City of Avondale

Parks, Recreation & Libraries Advisory Board Meeting

Board Members

Lilly Lazo, Chair

Amy Soucinek, Vice Chair

Ivan Carreno, Board Member

LaChrisha Dourisseau, Board Member

Timothy Kroll, Board Member

Patti Nielson, Board Member

Kenneth Shoaff Board Member

Jay D Koenig, Alternate Member

Parks, Recreation & Libraries Department

Corey Larriva, Director

Stacy Swainston, Assistant Director

Mariana Manzanarez, Administrative Assistant

Parks, Recreation & Libraries Advisory Board Meeting Notice & Agenda
Wednesday, August 12, 2026

MESQUITE CONFERENCE ROOM | 11465 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE | AVONDALE AZ, 85323

Request to Speak: Anyone wishing to speak regarding items listed on the agenda or under unscheduled public appearance should submit a Request to Speak online at http://www.avondaleaz.gov/requesttospeak prior to consideration of that agenda item.

REGULAR MEETING
6:00 PM
Physical access to the conference room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR**

2. **ROLL CALL AND STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION BY THE STAFF LIAISON**

3. **UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES** (Time is limited per person. Please state your name.)

4. **MINUTES**
   The Board will consider the approval of the June 10th, 2026, meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

5. **AVONDALE PUBLIC ART UPDATE**
   Staff will provide an overview and updates regarding ongoing Public Art projects.

6. **MVCC & CONTRACTUAL INSTRUCTOR PROCESS REVIEW**
   Staff will provide a recap of Mountain View Community Center summer programming and an overview of the contractual instructor process.

7. **FISCAL YEAR 2026 END OF YEAR CLOSE OUT**
   Staff will provide an overview and updates regarding FY26 budget information and highlight key accomplishments from the fiscal year.

8. **NATIONAL PARK & RECREATION MONTH RECAP**
   Staff will provide an overview of planned programs and recognition efforts completed during the month of July.

9. **BOARD MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS**
   The Board and Staff may provide brief comments on current events and issues. This item is for information only. Items requiring discussion, deliberation or legal action must be placed on a future Advisory Board meeting agenda.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1000 or TDD 623-333-0010 at least two business days prior to the meeting.

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista o oido, o con necesidad de impresion grande o interprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad al 623-333-1000 o TDD 623-333-0010 al minimo dos días hábiles antes de la junta.

Parks, Recreation & Libraries Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2026

MESQUITE CONFERENCE ROOM | 11465 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE | AVONDALE AZ, 85323

Request to Speak: Anyone wishing to speak regarding items listed on the agenda or under unscheduled public appearance should submit a Request to Speak online at http://www.avondaleaz.gov/requesttospeak prior to consideration of that agenda item.

REGULAR MEETING
6:00 PM
Physical access to the conference room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR Time – 6:00 pm**

2. **ROLL CALL AND STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION BY THE STAFF LIAISON**

   Present: Vice Chair Soucinek, Boardmember Dourisseau, Boardmember Kroll, Boardmember, Boardmember Koenig, Boardmember Shoaff, Boardmember Nielson, Boardmember Carreno (6:05pm)

   Absent: Chair Lazo

   Staff Present: Corey Larriva, Stacy Swainston, Mariana Manzanarez, Dominic DeCono, Jen Stein

3. **UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES** (Time is limited per person. Please state your name.)

   Corey introduced new Assistant City Manager Jen Stein to the board.

4. **MINUTES**
   The Board will consider the approval of the April 8th, 2026, meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

   Motion: Boardmember Kroll
   2nd: Boardmember Nielson

   Approved 7-0

5. **FRIENDSHIP PARK PLAYGROUND REVIEW AND DISSCUSSION**
   The Parks, Recreation and Libraries Board will review and discuss board member input regarding playground concepts.

   Corey provided an update to the board on a planned project to upgrade a playground structure at Friendship Park. He touched on concepts of the new playground that the department is looking to install which will be ADA accessible, be fenced and have elements that will accommodate users of all ages. Corey went through multiple concepts that were provided by vendors and sought feedback from the board to better understand what they would like to see from the project.

   First Concept

Boardmember Kroll asked if there are drinking fountains near where the playground is, which Corey confirmed there is. Boardmember Nielson also mentioned that the designs presented did a good job improving shade at the space.

