtering images by location to find what's been discovered in your own backyard. The "Field Missions" option where environmental groups and labs ask the public for help with data, and assign a project. Price: FREE Platforms: Android, IOS

**Get Out!
Best apps for the
Outdoors**

FREE resources available through Poudre River Public Library District with your Library card number:



Zinio: Access and download over 100 Emagazines for free with your library card! Download the latest issue plus access to back issues. No limit on number of downloads, and downloaded magazines don't expire. Includes titles: Outside, Backpacker, National Geographic, Audubon, Runner's world etc....



Hoopla Digital: stream and download movies, television shows, music and audiobooks. Limit is 10 items a month. Movies include travel documentaries and guides to outdoor destinations like national parks.



Trip Journal

Trip Journal: Allows

you to create a travelogue where you can input pictures, videos and journal entries about your adventures. The app also provides a GPS tracker, and allows you to post your trips to social media sites like Facebook and YouTube. Price: \$2.99 Platform: Android, IOS



Pollen.com: You're able to see a five-day weather and allergy forecast, and access information on top allergens. Even allows users to keep an allergy diary which can detail symptoms and how a user is feeling. The screen background even changes with the seasons. Price: FREE Platform: Android, IOS

Fitness Apps



Cody Fitness: A dynamic fitness app that lets you access video-based training from fitness instructors, establish your own training plans and log all of your workouts: biking, hiking, walking, swimming, etc. You can also share your plans with friends and other app users. Price: FREE Platform: Android, IOS



Runtastic Apps: Runtastic offers a full array of health & fitness tracking products – and everything starts and ends with our apps. No matter what your activity of choice, we have an app for that! Price: Free Platform: Android



***Strava Fitness Apps:** For competitive cyclists and runners. "The World's Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Fitness" -Fast Company. Track your runs and rides with GPS, join Challenges and see how your running and riding compares with friends. Price: Free Platform: Android, IOS

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

By Paula Watson-Lakamp

- Completed monthly/weekly goals of Communication Plan
- Organizing, managing and supervising all graphic design work for the District
- Worked with OrangeBoy on dashboard and Savannah messaging system.
- Worked on new social media promotions and platforms, updating “The River’s Mouth”
- Worked with local media on various stories
- Worked with Library Trust PR committee and Board to organize for the Colorado Gives Day in December – they will be raising money for a Book Bike & STREAM Literacy interactives
- Finalizing a Crisis Communication Plan document
- Working on new internal communications staff website
- Continued work on new Strategic Plan Marketing strategies plan
- Continued work on Summer Reading “Game On!” print/web
- Helped with end of the summer 100 hour reading event
- Organized promotion of community Open Forum for Director candidates
- Organized 2016 Comic Con (August 26, 27 & 28) – vendor booths sold out in one week! Hoping to raise over \$25,000 this year!
- Worked on FoCo Book Fest committee for October 22 Book/Lit Festival. Doing marketing and promotion, website and planning. www.focobookfest.org
- Communications Assistant Katie Auman spoke at DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies) chapter on non-profit marketing
- Will be speaking at the Colorado Virtual Libraries (State Library) Symposium in Denver in September on library marketing
- 2nd Annual Fort Collins Comic Con
Over 2,500 geeks, nerds and fandom enthusiasts attended the second annual Fort Collins Comic Con at the Northside Aztlan Center August 27-28. Kick off events on Friday night included a Nerd Prom at Old Town Library where 75 teens danced, played video games, ate tons of snacks and had a great time just hanging out in the library. The Fort Collins Comic Con team once again had the Poudre River Public Library District as their giving charity. Through their year-long activities which included the Saint Patrick’s Day Parade in March and the Kessel Run in May they raised approximately \$30,000 for the Library District. Mayor Wayne Troxell kicked off the Con Saturday morning with a proclamation of “Local Heroes Day”, and this team is certainly our local heroes!

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

By Sabrina Stromnes

HR Manager:

- Market adjustments became effective July 18th for all employees receiving adjustments. Adjustment information was sent to Payroll and changes were effective on the paychecks employees received August 5th. All employees received a letter to inform them whether they would receive an increase, and if not, where they fall in the market range of the new pay plan.
- Participated on the hiring committee for the new Accounting Clerk position.
- Participated in LLT interviews of candidates for new Executive Director position and attended public forum/reception.
- Began work on content for HR website on Redmine (a tool for internal staff communication) and presented HR portion of Redmine sneak peek with our Web Developer and Communications Team.
- Participated in Mountain States’ Quarterly Library Human Resources Round Table
- Completed the following training:
 - HR Metrics and Analytics at Mountain States Employers Council
 - Excel Pivot Tables
 - Diversity and Inclusion (with LLT)
 - Aligning Business and Employee Goals (City of Fort Collins Supervisory Summit)

