



Library Director's Report

August 25, 2026 Meeting of the
Library Board of Trustees

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

- We have a new Little Free Library (LL) in Orange Memorial Park, stewarded by ParcPlace Neighbors partnering with South San Francisco Friends of the Library. Located next to the Bocce Ball Courts, the ribbon-cutting on July 25 included uplifting library and literacy comments from Vice Mayor Mark Nagales, Council member Eddie Flores, ParcPlace Neighbors LL Steward Tiffany Louie and Friends of the Library President Armando Altimirano. The Little Free Library is open for business, with a collection focus on young children and youth books. We welcome our community to Take a Book, Share a Book.
- As part of the above Library newsletter announcement of the LL, this request was included: We would love to compile a list of Little Free Libraries in South San Francisco. If you host an LL or know of one in your neighborhood, please contact us at ssfpladm@plsinfo.org.



- The South San Francisco Friends of the Library held a successful one-day Book Sale on Saturday, August 1. They had over 300 customers and made \$1,296.
- We have started gathering fiscal year 2025-26 statistics for the annual State Report. It has been a very busy year, with checkouts over 642,000 times, program attendance of more than 56,000 guests, and library visits topping 600,000. An infographic summarizing key counts is included in the packet and will be reviewed as part of an agenda item.
- Mark your calendars for a selection of upcoming programs and events:
 - Annual Concert in the Park: Saturday, September 12, Orange Memorial Park
 - Author Talk – Vinita Gupta discusses her memoir, *The Woman in Deed*, and her career shaped by innovation, philanthropy, and the game Bridge. Facilitated by former Mayor and Councilmember Pradeep Gupta.
 - Constitution Week, September 17 – 23, tabling with the local DAR chapter – second floor LPR lobby
 - Project Read Trivia Challenge: Friday, November 6, 2026

Independence Day Celebration – Family Activities for All at Grand Library

The community had a great time celebrating the fourth of July with South San Francisco. Families came to play games and blow bubbles on the patio and get crafty in the programming area of the library. The crafts included beading jewelry, firework paintings, button making, and coloring sheets. Special highlight was the photo booth with many people excited to take photos together and receive a printed keepsake.



History Room - Bicentennial Display for the July 4th 250th Event at Grand Library

Library staff, Eva Martinez and Philecia Harris, created a display of South City's 1976 Bicentennial event. It includes copies of photos and news clippings of the 4th of July Parade, the creation and installation of the time capsule,



information about the fire bell, and the inaugural event on the lawn of City Hall. Also on display is a copy of the History of South San Francisco which was written specifically for the Bicentennial.

Family Literacy Services July 2026 Report



In July, we paused several programs to focus on large-scale program planning. During this time, in addition to our weekly visits, Learning Wheels participated in the City's 4th of July celebration, providing activities and outreach to families as part of the holiday event. We were also able to continue our weekly visits to Town of Colma's summer program, bringing guest lessons every Thursday.

Family Movie Night: Hoppers

On Thursday, July 9, 2026, Youth Services welcomed more than 100 community members to the Community Room for Family Movie Night. Attendees watched Pixar's Hoppers, enjoyed fresh popcorn, and made their own badger puppets (inspired by the main character in the film). Many of the children and adults who attended were excited to learn that there will be a second Family Movie Night in August, featuring the film Toy Story 4.

Summer Learning Challenge: Big Bubble Show at Main

Over 380 community members attended the Big Bubble Show at Main Library on Saturday, July 11, 2026. This Summer Learning Challenge program took place on the patio outside the City Council Chambers and featured bubbles of all sizes and a variety of bubble illusions.



Summer Learning Challenge: The Rhythm Builders



On Saturday, July 18, 2026, more than 90 people attended The Rhythm Builders, an interactive drumming performance by Craig Miller. Craig is a Santa Cruz-based professional drummer and percussionist with over 20 years of experience. The performance featured call-and-response and movement activities along with storytelling. Audience members got to participate in rhythm building with either a hand drum or other

percussive instrument. For example, Craig invited patrons to volunteer to create their own rhythm pattern and then have the entire crowd carry out the pattern together. Many young children were present, which was a great opportunity for them to receive one of their first opportunities to experience the power of playing music with others. As stated on therhythmbuilders.com, "Learning rhythm early in life enhances attention span, memory, cognitive growth, and a sense of community."

This event was part of the 2026 Summer Learning Challenge special event lineup. The 2026 Summer Learning Challenge program has been made possible through the support of Genentech and the South San Francisco Friends of the Library.

