



City of Alameda • California

May 13, 2015

Dear President Atkin and Members of the Library Board,

This letter is to bring you up to date on activities during the months of March and April, and to provide a look forward to some of the projects which will be coming up.

Library Services Reports: (Consent Agenda). The February and March Library Services Reports are included in your Board Packet. The Expenditure Reports for two months are also included.

A random check in May of the computer workstations at the Main Library found one Internet workstation on the second floor out of service, and one Internet workstation on the first floor out of service. The printer in the first floor alcove has been replaced.

Main Library Update. The new door counter has been received and a work order has been submitted to pull power to the back gate and install the new counter. Thanks to the diligent work of Supervising Librarian, Marlon Romero we are just about ready to capture that lost attendance.

The old security cameras did not seem to be operating well and the library wanted to add one more camera that showed the circulation desk so all of the cameras were checked out and are getting replaced. New security cameras have been purchased and are getting installed as they arrive. Video storage will be in the cloud rather than on a hard drive.

The new wireless points have been working well. This was a great upgrade completed by Technology Coordinator David Boxton. Even when you pull into the parking lot and check your phone, the wireless network asks if you want to log on to the library network! The wireless statistics shown in the monthly activity report will be less than in the past. These new points collect log-ons from a device once, so our counts should be more accurate. The old wireless points counted as a *new* log-on each time a device was logged-on even if the device was dropped from the network.

Marlon is also working with CENIC for the State Library High-Speed Broadband project "Lighting up Libraries." As was stated last month, the initial start-up costs are fairly significant, however the library did receive the start-up grant for \$24,000 which is about 75% of the cost. Everything is progressing and the library hopes to be on the high speed network by the fall, end of the calendar year at the latest.

The AV for the Stafford Room has been repaired and everything is back in service.

The cracked glass wall in the patio space has had estimates for repair made. The selected estimate was forwarded on to the Red Cross for payment. It is now in the hands of their insurance carrier and the library (and the city) has to just wait for repair. The glass is a custom 1" flute which makes the replacement quite pricey.

The Staff Development Day, held on March 30, was a huge success. Dan Russell from Google came to teach the staff how to search with Google, Google Earth, Google Images, and more. Rather than all his

Library Board
May 13, 2015

time being spent on search techniques, staff convinced him to talk about literacy in the age of Google. It was interesting but personally, I wanted more tricks to searching. Did you know you can drag a picture into the image searching? Dan stayed to have lunch and chat with the staff before he got on the road back to Palo Alto. We hope to have Dan back again in the future....he says he has hundreds of topics that he teaches and would be happy to share.

The Book Bike should be shipped any day now. Eva received word that the final coat of paint was being applied to our bike and she will be receiving shipping confirmation soon. This bike will be used for outreach and was made possible by a grant from Target and the Rotary Club of Alameda.

The flags at the Main Library have not yet been changed out as a new City flag, in the proper size, is not yet available. The City had to order more and they have not yet been received. When we do get all the flags the Library will take up the offer by Board Member Hartigan to call on his son's Boy Scout Troop to raise our new flags and properly dispose of the old ones.

April 11 was the "Big Truck Bonanza" at the City Hall parking lot. The Boys & Girls Department organized the event coordinating with Alameda Police, Alameda Fire, and Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) to bring some cool big vehicles for children and their parents to climb on, explore, and have photo ops. Supervising Librarian Eva Volin also brought in the LegoJeep which is a retired mail jeep that has been covered with Lego base boards. The Lego Man parks on a giant tarp and dumps thousands of Lego pieces out for kids and adults to create right on the jeep. It was fun to see the children sticking blocks on the jeep and almost more fun to see the adults laying on the ground building with Legos separate from the jeep! Fire was very popular with their truck and then switched out after a couple of hours with an engine. Police brought their D.A.R.E. Camaro, a patrol car, and a motorcycle. The kids had the opportunity to sit on the motorcycle and push buttons that made lots of loud noises! AMP brought a drill (auger) truck and a bucket truck that went up 6 stories. Once up there the AMP gentleman asked if he should drop water balloons... but he was just kidding. Children's offered truck related crafts and staffed a bike parking lot. Over 650 kids and adults signed waivers & received wristbands to get on the trucks but we know we missed a lot of people. It was a beautiful sunny day and a lot of exhausting fun. We hope to hold this event again, the cooperation between departments was great.

May 2 was Free Comic Book Day and over 300 free comic books were distributed from all three libraries. The Main Library also hosted crafts and Howtoon (cartoon drawing) instruction. This has become an annual event at the library and both the public and Boys & Girls staff enjoy it.

