

DATE: September 15, 2025

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: **Library Director's Report**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Assistant Library Director Melvyn Yabut on his retirement from the City of Mountain View.

FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

The Library published its [Year in Review report](#) for Fiscal Year 2024-25. The report provides an overview of the Library's accomplishments throughout the past year, including the expansion of outreach services, addition of new programs, space improvements, growth in borrowing trends, focus on inclusivity and forming connections, and more.

Some of our favorite highlights:

- Launched a [new catalog](#) that offers an updated look and a fresh, easy experience while searching for library materials.
- Grew a collection of borrowable materials that includes [stargazing kits](#), [step counters](#), and portable chargers.
- Subscribed to [PressReader](#), an online platform that provides library cardholders with access to thousands of digitized national and international newspapers and magazines in dozens of languages.
- Launched several initiatives for teens, including [Amplify: Teen Voices](#), as part of an ongoing effort to be a dynamic community resource for young adults as they explore their interests and build connections.
- Received a letter and Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congressperson Anna G. Eshoo in response to the [Career Success Allowance Program](#).
- Received a grant to digitize [Mountain View High School yearbooks from 1904-1929](#).

REVISED COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Library has revised its [Collection Development Policy](#) based on the requirements outlined in California's [Freedom to Read Act](#). A staff team reworked the policy and presented it to the Board of Library Trustees on August 18, after which it was approved by the State Library on August 27.

COURSERA SERVICE UPDATE

Free access to Coursera through the Library ends on Sunday, September 14. Staff are redirecting current Coursera customers to the other free online resources available on the Library's [Career and Skill-Building](#) page, particularly [LinkedIn Learning](#), which provides world-class courses taught by industry experts on a range of topics including Excel, coding, public speaking, business writing, and more. Customers with any questions or concerns may reach out via the Library's [Contact Us](#) form.

SUMMER READING 2025 STATISTICS

The Library compiled the following statistics from this year's Summer Reading Program, along with the percentage change from last year's program.

	CHILDREN	TEENS	ADULTS
Registrations	1,268 (+19%)	202 (+17%)	426 (-26%)
Completions	912 (+17%)	133 (+11%)	185 (+0%)
Prizes Distributed	838 (+56%)	111(+34%)	89
Coupons Distributed	866	115	91

Youth prizes included books for children and Lobby Shop gift cards for teens. This summer marks the first time the Library has given Lobby Shop gift cards to teens instead of books. Adults received coupons to use at the Book Sales, and 10 adult participants were selected at random to win \$20 gift cards to local businesses.

Another significant and positive change to this year's Summer Reading Program included the distribution of scratcher cards to elementary schools. The scratcher cards were designed to track children's progress through the reading challenge. Teachers provided students with these cards before the end of the school year, which drew new customers into the Library once the Summer Reading Program began.

OUTREACH AT BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS

The Library participated in the Community Services Agency and Mountain View Whisman School District's Back-to-School events last month. Staff interacted with 35 visitors and issued five library cards at the CSA event. Staff interacted with 224 visitors and issued 23 library cards at the MVWSD event.

Children enjoyed picking up coloring sheets of the bookmobile and bookmarks made from recycled board books while adults learned more about free programs and services offered through the Library. Those who attended the MVWSD event had the opportunity to browse and borrow from the bookmobile's collection and picked up a service schedule that indicates when the bookmobile will visit elementary schools after school.



SCI-FI SEPTEMBER

[Sci-Fi September](#) is back at the Library. Residents are invited to attend an exciting lineup of events that celebrate science fiction, fantasy, and the real-life science that inspires the stories.

Events taking place at the beginning of September include:

- A [presentation by Dr. Rachel Morgan](#), Optical Scientist at NASA Ames Research Center and the SETI Institute, that will discuss how new coronagraph technology could make it possible to directly image distant Earth-like exoplanets.*
- A drop-in, self-directed [arts and crafts program](#) for children.*
- A [workshop](#) led by teen robotics team QuantaMania 27090, where children will build mini robot circuits, make robot art, and drive a real competition robot.
- A [craft program for adults](#) where participants can make personalized charm bracelets or keychains with sci-fi or fantasy book charms.*
- A [sci-fi trivia competition](#) for adults.*
- A [discussion](#) led by Keren Ruth Wong, a design researcher from the IDEO Play Lab, on how Gen Z is creating innovative tech tools with AI.