Summer Learning Challenge: Uncle Jer's Traveling Bee Show

On Saturday, June 25, 2026, Youth Services hosted Uncle Jer's Traveling Bee Show at LPR. More than 140 community members attended this Summer Learning Challenge program in the Community Room, which featured storytelling, a honey tasting, and live bees in a safe observation hive. Youth Services also set up a Summer Learning Challenge-themed photo station where attendees posed for family photos before and after the program.



Summer Learning Challenge: Pokémon Meetup

We had another well attended Pokémon Meetup on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. 60 people of various ages attended. Two 3D printed Pokémon were given away during drawings. SLC Pokémon books were made available at the SLC table in the Community Room and all of them were taken home by patrons along with an SLC log. New Pokémon library books were also displayed and checked out. We offered coloring sheets, "Catch 'Em All" game, drawing and Pokémon card trading and discussion.



Bel Canto Flutes Summer Concert

On July 29, 2026, an engaged audience enjoyed a delightful program of seasonal songs performed by Bel Canto Flutes, directed by Gail Edwards. The 20-piece ensemble, with musicians playing the piccolo, concert flute, bass flute and alto flute, performed songs they will be playing at the 2026 Flute Ensemble Festival in Portland Oregon. Audience members commented that the music was angelic, the performers were professional and asked when the next performance will be!



STEMsters

A youth-led STEMsters series is currently taking place on select Wednesdays in July and August in the Community Room at the Main Library. The activities in July included Big Bubbles, Bird Kite, and Bristle



Bot. The activities in August will include making slime and building a tonoscope, a device to see sound vibrations. This program



is a collaboration between and South San Francisco Public Library, the South San Francisco Youth

Commission, and STEMsters. STEMsters is a 501(c) non-profit run by high-school students, dedicated to inspiring and educating kids in STEM through engaging and fun activities.

Community Room and Augmented Reality Sandbox

The Discovery Center received an Augmented Reality Sandbox from former teacher, Helen Pooter, of St. Thomas the Apostle School in San Francisco. Families were introduced to the interactive learning tool in the Community Room following Toddler Storytime. Children enjoyed playing with the sand while exploring concepts of topographical maps, contour lines, elevation and water physics. The sandbox also provides young patrons with opportunities to develop motor skills and build social skills through collaborative play.



Fix-It Clinic Repair Workshop

The Fix-It Clinic on Thursday, July 9, 2026, was very well attended, with 43 participants. Additional tables were brought out to provide adequate workspace for volunteers and patrons. A wide



variety of items were brought in for repair, including sewing machines, a clock, a cassette tape player, a treadmill, a doll, a bike, a water flosser, a Dremel, and other household items. Patrons also expressed interest in attending future Fix-It Clinic workshops and asked when the next



session would be held. Staff directed patrons to the Fix-It Clinic website for information about upcoming sessions.

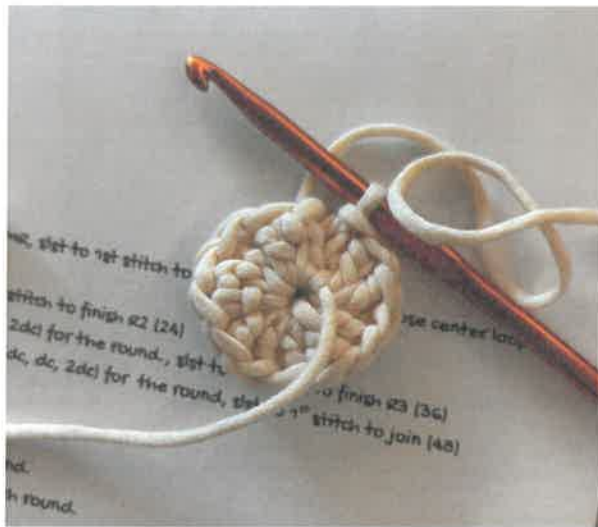
Ita-Bag Meetup

The Ita-Bag Meetup on Thursday, July 16, 2026, was a well-attended program with 90 patrons participating. An Ita-Bag is a bag decorated with pins, charms, keychains, and other collectibles



representing a person's favorite characters, shows, games or other fandoms. Due to the high attendance, some supplies ran out; however, everyone was able to leave with something they created. The program provided a great opportunity for patrons to build community and connect with others through shared interest in fandom.

Weekly Woolies



At Weekly Woolies, patrons have progressed from learning the basic crochet chain to completing their own coasters. Returning patrons are now preparing to begin their first amigurumi project, an octopus. Although some of the regular patrons were out of town this week, they plan to return for the next session. Returning participants have also continued to bring the yarn and crochet needles provided by the library, allowing them to practice and build their skills from week to week.



Valerie Sommer
Library Director