- FMLA and utilizing Voya Absence Resources (City of Fort Collins Supervisory Summit)
- Giving Feedback that Sticks (City of Fort Collins Supervisory Summit)
- Building Workplace Trust Intentionally (City of Fort Collins Supervisory Summit)
- Compassion Fatigue: Using EQ to Increase Resiliency and Handle Difficult/Stressful Jobs and Situations at City of Fort Collins
- Recruitment
 - Hires:
 - Accounting Clerk, Ivana Ross
 - Seven new Library Aides: Ian Hughes, Makenzie Myers and Kelsey Gottbehuet, Rudra Joshi, Mikdalia Oh, Megan Carney, Nathaniel Vincent
 - Adult Services Librarian: Internal Hire – Erin Kirchoefer
 - Two Library Aides Prospector: Ben Holzworth, and Hannah Baldwin
 - Library Aide - Computer Assistant (Internal): Sam Scheuerman
 - Two Circulation Assistants (Internal): Susan Harrison, Kindra Baker
 - Library Services Representative Sub (Internal): Emily Borer
 - New Postings:
 - Hourly Librarian (Sub)
 - Hourly Library Assistant (Sub)
 - Library Aide – Computer Assistant (External)
- Ongoing:
 - Employee relations issues
 - Performance management
 - Employee questions and support
 - Manager/Supervisor questions and support
 - Manage Workers' Compensation claims
 - Assist employees with FMLA, STD, Non-FML medical leave
 - Manage/support Volunteer Program Manager

Volunteer Program Manager:

By Serena Robb

- Interviewed 19 volunteer candidates, and placed 17
- Attended United Way website training, in preparation for Make A Difference Day
- Attended a DOVIA presentation, presented by our library Marketing team
- Attended the Volunteers of America RSVP volunteer awards selection meeting, as I am a member of their Advisory Council. The awards breakfast where winners will be announced is on August 30th. The library did nominate a couple of volunteers for these awards
- Conducted more background check renewals, so we are now up to date. I will continue these on an ongoing basis, so we should now never have any expired checks
- Started working on a Volunteer Handbook, by gathering examples of what other organizations use
- Interviewed 12 volunteer candidates, and accepted 11
- Attended 2 webinars: The Lifecycle of a Volunteer “Part 2: Training and Retaining” and “Part 3: When It’s Just Not Working Out”
- Attended a DOVIA Networking Event, the ED Finalist forum, and the All Staff meeting
- Helped at the SRC Power Reader and Volunteer pool party
- Helped with and attended the Volunteers of America RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Award and Impact breakfast. We had nominated Frank and Anita Martinez for their help with Council Tree story times, and they won Volunteer Team of the Year. Jenny Thurman presented their award.
- Set up the library with VolunteerMatch, SLiCE CSUServes (for our book festival in Oct) and United Way’s Make A Difference Day (for a cleaning project at Council Tree in Oct).

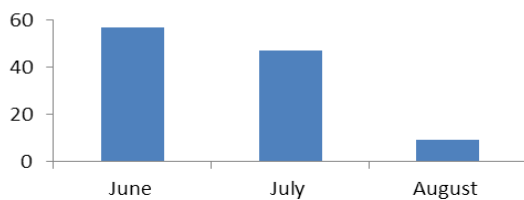
OUTREACH SERVICES

By Johanna Ulloa

The highlight for summer was the phenomenal job the District did to provide reading spaces to children in the community. Each year many children stay home during summer and do not participate in different summer camps or programs. As a responsive and integral part of the community the Outreach team served neighborhoods with the highest percentages of kids in PSD's Free and Reduced Lunch Program, sites where transportation is difficult for families to access services, or places where community based programs are available.

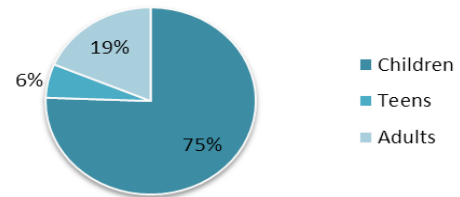
This year the team provided 113 Storytimes in the community. **We served a total of 2,287 individuals**, from those 1,728 children, 133 teens, and 426 adults.

SRC Programs in the Community



Total 113 storytimes

Outreach SRC Programs



Total 2,287 individuals

In order to provide services to children and remove barriers to access we partnered with multiple agencies, neighborhoods organizations, grassroots organizations, mobile home parks, and churches. As it is depicted in this picture we provided services even under the nice shade of trees – pictured at right.

As part of our partnership with United Way School Readiness the Outreach Department coordinated two trainings for staff related to our strategic plan.

The first training was around Diversity and Inclusion with Dr. Zimmerman, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies and Director of Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate program. Dr. Zimmerman has extensive knowledge and experience providing guidance and training in the areas of inclusion and diversity in our community. She provided training for the Leadership Team and Outreach Department specific about unconscious biases, systemic oppression and inclusion.

The second training was with Dr. Pamela Coke, associate Professor of English Education and Undergraduate Coordinator at English Department at Colorado State University. Dr. Coke teaches courses in adolescents' literature, intermediate composition, teaching composition, teaching reading, teaching language, and teaching methods.