Library Outdoors is a new grant project for Adult Services. The Library has a backpack filled with trail maps, activity guides, a small first aid kit, and binoculars available for check out. Trail maps for East Bay Regional Parks, the California State Parks and soon, hopefully the National Parks, are available. This is a pilot project as Supervising Librarian Cosette Ratliff was preparing her "pitch" for the State Library. The State Library has a grant program call "Pitch a Grant" where you pitch your idea in a telephone interview. After they hear all the pitches (this year over 100), they decide the ideas they like and notify you to go forward fill out a complete grant application. Cosette was successful with her pitch and our library has been invited to proceed. The goal is to have 6-8 backpacks, one at each neighborhood library and several at the Main. The single original backpack was a pilot to collect data to include for the pitch interview.

Library Board
May 13, 2015

Cosette also is close to completing her Bridges of Honor (Eureka Leadership grant) project. The premiere for the digital/video stories from Alameda "Elders" will be presented at the Main Library on Tuesday, June 2. Young people from the Alameda Point Collaborative were recruited and trained to do the interviews and filming of the elders. Then they did the editing of the stories which will be shown at their premiere, at the State Library Eureka Grant wrap-up celebration in June and possibly other library conferences. This was a very challenging project for Cosette in working with another non-profit and high school students where time and transportation were not readily available.

Teens have been busy hosting video game tournaments on Friday evenings at the Main Library. The Teen Advisory Board is also thinking of hosting a Debate Tournament but are just in the beginning planning stage since it is the end of the school year and with all its associated activities, the students are quite busy.

Senior Librarian Karin Lundstrom hosted a classical music concert in the Stafford Room on Sunday, April 19. The Alameda String Academy (ASA) performed to a full house. Karin thinks if they do it again they will need to issue tickets because the room was really full. The ASA has been doing smaller programs at the West End Library and wanted to try a larger venue. Most residents were not aware of the ASA existence, so offering programs through the Library is bringing them more public awareness.

The Bay Farm Library will again be planting sunflowers for their garden space under the library sign. It was such a popular thing in the past and the children in particular took great ownership of the garden. Senior Librarian Lynda Williams is the lead on this project.

All divisions are gearing up for Summer Reading. Boys & Girls have begun recruiting their Summer Reading Pals volunteers and will go into full summer reading mode the second week in May.

Finally Congratulations are in order for *new* Executive Assistant Lori Amaya. Lori came to the Library as an Administrative Technician II and had been doing excellent work as the Library Executive Assistant. The recruitment finally opened to fill our position and Lori was head and shoulders above the rest. All of the Library Staff are thrilled that Lori is now officially our full time Executive Assistant and no one can bump her out! Congratulations, Lori!

City Manager. City Manager John Russo and Assistant City Manager Alex Nguyen left Alameda on April 30. We wish them well in their new positions in Riverside. Mr. Russo will be the City Manager and Mr. Nguyen will be one of three Assistant City Managers. Assistant City Manager Liz Warmerdam has been selected to be the Interim City Manager while the City Council conducts a recruitment for Mr. Russo's replacement. Public Works Director Bob Haun and Recreation & Parks Director Amy Woolridge have been tapped to be Acting Assistant City Managers. Both will spend one day a week in their old departments and the rest of the week in the City Manager's office. Under this new structure, the Library will be reporting to Bob Haun.

Budget. The calendar for the special budget meetings was slightly amended. The General Fund departments did not get to give their presentations at the April 29 meeting because the discussion and vote on the public safety MOUs ran long. Another budget meeting on May 6 was added to the calendar to for the General Fund department presentations. The Library will still present on May 12 with the other Non-General Fund departments. Questions from the May 6 and May 12 meeting will be answered at the

Library Board
May 13, 2015

June 2 regular City Council meeting when the whole package is brought to the Council for final adoption. If the Council does not adopt the budget on June 2, the next opportunity to respond to concerns and adopt the budget will be June 16.

Library Art Donation. At the March Library Board meeting the Board discussed the possibility of accepting a donation of art titled "Plankton Poetry" from the Exploritorium in San Francisco. The Board had some very good questions regarding sound, maintenance, and size of the piece. It was suggested that the Library Director visit the Exploritorium to see the art piece in person. Teen Librarian Matthew Conciatori has a relationship with the Exploritorium Volunteer Coordinator who made the donation offer. Her daughter is one of Matt's regular teen participants. Matt made the visit to SF and came back reporting that the art piece is off the table as a donation. It had already been disassembled and the management there had another recipient in mind. The Library will not pursue this issue further.

