

Youth Services Report

May 2017

I assumed the role of interim Youth Service Manager on April 10, and one of my first priorities was to bring stability to the department. We've made refinements to the schedule to minimize confusion about where staff should be at any given time, and to provide clarity to the whole staff about Youth Services day-to-day responsibilities.

Details for the Summer Reading Program schedule and special events had largely been settled by the time I began as interim, and the extent to which the Youth Services staff worked out so many details on their own has been impressive. I've found the Youth Services team to be a dedicated and resourceful group of individuals.

Librarian Abby Stapp has been busy visiting area elementary schools and working with teachers to increase student awareness of library services, and to promote the upcoming Summer Reading Program. Library Technicians Meredith Tillett, Kaci Froman, and Sarah Campagna have or will be involved in outreach efforts during May. I represented the library at the YMCA Healthy Kids Day on April 29, where I discussed possible partnerships with the YMCA and other community organizations, in addition to talking to community members about the library and Summer Reading Program.

The library is in the early stages of planning a community event with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on September 16 for Hispanic Heritage Month. The event will take place at the John and Judy Gay Library, and our intention is to attract 1,000 attendees. I'm delighted to know so many organizations are willing and want to partner on projects that have reciprocal benefits, and that will create new offerings for the community.

The Youth Services team has begun to finalize details for the fall programming schedule. Librarians Abby Stapp and Laura Compton have played a key role in reevaluating our existing programs and offering ideas to improve them. We're also making final decisions about which new programs and special events we'll offer in the fall (Spencer, Lisa, Helen, and I made an initial evaluation of over 60 program ideas on May 2).

Remaining details and logistics for the Summer Reading Program will be finalized no later than May 20. We're looking forward to an exciting and busy summer!

Gary Landeck, interim Youth Services Manager