Dr. Coke tailored a four-day training session around reading acquisition and brain development, literacy in correlation to cultural diversity and digital literacy, and reading acquisition in bilingual households. As a team we read and analyzed over 25 articles, created a pool of research-based messages for parents and partners in the community related to reading acquisition. It is the intention by working with our Marketing Department and



storytimes coordinators to disseminate the lessons learned and apply best practices to our programming. The messages will help advance our strategic plan towards positioning us as leader in early childhood development.

We hosted a booth at NoCo Pride Outside. It was a very successful event held at Civic Center Park. Sylvia Garcia and two volunteers assisted almost 200 individuals, answered questions about library services, and represented the library and our commitment to remove social and cultural barriers towards provision of services.

Sylvia Garcia continues to work with the CSU Assistive Technology Resource Center on researching best practices, policies and procedures that other libraries use for assistive technology.

The Genesis Project has the mission to create a space for people to discover new beginnings through transforming relationships with others. It provides a safe environment for children to learn, play and eat healthy and fresh food while learning about compassion and kindness. Due to the wide range in the ages of children who attended our services at this facility, we had to split the group to provide developmentally appropriate services. Rebecca Strein, who is an amazing volunteer, helped with this program providing services to tweens and teens. We appreciate Rebecca's passion and dedication to our District.

Computer Classes

In July we started Computer Classes in Spanish at The Family Center with great attendance. Most of the participants were eager to learn and had little to no experience with computers before. A couple of participants had never interacted with a computer before and expressed how much easier the learning experience was since it was provided in their native language.

AUGUST



Noches en Familia at Council Tree usually takes a break in summer and recommences in September. This year parents expressed their desire to have the program in August, Currie Meyer graciously allowed us to host the program which was a great success. We had many new families attending this program with babies and toddlers enjoying all the activities and readings in Spanish. We had a great turnout 27 participants. We shared some of our favorite stories from the summer and used an iPad, the speakers, YouTube and PowerPoint for this program.

Sylvia Garcia continues to be a great member of the Senior Law Day committee and also supports the programs hosted at the library. They are in the planning process for a series of workshops that help families understand the financial and legal issues that many caregivers confront. We had a booth with resources from the library.



We are also participating in the Northern Colorado Youth Continuum of Care meetings. The team is made of multi-agency participants that coordinate efforts to provide resources to youth at risk of becoming homeless.

During our monthly team meeting, we attended the webinar by Dr. Jamie Campbell Naidoo “Cultural Literacy Programs in Your Library”. It was very reassuring to see that our department is doing several relevant activities and programs that promote and celebrate diversity in our community.

Dr. Campbell Naidoo is the author of the white paper *The Importance of Diversity in Library Programs and Material Collections for Children* that we find so helpful when explaining diversity and inclusion in public libraries.

http://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/ALSCwhitepaper_importance%20of%20diversity_with%20graphics_FINAL.pdf

Dr. Campbell Naidoo became interested in the work the Outreach Department does specifically around inclusion and diversity at the last ALA. In August Johanna Ulloa Girón presented to his class at the University of Alabama all the programming we do that intentionally seeks to increase cultural awareness. The class is part of their School of Library and Information Studies. Ludy Rueda made a presentation with hundreds of pictures of our services.

Currie Meyer and Johanna Ulloa coordinated the back to school Liaison meeting, where provision of services and future planning were discussed.



For the last three years we provided Citizenship Classes in partnership with the Family Center. Immigration Lawyer Kimber Baker-Medina provided free legal consultation for the participants; they filled their N-400, learned about Civics and U.S History and participated in mock interviews in preparation for their citizenship process. After the class the participants expressed their wish to start a Citizenship Café to study and help one another.

Ludy Rueda represented the library at the meeting hosting by Bohemian Foundation and the Food Bank of Larimer County regarding data analysis. In this meeting interesting data about vulnerable areas in Fort Collins and services was presented. Later Ludy Rueda, Ken Draves, and Johanna Ulloa Girón met to discuss the possible implications of the data for our services.

Ludy Rueda met with volunteers from the Foreign Language Department at Colorado State University and all the World languages storytimes for the year have been scheduled. We will have a total of eight World languages by the end of the year including Russian, Mandarin, French, Spanish, American Sign Language, and Arabic.

In order to continue to be an integral part of the fabric of our community, we continued to represent and be an active member at different meeting and groups in our community. As a member of both LEAP and Be Ready Campaign we participated in the presentation from Canopy Center around Early childhood development. All the information received was disseminated to the Leadership Team and a specific and detail report was given to our Marketing Director, Paula Watson-Lakamp, who might use the data for marketing purposes. The report includes the marketing contact from Canopy Center and the information related to Frameworks Institute.

Johanna Ulloa Girón continues to work in the community in different initiatives that furthers our goals to become an inclusive and cultural competent organization. With the help of Collections Manager, Tova Aragon, a new collection of book club kits dedicated to eight themes related to inclusivity and diversity will be created. The first title *Privilege, Power, and Difference* by Allan G. Johnson will be part of the September discussion at the next Human Relations Commission.