LEED – EB. The consultants from BuildingWise informed our LEED team that the USGBC finally sent a response regarding our LEED-EB (version 4) application. The Library's application received 16 of 62 points, 46 points pending. A meeting was held to discuss the comments for the pending points and some submission errors were found, i.e. wrong radio button was selected, and what additional documentation was required, re-writing some of the submissions on their forms, etc. As of May 6, 30 points are still pending. The consultants feel that we can still have a realistic goal of submitting 60 points for LEED Gold and at this point, all the corrections and re-submissions are items they need to address rather than the Library or Public Works.

Library Foundation. The Library Foundation hosted a lovely Donor Appreciation event at the O Club on Sunday, April 19. Although it was sparsely attended, those who did attend were very happy to be invited to the party. One attendee commented that she had never made a donation to something and then was invited to an appreciation party. Lots of yummy food and wine. A handful of materials purchased with the 2,015 by 2015 campaign funds were on hand for people to see the types and some of the titles purchased with their generous donations. The Foundation had decorated the room with pictures and posters from past events sponsored by the Foundation, including the Michael Pollen event which was held in 2008. There was a re-enactment of the presentation of the big check from the Foundation to the Library, a few words from the Foundation President Eileen Bitten and Vice Mayor Matarrese and myself. Thank you to Library Board Member Gail Wetzork for attending. I thought the event was very nice and well done. Kudos to all the Foundation members who made it happen.

The Merge Committee for the Foundation and Friends have been continuing to meet and discuss. They have met on many topics of concern and have come to resolution on the same. Foundation Vice President Luzanne Engh and Friends of the Library representative Kris Matarrese will be attending the May Library Board meeting to give an update on the status of the merger.

The Foundation and the Friends again provided the Library Staff with lunches during National Library Week. Thursday, April 16 was designated Staff Appreciation Day and box lunches were provided to all who were scheduled to work that day. Lunches were delivered to both neighborhood libraries and Alameda Reads. Many thanks to the Foundation and the Friends for this kindness, the Staff really appreciate our support groups!

Library Board
May 13, 2015

The next joint Library Foundation/Friends meeting is Monday, May 18, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room.

Friends of the Library. The Friends Spring Used Book Sale was held on May 1-2-3 at the O Club. I was not able to spend my entire Friday with them but did assist with the set up. They were all in good spirits and reasonable good health going in to the sale that night. I have not heard how the sale went nor how much was made.

The search for adequate off site (out of the library) storage for book sale materials continues. Although it is hard to say when the Friends will have to move out of the building at Alameda Point, this year or next or ever, I would like to be prepared with a space.

The status of the Merge of the Friends and Foundation organizations will be presented to the Library Board at the May meeting.

The joint Friends/Foundation meeting will be on Monday, May 18, 2015, at the Main Library in the Stafford Room at 7:00 p.m.

Alameda Reads. Alameda Reads and a tutor-learner pair will be honored at Alameda4Kids, an annual benefit for Alameda Montessori schools for their significant contributions supporting youth education.

Alameda Reads also recently received a robust set of financial literacy materials from the federal government. To recognize April as Financial Literacy Awareness month, they have displayed these free materials on the Alameda Reads shelf at the Main Library. In addition, they are providing the information packets to all of the learners and tutors. The materials include information on how to: plan for savings, request a credit report, create a budget, guard against identity theft, and apply for a credit card and more.

Several learners and tutors wrote letters to the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees on Finance and Education in support of increasing adult literacy funding. This was a very empowering experience for learners who have never before written to a public official. One learner wrote:

Joining the reading program has been very useful for myself because I have been practicing my English more and I have the opportunity to write and learn every time I'm with my tutor. Besides that my tutor guide me and correct my mistakes and support me with supplies that a need to be a better learner. This program is very important for adults that need to improve their lives.

Amen to that.

Activities and Events.