The Library will also have book and media displays on both floors, paper craft projects for children, and a sci-fi themed voting activity for teens.

*These events are generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

KUDOS CORNER

The Library received this kind comment from a customer.

I consider our library one of the best I've experienced in my six decades of life in various states along the US Coasts. What stands out over the others nowadays is that at MVPL everyone, staff and volunteers alike, is so welcoming. This is refreshing since our country is now divided. Please help pass on to the appropriate person(s) that I commend the security staff in particular for their compassion and effectiveness in carrying out their responsibilities. During my many visits in the past few years, I had ample opportunities to witness various security guards exhibiting kindness, patience and understanding in serving patrons of diverse backgrounds. I appreciate the fact that what is first and foremost on MVPL's website "Open to everyone...." is a reality.

PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

Sixteen participants learned about kanzashi, the traditional Japanese art of folding fabric into intricate floral designs, in a workshop led by sustainable artists Gigi Farmer and Leila Ghasempour. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Thirty-six teens came to compete and cheer for their peers at the Teens Super Smash Bros. Tournament.



Seventy-three attendees enjoyed a relaxing concert of Hawaiian music featuring Haopinaka, who brought the spirit of aloha with Hawaiian guitars, ukuleles, and sweet vocal harmonies. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Seventy-seven youths explored the inner workings of e-waste such as phones, desktop computers, and keyboards to learn how they function during the Tech Take Apart program.



The Baby Beach Party program was a great success with 171 participants. Young children between six months and two years old enjoyed books, music, movement, and a variety of playful sensory stations.



Over one hundred residents came to the Plant Exchange in late August. The Plant Exchange was originally an annual program that took place every spring. Due to customer feedback asking to hold the Plant Exchange more than once per year, the program will now be offered biannually.

every spring and summer. Attendees enjoyed trading a variety of plants, including seedlings, cuttings, houseplants, plants in containers, shrubs, and small trees.



Other Past Programs

- Friday, Aug. 1—Pages and Paws Reading Buddy—Attendance: 46
- Saturday, Aug. 2—Amplify: Cookies to Energy—Attendance: 20
- Tuesday, Aug. 5—Summer Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 312
- Tuesday, Aug. 5—The Stories, Science, and History of Birds with Smithsonian Biologist Jay Falk, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 45
- Wednesday, Aug. 6—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 73
- Wednesday, Aug. 6—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 49
- Wednesday, Aug. 6—Kanzashi Fabric Flower Making, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 16
- Thursday, Aug. 7—Teens Super Smash Bros. Tournament—Attendance: 36
- Tuesday, Aug. 12—Summer Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 307
- Tuesday, Aug. 12—Top Ten Habits of Successful Gardeners—Attendance: 42
- Wednesday, Aug. 13—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 80
- Wednesday, Aug. 13—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 51
- Wednesday, Aug. 13—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 72
- Thursday, Aug. 14—Magical Bridge Storytime—Attendance: 64
- Thursday, Aug. 14—Indian Classical Dance Performance—Attendance: 66
- Saturday, Aug. 16—Drop-in Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 20
- Saturday, Aug. 16—Amplify Project Blush—Attendance: 12
- Saturday, Aug. 16—Haopinaka - Hawaiian Music Performance, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 73
- Tuesday, Aug. 19—Sewing with FabMo: Hourglass Blocks - Part One, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 16
- Wednesday, Aug. 20—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 95
- Wednesday, Aug. 20—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 42