Johanna Ulloa Girón continues to participate in the School Readiness group with United Way of Larimer County where we are doing an amazing job at a Collective Impact level. Particularly this month the team was incredibly supportive when one of our communities ran the risk of now having after school program at the beginning of the school year. Base Camp, Boys and Girls Club, United Way, and PRPLD worked together, in a timely manner to ensure services at this location.

As a member of the Equity and Inclusion group of Fort Collins, Johanna Ulloa Girón met with several community members to discuss inclusion and diversity in our City. Several ideas are now being considered to internationally have cultural institutions, educational institutions, agencies and providers working together towards ensuring we are a safe, inclusive, and welcoming City for all.

Under the direction of our Interim Director, Ken Draves, the Impact team continues to support internal efforts to move forward the strategic plan tasks and outcomes. We have met with representatives of Tweens and Teens, Job Seekers, Non-Profit and Small Business, diversity and cultural awareness programming, HR Manager Sabrina Strømnes, and digital literacy programming. In the calendar we have meetings pending and hope to have a clear plan to present to the Leadership Team by early October.

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION

By Carol Gyger

Troubleshooting and no major upgrades

Summertime means several things to the Library's IT Department. The major objective is Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) and what the department can do to support the needs of staff and public during that time. This means no planned major upgrades or disruptions, making sure the SRC interface is running smoothly and taking care of everyday troubleshooting and fixing. That said, there are quite a few behind-the-scenes projects in various stages of completion. Read on...

Help Desk System and More!

The staff Help Desk System (Redmine) launched in May has been well received by staff and is cranking away doing its job. The good news is the software can be used for other things, too. Two additional mini-sites have been added to the site – Human Resources and Internal Communications. The site is growing into a “go to” place for staff information. This has been a cross-department effort – Peggy Shaughnessy, Paula Watson-Lakamp, Sabrina Stromnes.



★ [Communications Resources | News](#)

...



★ [Human Resources Benefits | Employment | Forms | Learning](#)

...



★ [Redmine Issues | New Issue | Calendar | Quick Answers](#)

Tween and Teen iPads (TwiPs and TiPs)

Chris Bauman worked closely with Kristen Draper to install iPads for use in the tween and teen areas of all the branches. The Kids iPads (KiPs) have been incredibly popular and the District has the same expectations for the TwiPs and TiPs.

Sister Library in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua

The Library District has embarked on Phase IV of their work with San Juan del Sur Biblioteca. Barbara Thorne, retired public library cataloger, has graciously offered to catalog items and make them “shelf ready” before sending them to Nicaragua. Victor Zuniga has been working with Barb to configure the system to best suit her cataloging needs.



Harmony Library Technology Refresh

Each summer the Library District’s IT Department works with FRCC to do a “tech refresh”. This summer 18 staff computers were replaced as part of the normal replacement schedule. Lingzhen Zhao worked with Annie Fox to accomplish this task with minimal disruption to SRC. ☺

COUNCIL TREE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Currie Meyer

BASE Camp Summer Day camp outreach storytime

Youth services librarian Jenny Thurman, several CTL library assistants and I provided storytimes to BASE Camp’s summer day camp every week this summer. Every Monday, from June 13 to August 1 (except July 4), we provided a fun, interactive, 30-min storytime for children enrolled in the program who were entering grades 1-3.

Staff re-purposed storytimes they’d already prepared and presented for in-house storytime the previous week. This way, staff prepared for two storytimes at once, requiring no extra prep time, and negating prep time costs. With two additional staff to cover the floor at CTL during travel to- and delivery of the programs, one staff member could leave the library to provide these programs without the need for substitute coverage. Thus, the only cost of the program was mileage to the site of BASE Camp, Olander Elementary.

On August 18 I attended BASE Camp’s annual fall conference (see below) as a BASE Camp Board of Directors officer. There, I spoke with two BASE Camp summer day camp staff about the storytime series. Their response was very positive, and they asked if we could continue the program next summer.

On August 26, Jenny and I met with CTL LA staff to discuss the outcomes of the BASE Camp summer storytime program. Staff enjoyed the new challenge of planning and presenting a story program to school-age children, and enjoyed getting out into the community. One Library Assistant added she was “mobbed with hugs” from the kids at the end of her program.

BASE Camp (Before and After School Enrichment) is a local 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides affordable, quality out-of-school care for children ages 5 to 12. BASE Camp programs are licensed by the State of Colorado, and serve over 3,200 children in 33 PSD and Thompson Valley elementary schools. Tuition assistance is provided through the state’s CCAP program, United Way, the City of Fort Collins block grants, the Bohemian Foundation, private donors, and other grantors. <http://mybasecampkids.org/>



Number of storytimes presented to BASE Campers: 7

Number of children ages 6-9 engaged by the summer storytime series: 190 (21 adults, too!)