"A Journey Through Time" Bay Farm School student exhibit. Main Library until May 24

May 1 GED Practice Lab. 11:00 a.m. Main Library, Computer Lab (every Friday)

Library Board
May 13, 2015

- May 1 Friends of the Library Spring Used Book Sale. 6:30 p.m. O Club, Alameda Point
- May 1 First Friday Family Film: How to Train Your Dragon 2. 7:00 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- May 2 Friends of the Library Spring Used Book Sale. 9:00 a.m. O Club, Alameda Point
- May 2 Mama Goose Storytime. 10:00 a.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (every Saturday)
- May 2 Canciones y Cuentos. 10:00 a.m. West End Library (also May 16)
- May 2 Free Comic Book Day. All Libraries while the supply lasts
- May 3 Friends of the Library Spring Used Book Sale. Noon. O Club, Alameda Point
- May 3 Self Paced Computer Lab. 1:00 p.m. Main Library Computer Lab (every Sunday)
- May 3 Family Storytime. 2:00 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (every Sunday)
- May 4 Community Sing-Along. 10:15 a.m. Main Library, Stafford Room (every Monday & Wednesday)
- May 4 Beginning Book Club. 3:30 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (also June 1)
- May 4 Adult Film Series: Runaway Train. 5:30 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- May 4 Learn About the Internet. 6:00 p.m. Main Library, Computer Lab
- May 5 Storytime en Espanol. 3:30 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (every Tuesday)
- May 5 Paws to Read, 3:30 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (also May 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16)
- May 5 Author Talk: Tony Brasunas "Double Happiness" 6:30p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- May 5 Family Story Time. 7:00 p.m. Bay Farm Island Library (every Tuesday)
- May 6 Peter Rabbit Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. West End Library (every Wednesday)
- May 6 Job Seekers Open Lab. 2:00 p.m. Main Library, Computer Lab (every Wednesday)
- May 5 School-age Storytime. 3:30 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (every Wednesday)

Library Board
May 13, 2015

- May 6 Lawyers in the Library. 6:00 p.m. Main Library (also June 3)
- May 7 Peter Rabbit Preschool Storytime. 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (every Thursday)
- May 7 Thursday Crafts. 3:30 p.m. Bay Farm Island Library (first Thursdays)
- May 9 Alameda Free Library Writer's Group. Noon Main Library, Stafford Room (2nd Saturday)
- May 9 Lego Day. 2:00 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (also June 13)
- May 10 LGBTQ Book Club. 3:00 p.m. Main Library, Administrative Conference Room
- May 11 Intermediate Book Club. 3:30 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (also June 8)
- May 11 Alameda Library Book Club. 6:30 p.m. Main Library, Family Study Room (also June 8)
- May 12 Community Blood Drive. Noon. Main Library, Stafford Room
- May 12 Alameda Great Books Club. 6:00 p.m. Main Library, Family Study Room (also June 9)
- May 13 Library Board Meeting. 6:00 p.m. Main Library, Administrative Conference Room
- May 13 Career Transitions: Changing or Choosing a Career. 6:00 p.m. Main Library, Computer Lab
- May 13 Docent Lecture: Botticelli to Braque. 6:30 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- May 14 Congresswoman Barbara Lee's Satellite Office Hours. 3:00 p.m. Main Library, Administrative Conference Room (also May 28, June 11, 25)
- May 14 Thursday Crafts. 3:30 p.m. West End Library (also June 11)
- May 16 MOCHA Art. 2:00 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room
- May 18 Advanced Book Club. 3:30 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (also June 15)
- May 18 Lawyers in the Library, 6:00 p.m. West End Library (also June 15)
- May 18 Flower Arranging. 6:00 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- May 18 Joint Friends of the Library/Library Foundation Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room

Library Board
May 13, 2015

May 19 Water Wise Home & Garden. 6:30 p.m. West End Library

May 21 We Love Legos. 3:30 p.m. Bay Farm Island Library (also June 18)

May 22 Preschool Crafts. 2:00 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room

May 25 ALL LIBRARIES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY

May 28 Assembly Member Rob Bonta Satellite Office Hours 1:00 p.m. Main Library,
Administrative Conference Room (also June 25)

May 28 We Love Legos. 3:30 p.m. West End Library (also June 25)

June 2 Bridges of Honor Digital Stories Premiere. 6:30 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room

June 8 Adult Film Series: American Sniper. 5:30 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room

June 12 Summer Reading Begins.

June 12 Family Fun Day. 10:00 a.m. Main Library

June 15 LGBTQ Pride- Film Screening: Regarding Susan Sontag. 6:00 p.m. Main Library,
Stafford Room

June 18 Yoga for Kids Session I. 3:00 p.m. West End Library

June 18 Yoga for Kids Session II. 3:45 p.m. West End Library

If you have any questions about the items to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you would like to discuss these or any other items, please email me at jchisaki@alamedaca.gov or give me a call at 747-7747. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evening.

Sincerely,


Jane Chisaki
Library Director