

DATE: March 20, 2023

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Laura Burch, Library Analyst

SUBJECT: **Library Director's Report**

STAFF UPDATES

The Library is currently recruiting for four Librarian I/II's with one position in each of the four divisions.

NEW LIBRARY CARDS

The Mountain View Public Library card has a fresh new look. The City released a refreshed style in 2022, and the Library created a communications team to update signage, flyers, and other marketing materials. Part of this new identity included creating a new look for Library cards. The team worked together to decide on a fresh new style, and the Library has begun issuing the new cards now that the stock of old cards is gone.



STATE PARKS PASSES AND BACKPACKS

The Library received additional State Parks passes and now has over 100 passes available to Library customers. The State Parks Pass Program is a partnership between California State Parks and the California State Library as part of the Outdoor Access for All initiative.

In addition to the passes, the Library now also has two backpacks available to borrow. The hiking daypacks contain helpful hiking gear and can be used by customers to haul all their essential items when hitting the trails to explore the natural beauty of California.



LIBRARY USAGE DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Mountain View Public Library served as a refuge to our residents experiencing power outages and those seeking shelter during the most recent period of inclement weather. Staff noted that the building seemed extra lively over the last week, with people coming in to utilize the free WiFi for internet access and electricity to power their laptops and phones. The study rooms were in high demand. Rooms were fully booked with even the smaller half-hour gaps filled between longer reservations. A staff member spoke with a Library customer who was scheduled to defend their thesis but had lost power at home. The customer was able to reserve a study room and make their virtual presentation as scheduled. A Librarian experienced a multi-day power outage at their home and ended up coming in early before their shift to utilize Library services.

PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

Tax season is in full swing, and the tax assistance program at the Library has been going strong since early February. IRS-certified volunteers from United Way Bay Area are on-site twice a week to provide free income tax filing assistance to low-income families. So far this year, the tax program has helped over 200 people. Tax assistance will continue at the Library until mid-April.



The Youth Division hosted a drop-in art program on February 16 and provided an afternoon of self-directed arts and crafts. Forty (40) young artists used a variety of supplies to make their own creations.



The Sensory Storytime series continued in February with a group of 34 in attendance. The Sensory Storytimes provide a smaller class size for children who might benefit. Every Sensory Storytime is paired with a stay-and-play activity using items that help stimulate the senses. In February, the stay-and-play involved kinetic sand to help support physical development and fine motor skills.



On Wednesday, March 1, the Library hosted a talk with Kai Harris, author of the critically acclaimed novel *What the Fireflies Knew*. This program was part of [Silicon Valley Reads 2023](#), and Harris's book was one of the selections for this year. The program was sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library and had a petite but engaged audience of 10 in attendance.



Other Past Programs

- Drop-In: DIY XOXO Painting—Attendance: 1
- Baby Storytime—Attendance: 83
- Tastes Like War: An Author Talk with Grace M. Cho—Attendance: 8
- African American History in Verse: Author Talk with Marilyn Nelson, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 8
- Family Storytime—Attendance: 125

- Drop-In Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 11
- Silicon Valley Reads Storytime—Attendance: 130
- Sewing with FabMo: Hand-Embroidered 3D Flowers, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 9
- Baby Storytime—Attendance: 97
- Drop-In: Teen Button Making—Attendance: 3
- Science Explorers—Attendance: 39
- Successful Retirement Strategies—Attendance: 14
- Switch It Up Saturday—Attendance: 32
- Author Talk with Sadeqa Johnson, Award-Winning Author of *Yellow Wife*—Attendance: 4
- Bilingual Storytime: Spanish/English—Attendance: 12
- Family Storytime—Attendance: 45
- Outdoor Spring Storytime—Attendance: 144
- Detox Your Mind Through Meditation—Attendance: 20

Upcoming Programs

- Tuesday, March 21—[Outdoor Spring Storytime](#)
- Tuesday, March 21—[Southern Inspired: Author Talk with Celebrity Chef Jernard A. Wells](#), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library
- Tuesday, March 21—[Sewing with FabMo: Pin Cushions](#)
- Wednesday, March 22—[Baby Storytime](#)
- Wednesday, March 22—[Drop-In: Teen Origami Birds](#)

- Wednesday, March 22—[Sing and Play Along Ukulele](#), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library
- Thursday, March 23—[Science Explorers](#), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library
- Thursday, March 23—[Stuffed Animal Sleepover](#), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library
- Friday, March 24—[Sensory Storytime](#), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library
- Saturday, March 25—[Switch It Up Saturday](#)
- Tuesday, March 28—[Outdoor Spring Storytime](#)
- Tuesday, March 28—[Bestselling Author of *The Lost Girls of Paris*: Author Talk with Pam Jenoff](#), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library
- Tuesday, March 28—[Bilingual Storytime: Spanish/English](#)
- Wednesday, March 29—[Baby Storytime](#)
- Thursday, March 30—[Virtual Drawing Lesson from Nomar Perez](#)
- Thursday, March 30—[Understanding COPD](#)
- Friday, March 31—[Tween Chalk Art Event](#)
- Tuesday, April 4—[Outdoor Spring Storytime](#)
- Tuesday, April 4—[Author Talk with Kate Beaton: Bestselling Cartoonist of *Hark! A Vagrant*](#), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library
- Wednesday, April 5—[Baby Storytime](#)
- Wednesday, April 5—[Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English](#)
- Wednesday, April 5—[The Civil Rights Trail](#)
- Thursday, April 6—[Growing Summer Vegetables](#)

- Tuesday, April 11—[Outdoor Spring Storytime](#)
- Wednesday, April 12—[Baby Storytime](#)
- Saturday, April 15—[Drop-In Bike Clinic](#), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library

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