Program cost (mileage): \$34.65

Summer reading challenge programs for families and teens July and August

Coordinated by CTL children's and teen services librarian Jenny Thurman:

Chopped! Family Style, July 7: Over 30 patrons participated in a Chopped! Family Style cooking competition. Individually or as a group, families made their own original snack creations using a variety of ingredients. Each participant received a certificate celebrating what was most unique about their dish.



Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, July 14

Fort Collins' own Rocky Mountain Raptor Program presented information about local raptors to over 60 patrons.

Yoga Storytime, July 21

Yogi, storyteller and library manager Currie Meyer presented a yoga storytime for families, using stories to teach yoga poses and yoga poses to tell stories.

Envision Yourself program for teens, July 26: CTL library assistant Meg Schiel and OTL circulation aide and library assistant sub Miranda West hosted this workshop on writing and characterization for teens. Participants took a personality quiz, which matched them with various literary characters. They then created vision boards about their character and personality, exploring attributes and archetypes.

Gamepalooza, July 28

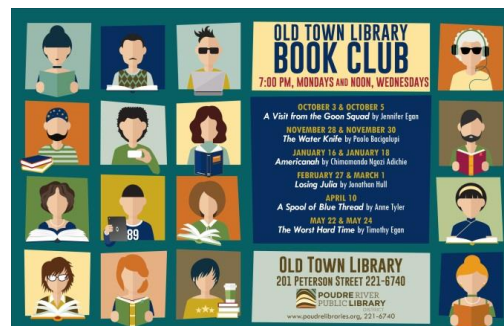
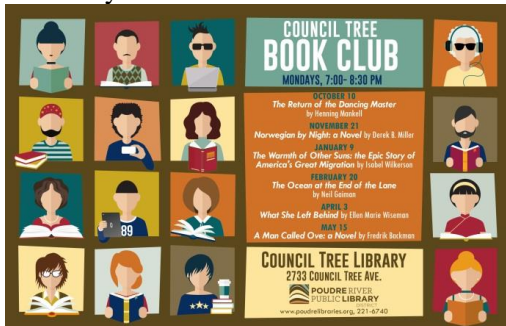
Council Tree presented one last Summer Reading Challenge hurrah: a Gamepalooza filled with races, board games, and even an inflatable soccer goal.

Library Pals volunteers

Throughout the Thursday Family Programs (and the Tuesday's Summer Reading Storytimes) Pals volunteers provided much appreciated assistance and comedic relief.

Book clubs Prepare for 2016-2017 Season, August 15 and 22

In August, CTL Library Assistant Karen Cagle and I (as Old Town Library book club coordinator) facilitated book selection meetings with the CTL and OTL book clubs. We look forward to another season of learning, discovery and discussion!



Personnel Changes In Circulation

Circulation supervisors Chris Cortez (CTL), Kim Doran (HL) and Holly Bucks (OTL) continued to fill vacant positions with existing and new staff during July and August. To improve efficiency, the supervisors agreed to balance the LSR staff around the District, placing four LSRs at each library.

As a result, veteran LSR Liz Neff transferred to Harmony and CTL gained a new circulation assistant position. That CA position was filled by CTL circulation aide Susan Harrison. CTL also gained a new LSR sub, CTL circulation assistant Xochil Arellano. CTL circulation aide Kindra Baker was promoted to circulation assistant at OTL. Chris also filled two circulation aide positions with new staff.



Circulation Assistant Melody trains new circulation aide Nathaniel on Aug 30 at CTL.

Circulation staff finds \$500 cash and returns it to patron, July 30:

CTL circulation aide Emily Green found a bank envelope inside a recently returned book on July 30. The envelope contained five \$100 bills! Emily gave the envelope and cash to LSR Thuan Nguyen, who researched who had most recently borrowed the book in which the envelope was found. Thuan placed the envelope in the circulation office safe, and sent an email to fellow LSR staff to follow up with the last borrower.

Two days later, CTL LSR Holly Fritz contacted the last borrower, carefully alluding to “a personal item” found in a book they’d recently borrowed. The patron did not realize she’d lost the money until she remembered she had the book on vacation and a relative forwarded her money after her car broke down. She’d used the envelope as a bookmark. The patron was extremely grateful to get her money back (staff checked her ID when she arrived to claim the cash). I am grateful to work with such honest, caring people!

School Liaisons meeting, August 16

School – Library Liaisons co-coordinators Johanna and I facilitated a summer-wrap-up and back-to-school meeting for our 14 school – library liaisons staff on August 16 at OTL.



Pokemon Go! passive program for teens, July

In response to the sudden Pokemon Go augmented reality game craze in July, CTL youth services librarian Jenny Thurman set up a chart paper poster in the teen area, asking “What Pokemon did you catch in the library?”

Vicky Hays presented “Children and mobile media” to CTL staff, Aug 26

Early Literacy librarian Vicky Hays provided CTL classified staff new research on the ways mobile media affect the developing brains of young children. She also explained how she applied the new American Academy of Pediatrics standards to her selection of mobile apps for our children’s iPads (KiPS).