Second Concept

Boardmember Dourisseau inquired about the amount of seating around the playground which Corey showed is included in the more technical renderings. She also mentioned that seating being closer to the playground structure would be beneficial.

Vice Chair Soucinek expressed that 2 seating areas in the playground are not enough accommodate the shade and seating needs for the current use of the playground, which Corey said staff will be taking into consideration for feedback. She also expressed that she liked the design went up to 12 feet for the slide for older kids, but not that the fact that the accessible slide went up to 3 feet, which Boardmember Nielson agreed with. Both members expressed support for pour in play as well because the surface has more give and cushion in the case of a fall. Boardmember Carreno also expressed that improved accessibility was also important for the design that the City ultimately chooses.

Third Concept

Boardmember Dourisseau asked about understanding what a belt system is, which Corey described provides a system where a child of any capability could use to reach higher on the playground structure if they followed the system. Boardmember Carrano, while he loved the thought behind the design, expressed concern that the belt system on the structure would potentially burn a child trying to use the system and recommended not moving forward with it. Boardmember Nielson also asked if the structure was shaded, which he confirmed it is not.

Boardmember Dourisseau also expressed concern that the vendor that provided the concept was not able to meet several of the requirements the City asked of the vendors to provide, to which Corey provided feedback that the vendor was the first to respond to the city's inquiries and they are open to make changes as needed.

Boardmember Shoaff and Carrano asked about safety concerns on the slides of the concept, which Corey went into more detail about anti-climbing blockers that were placed on slides, higher requirements as the slide goes higher and that the department will ensure the playground selected meets all safety requirements.

Vice Chair Soucinek did express concern on the final concept that there still was not enough seating presented for parents of the users, which Corey said staff will absolutely consider.

Corey asked if there were any specific concepts that the board didn't want to move forward with, which the board collectively agreed that the first and second concept were more preferable than the third.

Boardmember Koening asked if there was a maintenance plan for the sandbox because of the concern of animals using. The board then agreed there were several disadvantages with the sand and preferred if the city did not move forward with it.

Vice Chair Soucinek also pointed out that limited pour in play would cause an overuse of wheelchairs because of the need to use it, which could increase maintenance costs.

6. PARK PROJECTS

Staff with provide an overview and updates regarding ongoing park improvement and development projects.

Corey gave an update on several projects that are ongoing within the City such as the improvements at Dessie Lorenz Park, the construction of Donatela Park, and continued improvements to the dog park at Friendship Park.

7. NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION MONTH

Staff will provide an overview of planned programs and recognition efforts for staff and community during the month of July.

Stacy provided an update to the board about National Parks & Recreation Month, which will include a proclamation at the July 6th City Council Meeting, as well as something called the Team in Green games that the department does for team building and collaboration. The department will also be able to participate in optional activities such as an Arizona Diamondback game sponsored by the Arizona Parks & Recreation Association.

8. DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING EXERCISE

The Board and Staff will discuss and complete a SWOT analysis to help identify opportunities for continued improvement in service delivery and community engagement.

Stacy held a SWOT planning exercise with the board to better understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the department.

After completing the exercise, Stacy polled the board to talk about trends that went through each area. Boardmember Kroll talked about a lack of parking at another of facilities and events, which Stacy responded how the staff have used creative methods to find ways to make that happen.

Boardmember Nielson mentioned retention of staff is a real threat which the board agreed with. Boardmember Carrano encouraged more adaptive recreation. Vice Chair Soucinek mentioned a sensory break at events as an opportunity. Boardmember Dourisseau also mentioned an opportunity to improve things is marketing across all areas. Boardmember Koenig agreed and expanded on this point by mentioning specific marketing tactics the city could use that were less costly.

Boardmember Carrano also mentioned a campaign on TikTok that Goodyear did and mentioned that is something the city can do. He also mentioned about partnering with local colleges to possibly have interns assist with the social media campaigns.

Vice Chair Soucinek also talked about aligning library program activities with school times to better improve participation.

9. BOARD MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS

The Board and Staff may provide brief comments on current events and issues. This item is for information only. Items requiring discussion, deliberation or legal action must be placed on a future Advisory Board meeting agenda.

