



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

**TO:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

**FROM:** Laura Blaker

**DATE OF MEETING:** July 1, 2024

**ITEM TITLE:** Department Report – Library

### Summer Reading Program



Read, Renew, Repeat is our summer reading program, and it is already half over. As of June 25, there are:  
805 Participants (babies, children, teens, and adults)  
259,154 Minutes read

On our kick-off day, we had 650 library visits. We like to get several hundred people registered with the program right away. Fareway donated ice cream sandwiches, so we gave those to people who had registered for the program.

There have been many programs exploring animals, nature, conservation, exercise, creativity, and storytelling. We currently have a toad, Lucas, on loan for a month from Fontana.

I will have Summer Reading Program booklets at the meeting so you can see the schedule of events and find out more. We would be happy to have you join, read, and earn prizes.



### Hiring

We have hired two part-time staff members. One replaces a staff member who retired, and the other will work weekends and fill in as needed.

We are working on training for the variety of questions and situations that arise. Once the new staff members are comfortable with the basic duties, they will start to train for processing library

applications, putting together slide shows, posting on social media, creating signage, keeping up with “new” item displays, answering technology questions, assisting with homebound, etc.

Our cleaning service is downsizing, so we have also been in the market for a cleaner or cleaning service. Sara Davis and EpicClean will start cleaning the library in July.

## **Donations and Sponsorships**

Because of city budget reserve levels and budget outlook, as well as not knowing if there would be unexpected expenses prior to the end of the fiscal year, we thought it would be best if we could supplement funds to support the summer reading program.

The library created an online wishlist and put a variety of incentives/prizes on the list that people could purchase as donations to help with the summer reading program. We also broadened our requests for coupons and free items from businesses to use for incentives and asked businesses to sponsor events. Pizza Ranch is sponsoring Minecraft by providing pizza and Fareway sponsored our Summer Reading Kickoff with ice cream sandwiches.

Between the myregistry online wishlist and donations provided as a result of awareness of the need, there were:

- \$832 of prizes purchased
- \$415 donated in funds to the IPL Foundation for prizes
- \$402 worth of items purchased from the wishlist that were general needs or additions/replacements for the Library of Things (non-traditional checkouts like puzzles, equipment, games, etc).

This was all extremely helpful in supporting a quality reading program that people are excited about. It took extra staff time to connect with businesses and to create awareness with publicity and promotion. We plan to continue the online wishlist for the summer reading program and Boo Bash each year. The risk will be that requests will wear thin if they are repeatedly placed in front of people.



Summer Reading Program <https://tinyurl.com/iplsrp24>  
Library Online Wish List <https://qrco.de/iplwishlist>

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