Disaster and Emergency Response Plan final draft and training committee, August:

After several rounds of proofreading by administrative assistant Cynthia Langren, HR manager Sabrina Stromnes, Librarian Elaine Burritt, facilities staff Rob Stansbury and communications assistant Katie Auman, the 40-page DER Plan document is in its final stages of drafting. Graphics designer Laura Carter has formatted and re-formatted the plan, and will likely produce the final version in the next few days. Kudos to all staff who have helped Ken and I produce an accurate, clear document.

DER Plan Training Committee formed: In July and August, I invited leaders from each District building to plan and coordinate disaster and emergency response training for all staff. Serving on the committee are: OTL manager Jean Bosch, facilities staff Rob Stansbury, FRCC library manager Annie Fox, and HL Librarian Elaine Burritt. Our first meeting is September 7.

HARMONY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Anne Macdonald

Goal 1 – Take Proactive and sustain steps to brand the library as a platform of continuous learning

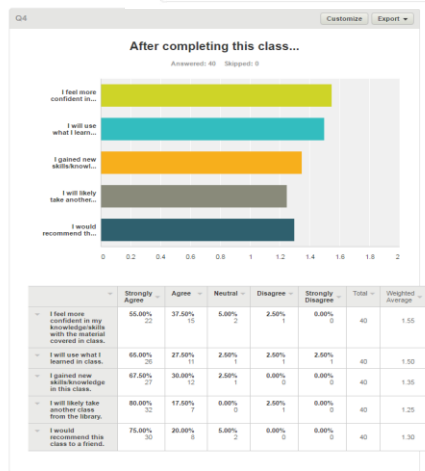
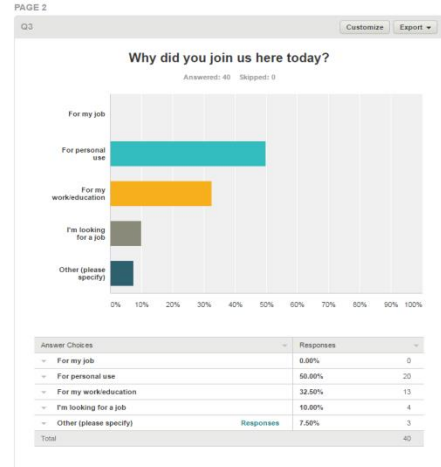
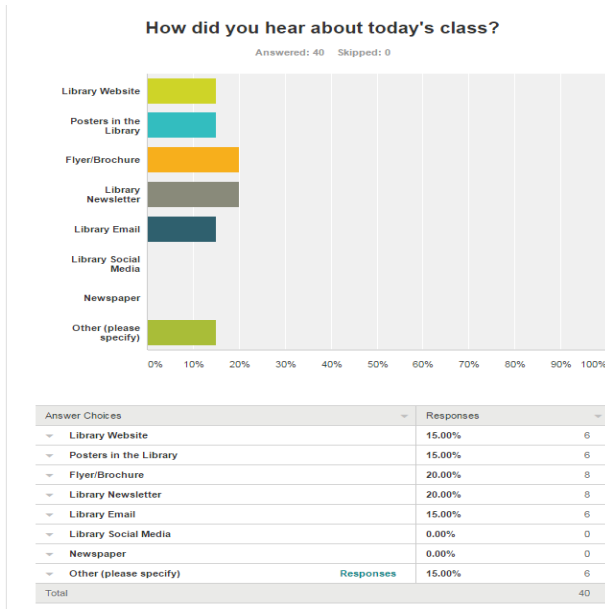
- Define the library as a place of continuous learning.
- Be an open, welcoming place for all.

Goal 2 – Clarify, enhance and communicate the value of the library to the community

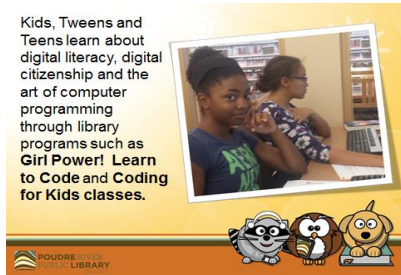
- Help people thrive through programming, services and collections
- Be a platform for discussion of community issues.

To continue steps toward these goals, staff at Harmony Library work with both the community and our colleagues to make sure the library is a natural site for people to continue life-long learning, and maintain the Harmony Library as an open, welcoming place for all:

Digital Learning: With Kristen Draper organizing adult digital learning, the Library District offered over 32 computer classes this summer (June 1- August 29) at Harmony Library with a total of 456 participants, averaging 8.2 people per class. This is a 31% increase in attendance from the spring semester. The following are some evaluative outcomes from the attendees:



Kristen also met with the PSD Media Specialists for their annual school kick-off meeting, letting them know how school liaisons can help them in the classrooms and beyond; and great programs they or their students can attend this fall.



The older kids and teen iPads (Twips and Tips) are now available at all three libraries with age appropriate games and apps. Kids have been loving them!

