

County Librarian's Report September 2019

The Yuma Library is collaborating with the University of Arizona Cooperative to provide *financial workshops*. The workshops will be held from August through the end of 2019, and they will be provided in two formats. The first will be single classes called "Where does your Money Go?", and the second is a four-part financial wellness series offered at the Main library.



Our Main Library is collaborating with the IRS for a *Virtual Service Delivery*. We will provide space to house the equipment provided by the IRS, and we will select two days a week where patrons can speak to an IRS official about any issue. Access to the service will be by appointment only, and this service should be available in the fall.

We are grateful to the State Library for providing us with five Dell laptops to help with *Going online with the Census*. We will use these laptops to help promote the Census, and assist the public in completing the Census online.

The Main Library is collaborating with the *Arizona Attorney General's Office* to host a satellite office, in our library, on the first and third Thursday of each month. They will assist with consumer and civil rights complaints.

We have launched a new *mobile app* for Library users. This app is downloadable to cellphones, and will provide easier on-the-go access to library services.



Our astronomy programs continue to be popular, with over 200 attending the recent *Moon Gazing event* at the Foothills Library. This program was a collaboration with the Children's Museum of Yuma County, and Lowell Observatory.

The Library District has received two *Achievement Awards* from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the Somerton *Día de los Niños* event, and the Foothills *Art & Poetry* event. The awards, under the "Libraries" category, recognized libraries who achieve community goals, and support innovation and public outreach.

Our Library was fully funded for the *LSTA Full STEAM Ahead project*. A countywide STEM programming initiative will be launched in all eight library branches through teen and children activities.

The Library was also awarded a mini-grant from the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation for a program called “*My Wellton*”. The goal of this project is to have Wellton residents creatively portray aspects of their community that they cherish the most. This is a collaboration with local schools to provide workshops, and to display the completed artwork.

We held our 6th annual *Library Con* on May 4. This year’s special guests included a pair of well-known Cosplayers from Northern Mexico, and author Matt Gardner, an L.A. based graphic novelist, puppeteer, and video game character designer. This popular event continues to grow in attendance.



May 21st was the Main Library’s 10-year anniversary celebration. We held an Open House, with prizes and refreshments provided by the Friends. There were resources and displays set up throughout the library.

We are busy preparing for the *Fiestas Patrias* outreach event scheduled to be held in September. This is a Hispanic Heritage Festival hosted by the City of Yuma and the Mexican Consulate. During Hispanic Heritage Month, we will also hold our annual award winning *San Luis Library Art Exhibit*.



Library Director Susan Evans retired on May 3, after 30 years with the Library District. She was honored by the Yuma County Board of Supervisors, Library Board of Trustees, Library Foundation, volunteers, and staff for her years of service.

Thank you.

Lisa Mendez
Interim Library Director