- Wednesday, Aug. 20—Returning to Romance Through Food and Flirty Fun in Fiction with Casey McQuiston, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 9
- Thursday, Aug. 21—Let's Create, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 48
- Thursday, Aug. 21—Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 4
- Friday, Aug. 22—Big Buzz about Bees, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 37
- Saturday, Aug. 23—Jazz in the Park: A Concert with the Dave Rocha Jazz Group, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 73
- Wednesday, Aug. 27—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 124
- Wednesday, Aug. 27—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 38
- Wednesday, Aug. 27—Discover Your Roots: A Genealogy Talk with Robert Cox, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 13
- Thursday, Aug. 28—How to Thrive in a World of Constant Chaos with Organizational Psychologist Dr. Tasha Eurich, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 29
- Thursday, Aug. 28—Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 2
- Friday, Aug. 29—Tech Take Apart—Attendance: 77
- Saturday, Aug. 30—Baby Beach Party, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 171
- Saturday, August 30—Plant Exchange—Attendance: 105

Upcoming Programs

- Sang Matiz: Afro-Latin Concert in the Park
 - [Saturday, Oct. 4](#)—Enjoy a vibrant afternoon concert in Pioneer Park as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with featured guest Sang Matiz, a Bay Area band that fuses World and Afro-Latin beats with tropical grooves, funk, and flamenco-inspired guitar. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Amplify: Intro to 3D Printing and CAD
 - [Mondays, Oct. 6 & 13](#)—Teens ages 13-18 are invited to register for a two-part introductory lesson on 3D printing and CAD (Computer-aided Design).
- Spookulele! Halloween Ukulele Jam
 - [Wednesday, Oct. 8](#)—Participants at this special Halloween edition of Sing and Play Along Ukulele Jam will learn and perform songs with a spooky theme. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Your Brain Has Been Hacked: Rethinking Attention, Tech, and the Crisis of Digital Overload
 - [Thursday, Oct. 9](#)—This dynamic workshop will explore the neuroscience of digital addiction, unpack how algorithms exploit dopamine pathways, and examine how

this rewiring is contributing to rising rates of anxiety, depression, executive dysfunction, and even physical symptoms like headaches, insomnia, and chronic fatigue. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

- Introduction to Kids LEGO Robotics
 - [Saturday, Oct. 11](#)—Children are welcome to spend an hour designing, building, and programming a real robot using LEGO SPIKE Prime or Essential kits to get hands-on engineering experience with motors, sensors, and creative problem-solving.
- Console Chaos! Retro Gaming with The Retro Roadshow
 - [Saturday, Oct. 25](#)—Join us for “Console Chaos” and learn how Atari, Sega, Nintendo and others fought for your TV in this action-packed multimedia presentation that will dive into the multi-decade battle between video game companies vying to be number one. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Myth Masters
 - [Monday, Oct. 27](#)—Children ages 9-12 are invited to join us each month as we dive into a new myth from a different culture, then create a fun craft or project inspired by the story. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Medicare Made Easy
 - [Thursday, Oct. 30](#)—Learn about the value of health insurance and gain a better understanding of Medicare and its benefits at this informational session presented by professional financial advisor Claudette G. Klein.
- Online Author Series, generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
 - [Thursday, Oct. 2](#)—Join us in conversation with Smithsonian professionals Adrián Aldaba and Emily Key as they discuss [Nuestra América](#) and highlight inspiring stories of Latinos throughout history, as well as their incredible contributions to the cultural, social, and political character of the United States.
 - [Thursday, Oct. 9](#)—Since publishing in 2015, Leigh Bardugo’s highly popular [Six of Crows](#) has taken the world of YA literature by storm. Join us as we pick the brain of the *New York Times* bestselling author herself, celebrating the release of her *Six of Crows (The Dregs Edition)*.
 - [Wednesday, Oct. 22](#)—You are invited to join us online and be one of the first to hear from Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai about her astonishing memoir, *Finding My Way* (forthcoming October 21, 2025).
 - [Wednesday, Oct. 29](#)—Coined as the “queen of British historical fiction,” Philippa Gregory returns to the infamous Tudor Court with a tale that is both timely and timeless. We invite you to sit down with us for an intriguing conversation with Gregory about her newest novel, *Boleyn Traitor* (forthcoming October 14, 2025).

For more upcoming events, view the [Mountain View Public Library’s events calendar](#).