Financial Literacy: Financial literacy is a goal set down by the Federal Reserve Board to ensure that Americans learn smart financial decision-making. To this end, the Library District partners with Rocky Mountain Chapter of Credit Unions (RMCCU) to offer classes on estate planning, budgeting, saving, smart car and home buying at Harmony Library. On July 20, RMCCU and Harmony Library offered *College Funding Options* (20 attendees); August 17 offered *Women and Money* (10 attendees). In addition to the goal of continuous learning, this partnership also fits into **Goal 4 – Evaluate partnerships in order to maximize stake holders access to all services.**

Harmony Book Club is a book discussion group led by Blair Oliver, FRCC English faculty. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month to discuss great books. July finished up the summer project on the Classic Male in literature with *Henry IV, Part II* by William Shakespeare. August book discussion centered on the 2016 Fort Collins Reads community read and the Contemporary Female in literature: *Brother, I'm Dying* by Edwidge Danticat.

Goal 3 – Refine the scope of the library’s programs and collections around the community priorities to develop the most effective response to community needs

- Be intentional in the reallocation of resources
- Cultivate the defined target audiences.

Business Community: A target demographic for the Strategic Plan is the business community. Anne Macdonald, business librarian, continues her work with the Small Business Development Center, offering SBDC clients one-on-one research services. During the month of May, Anne worked directly with over 10 startups, ranging from cowhides to jewelry casings to historical facts surrounding women in business. The research ranges from providing demographics for target markets to industry market trends and competitive analysis.

Jobs and Careers: Librarian Molly Thompson worked with both Sarah Scobey (nonprofits) and Anne Macdonald to create a series of non-profit, business and career programs for the fall. The final brochure was created by our great graphics designer, Laura Carter. Molly also taught Beginning Excel and Beyond Basic Excel classes to the public, making several changes to the curriculum in order to cover more in depth material on formulas.

Molly met with several job seekers over the summer: one woman needing library resources for a higher pay career; another targeting companies in the organic food industry; another to improve her interviewing skills; and another job seeker wanting input on his resume via email. In addition to working with job seekers, Molly is also a Certified Small Business Counselor and helped small business owners on their research ranging from information on national and state parks and fire stations to market research on the Northern Colorado welding industry.



Teens: Teen SRC ended with all the other programs on August 7. Names were drawn for prizes of Cinemark movie gift cards and Barnes & Noble gift cards. Teen Librarians Diane Tuccillo and Jenny Thurman hosted the Teen IRS on Saturday, August 13, from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. at Council Tree, with 11 teens attending. A sub-group of Teen IRS met with Diane and Rebecca, teen intern, three times to plan for the September 14th Diversity Forum on technology's effect on diversity in our society.

Samantha Ye, a high school student and a member our I.R.S., presented on “Diversity in YA Literature” at the August 17th All-Staff Meeting (thanks to Elaine Burritt for organizing Samantha’s presentation).

Goal 4: Evaluate space and partnerships in order to maximize stake holders access to all services

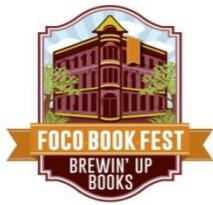
- Define and prioritize partnerships.

Front Range Community College Music Dept. (partnership): Elaine Burritt worked with Nate Wiley and Debra Throgmorton of FRCC to present “Harmony Beyond the Green” on August 26 with a Blues Jam with the Buzz Brothers, held indoors at Red Cloud Peak. These summer concerts also fit into **Goal 2 – Clarify, enhance and communicate the value of the library to the community**

Front Range Community College: Kim Doran (Circulation Supervisor—Harmony Library) and Annie Fox (Front Range Community College Librarian) hired six FRCC Work Study Students for the fall semester. Harmony’s public computers all have new computer chairs, for which everyone is thankful (thanks to FRCC Librarian Annie Fox) and our parking lot got brand new asphalt and nice, bright and clean line-painting.

FoCo Book Festival: The library continues its planning for the October 22, 2016 event. Tickets to Governor John Hickenlooper’s talk will be available at Old Town Library soon. The Library District will distribute 150 free tickets for the discussion and signing at Bas Bleu Theatre. The discussion is from 3:30-4:30 in the theater and the book signing is from 4:30-5:30 in the theater lobby.

FoCo Book Festival: Brewin’ Up Books, a one-day literary festival for the Fort Collins community, is a partnership led by the Poudre Libraries. Partnerships include CSU Morgan Library, CSU Department of Fermentation Science, CSU Department of English, Creative Writing, New Belgium Brewing Company, Wolverine Farm Publishing, Old Firehouse Books and Downtown Artery. The festival will include workshops, demonstrations, panel discussions, book talks and book signings, readings and a keynote panel on *Books that have Made Me*. Participants include top international and national authors in the craft beer and sustainable coffee and tea world, as well as award-winning poets and literary writers who have in some matter or form a relationship to the beer, coffee and/or tea world. The festival is funded by the Friends of Poudre Libraries, Friends of Morgan Library, Fort Collins Office of Economic Health, Downtown Development Authority, Fort Fund, local businesses, private donations, grants and sponsorships. Library staff working on the festival include Anne Macdonald, Sarah Scobey, Melissa Beavers, and Meg Schiel, Paula Watson-Lakamp and Katie Auman (also fits **Goals 2 and 3**). An update on the Book Festival was made to the Friends of Poudre Libraries on August 6 and will be made to the Library Trust on September 6.



