

John and Judy Gay Library Public Services Board Report

June 2018

Staffing

JJGL is in an unusual situation today. Having recently hired two new part-time Library Assistants, Denisse Diaz and Ellen Klimpel, to replace one staff member who was promoted (Revathi Vaidyanathan), and another who took a full-time position in her field, we are nearly fully staffed. That said, we are interviewing several McKinney ISD students this week who applied for the City's summer paid internship positions, one at JJGL and one at the Hall Library. For many of the applicants, this will be their first work experience. They will learn about and assist in many areas of the library, learning about our various teams, and will also have a special project. At JJGL, the special project will be educating and assisting the public with the self-checkout machines, documenting their use, and ultimately increasing the public's use and comfort level with the self-checkout machines. Steve Sexton, our Circulation Supervisor, will be the JJGL intern's supervisor.

Adult programming

We have wrapped up our spring programming, all of which were fairly successful. Our most successful spring programs included our first Trivia Night at Tupps Brewery and our What's the Buzz program on beekeeping. The book reviews sponsored by the Friends of the Library continue to bring in at least 40 people. We will continue the knitting group throughout the summer as they are working on a possible project for the State Fair.

We celebrated the 90th anniversary of the McKinney Public Library at JJGL with posters, scrapbooks, cupcakes, balloons, and a photobooth arrangement with props from the 1920's. Karen Mattingly, part-time librarian assistant at the Hall Library, did a wonderful job creating the exhibit materials, and several JJGL staff members staffed the exhibit, conversing with both grownups and youngsters about the Library's history.

Community services

The AARP tax volunteers completed 301 tax returns this spring at JJGL, compared to over 800 returns at Hall. Each year that these volunteers are with us, their numbers are higher. JJGL hosted early voting, voting on Election Day, and also the runoff election's early voting and Election day. We will not be able to host the November 2018 election due to construction.

Construction plans

As the Board learned last month, the key work to describe the design and construction of our renovation and expansion is “fluid”. We hope to work toward a more concrete solution in the next few months.

Where'd the Self-Checks Go?

One of our goals has been to increase the use of the self-check machines. We recently moved our two self-check machines to the Circulation Desk, and brought over from Hall the self-check machine formerly housed in the first floor Fiction area. With these computers at our Circulation Desk, it is much easier for staff to assist the public in their use, and to see to any issues that may arise with fees or an expired card. We are already making progress with this. In May of 2016, self-checkout accounted for 46% of our first-time checkouts, and in May of 2018, that percentage was 77%. We hope to push this number further up with our intern's assistance this summer.

We moved our newspapers and the few paper copies of our magazines to a location at the center of our comfy reading chairs. Newspaper readers are having very positive reactions to the new arrangement. The iPad with our digital magazines is located in this same area. We also enabled one of the computers at the Information Desk to check out or check in materials, so that, if needed, we can assist from that desk. Finally, there is now a study table at the self-check machines' former location.

Lisa Bailey

Branch Manager, John and Judy Gay Library

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