Vice Chair Soucinek asked if a garden would be possible to implement at Civic Center Library. Corey mentioned that while there is not a community garden going in at Civic Center Library, Estrella Mountain Community College has one and that it is something they want to bring more visitors too. Corey also mentioned that Dessie Lorenz Park will have a plantar garden when its upgrades are finished as well.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Boardmember Kroll
2nd: Boardmember Nielson

Approved 7-0

Adjourned at 7:58 pm

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista o oido, o con necesidad de impresion grande o interprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad al 623-333-1000 o TDD 623-333-0010 al minimo dos días hábiles antes de la junta.

Avondale
PARKS & RECREATION
DEPARTMENT

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE | JULY 2026

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Front Desk Transaction Totals Report:

	April	May	June
Registrations	4086	13498	21947
Ramada Rentals	159	168	111
Field Rentals	481	370	378
In-Person Transactions	27	28	26
Online Transactions	2132	5449	7433

AQUATICS DIVISION

Aquatic Center Total Reports: **June 2026**

Walk Up Admission	16,100
Admission Pre-Booking	3,537
Rentals	102
Program Participants	864

Dive-In Movies

On Friday, June 12, the Aquatic Center held its first dive-in movie of the summer, showing Lilo & Stitch. The movie had 281 pre-registration ticket sales, and 162 tickets sold at the door, for a total of 443 attendees. The next dive-in movie, Teen Beach Movie, will be on Friday, July 17.

LIBRARY DIVISION

Libraries	June 2026
Library Users	18,807
Items Checked Out	14,925
Program Participation	5,169
Outreach Participation	108

Wigglers to Walkers: Dinosaurs!

Civic Center Library hosted four Wigglers to Walkers sessions in June, welcoming a total of 155 participants. As part of the Summer Reading Program's dinosaur theme, children and caregivers enjoyed interactive stories, songs, dancing, counting activities, and plenty of enthusiastic dinosaur roars. Each session concluded with bubbles and stickers, creating a fun and engaging early literacy experience that encouraged learning, movement, and family participation.

Preschool Storytime: Dinosaurs!

Civic Center Library hosted four Preschool Storytime sessions in June, welcoming a total of 244 participants. In celebration of the Summer Reading Program theme, "Dinosaurs," children and caregivers enjoyed engaging stories, learned fun dinosaur facts, sang and danced to lively songs, practiced positive affirmations, and celebrated each session with a bubble party and special stickers. The interactive programs promoted early literacy, learning, and joyful family engagement.

Grannycore: America 250 Quilted Bookmarks

On Tuesday, June 2, Civic Center Library held Grannycore for twenty patrons. We celebrated America 250 by sewing quilted bookmarks out of red, white, and blue fabric scraps.

Youth Book Club

On Tuesday, June 3, Sam Garcia Library hosted the final installment of its *Youth Book Club: Percy Jackson Series*. Five members wrapped up the program with a Jeopardy-style trivia game, a lively discussion of the books, and a photo session to celebrate the occasion.

Wigglers to Walkers

Sam Garcia Library hosted eight Wigglers to Walkers sessions throughout June, welcoming 165 participants. Families enjoyed a fun-filled "Messy" themed early literacy program featuring stories, songs, dancing, movement activities, egg shakers, imaginative play, and interactive playtime. The engaging sessions fostered early literacy, child development, and meaningful caregiver-child connections while creating a joyful and welcoming space for young learners.

Family Storytime

Sam Garcia Library hosted three Family Storytime sessions throughout June, welcoming families for engaging, hands-on programs inspired by dinosaurs, fossils, and zoo animals. Participants enjoyed interactive stories, music, movement, counting activities, American Sign Language and Spanish vocabulary, creative crafts, and imaginative play. From making air-dry clay fossils to celebrating Father's Day with handprint sloths, each program promoted early literacy, creativity, and meaningful family connections in a fun and welcoming environment.

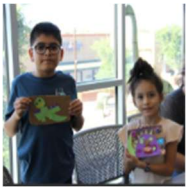
This Could be Fun: Qigong

On Saturday, June 6, held This Could Be Fun: Qigong for ten participants. Instructor, Amy from Avondale Kung Fu shared some basic Qigong/Tai Chi stretches and movements along with breathing techniques. She shared how these activities can improve circulation, flexibility and wellbeing in addition to the energizing effects.