Storytimes

POUDRE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

KIPS (Kids iPad Stations) allow for parent and peer guidance

Choices take into consideration the three “Cs” – Content of the material, Context in which it is going to be used and the Child.

POUDRE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Game On!

Tweens and Teens worked in groups, used their communications, math and computer programming skills to complete the **Sphero Maze Madness** this summer.

POUDRE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

OLD TOWN LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Jean Bosch

Programs and Events

Teen Services Librarian Nicole Burchfield started Anime Club up again at CTL with a showing of about 10 teens in attendance. There was also a teen program at OTL – Heroes vs. Villains held in conjunction with the movie theater release of “Suicide Squad”; about 10 teens attended. OTL also hosted an after hours Teen Nerd Prom in conjunction with FoCo ComicCon with over 70 teens in attendance.

FoCo Book Fest - Nonprofit Resources Librarian Sarah Scobey helped to secure a \$3,500 cash donation and a \$7,000 in-kind donation from CSU’s External Relations Department; a \$1,000 gift from local architectural firm, auworkshop; and \$300 from the Crones Book Club. She also serves on the event's programing committee to help schedule author events and organize author visits.

STREAM Lab – This area was hopping in August! The lab featured seven activities throughout the month, providing many end-of-summer activities for families in the final days before school.

- Science: very popular this month was the anatomy activity, which featured a human torso with removable parts for older students and the ever-popular Mr. Potato Head for little ones, along with an anatomy coloring sheet.
- Technology: A Sparkfun Picoboard provided computer code learning; we featured Picasso Cat, where children could experiment with how sound sensors change computer programs, and learned computer gaming by creating a PlayDoh game controller for Ms. Pacman.
- Engineering: origami and paper airplane projects.
- Art: our Makey Makey provided musical fun, and children played piano notes by completing an electrical circuit from themselves to the computer code. More art activities included Scrabble-letter card-making, along with craft animal hats.
- Math: a Star Wars I Spy counting game along with a create-your-own-superhero name sheet.
- Pokemon made a return appearance with Pokemon coloring pages to accompany the expanded all-ages Pokemon scavenger hunt.

Our new makerspace activities have arrived! The Kibo coding robot for young children, Little Bits, and Squishy Circuits are here and ready for amazing new projects. Library Assistant Erin Lucero is working with a committee to discuss ideas to introduce the new tech toys to both staff and the public.

Outreach and Embedded Staff

Nicole did a panel at ComicCon - Batman Trivia Challenge. There were about 20 people in attendance. She gave away cell phone “bat signals” printed with our 3-D printer to the winning team - they loved them!

Continuing Education and Learning Opportunities

August is a great month for planning fall storytimes and other programs. Storytime staff met this month to talk about the new logic models and a tour of Council Tree Library's storytime materials and setup there. At the staff storytime meeting, we discussed ideas to provide shared access for new tech to storytellers. Some items proposed are a shared iTunes account for storytime music, plus a library-wide YouTube commercial-free account.

Librarians Vicky Hayes and Amy Holzworth received travel stipends to attend the SPELL and CLEL conference in Denver next month where Vicky will be part of a panel on library programming for kids. Vicky is also busy creating a PowerPoint on research and resources for a panel program on Media Mentorship in Libraries Serving Youth at the ALSC Virtual Institute on September 16. She will be presenting along with librarians from Alaska and Maryland in a webinar format. She will be sharing parts of this at the Council Tree staff meeting this month.

Nicole attended a webinar called “Build Your Graphic Novel Collection: Advice by Librarians, for Librarians” and attended the CATS Division Meeting in Estes Park with 40 other attendees.

Sarah attended a session on Compassion Fatigue through the City of Fort Collins Wellness program. She also attended the C3 Forum, a large, nonprofit conference at Regis cosponsored by the Colorado Nonprofit Association, Community Resource Center, and the Colorado Association of Funders.

Miscellaneous

Sarah is currently in process of reviewing nine applicants for the hourly librarian position and 86 for the hourly library assistant position. She met with Sabrina Stromnes to go over using Cornerstone more effectively and efficiently.

The Media Mentors have been working on getting new iPads into all three branches. We now have Kid iPad Stations (KiPS) for kids from ages two to eight, TwiPS for tweens ages 8-12, and TiPS for teens. Digital Literacy Librarian Kristen Draper set up all the iPads with fun apps for each age group. Early Literacy Librarian Vicky Hays and Kristen gathered input from the Media Mentors, library staff, and the public and decided which apps to install using criteria they have developed for selections.