Movie Monday

On Monday, June 8, Sam Garcia Library held Movie Monday for twenty-six patrons. Families watched Moana 2, enjoyed popcorn, and colored Moana coloring sheets.

Kids Craft



On Tuesday, June 9, Sam Garcia led a Kids Craft session for fourteen participants. Children learned about herbivorous and carnivorous dinosaurs through a game, explored collage-making techniques, and created their own dinosaur collages using cardboard, magazines, and paper scraps.

Mini Makers: Dinosaurs!

Civic Center Library hosted six Mini Makers sessions in June, welcoming a total of 173 participants. As part of the Summer Reading Program's dinosaur theme, children explored creativity through hands-on crafts, including 3D dinosaur puzzles, model dinosaurs, and scratch-off dinosaur bookmarks, while enjoying targeted toys and open play. Each session concluded with a bubble party and stickers, creating a fun, interactive environment that encouraged creativity, fine motor skill development, and family engagement.

More2Explore: Dino Mania

On Wednesday, June 10, Sam Garcia Library held a dinosaur-themed learning experience with Dino Mania for 105 participants.

Library For All

On Thursday, June 11, Civic Center Library had nineteen adults with disabilities and their caregivers join us for a few games of Juneteenth themed games of bingo. In addition, they each decorated a puzzle piece for the American 250 Piece By Piece display.

Teen Weekly

Sam Garcia Library hosted four Teen Weekly programs in June, welcoming teens for a variety of creative and social activities. Participants expressed their creativity through summer-themed canvas painting, a guided dinosaur painting workshop led by a guest instructor from Paint the Party, and a choose-your-own craft day featuring bracelet making, tote decorating, canvas painting, and more. Teens also enjoyed board and card games that encouraged teamwork, strategic thinking, and social connection. These engaging programs provided a welcoming space for creativity, skill-building, and positive peer interaction.

Nature Nerds

On Thursday, June 11, Civic Center Library held Nature Nerds for twenty-four patrons of all ages. Patrons learned how to create a nature journal and then put that new skill into practice. We watched a virtual hike and then journaled about what we heard, saw, and would have smelled. Then we listened to a thunderstorm and journaled about what we heard and would have smelled and seen. It was so much fun to see how creative everyone could be.

STEAM Jr.

On Friday, June 12, Sam Garcia Library held STEAM Jr. for twenty-two participants. The program provided children ages 0–4 with an opportunity to explore STEAM concepts through interactive play. The theme was dinosaurs, and participants engaged with dinosaur-themed sensory bins that encouraged hands-on learning and discovery.

Adult Craft: Patriotic Wreaths (America250)

On Saturday, June 13, Sam Garcia Library celebrated our nation's semi quincentennial with eight adult participants. They made patriotic wreaths using red, white, and blue bandanas.

Water, Sovereignty, and Survival: Understanding Tribal Water Rights in Arizona with Cora Tso

On Tuesday, June 16, two participants learned about the history, law and ongoing significance of Tribal water rights in Arizona. In celebration of the nation's 250th, Arizona Humanities sponsored this conversation with presenter Cora Tso who traced the evolution of Tribal water law and policy.

Grannycore

On Tuesday, June 16, Civic Center Library hosted a special Grannycore with Arizona Museum of Natural History for thirty-three patrons. AMNH brought the museum to Avondale with a virtual tour, a trunk full of history and bones, and an amazing tour guide. We learned all about dino and even got to touch real bones.

LEGO Builders

On Tuesday, June 16, 2026, Sam Garcia Library held LEGO Builders for eighteen participants. Participants designed and constructed structures, vehicles, and landmarks using LEGO bricks, encouraging creativity, spatial reasoning, and problem-solving skills.

Preschool Storytime: Making Friends!

On Tuesday, June 17, Civic Center Library welcomed 100 patrons for two sessions of preschool storytime celebrating the theme to our Summer Reading Program - dinosaurs! We read a silly story, learned about ways to be a good friend, then sang and danced to joyful songs and practiced affirmations. Storytime concluded with a bubble party and special stickers for everyone.

Vamos a Jugar/Let's Go Play

Sam Garcia Library hosted two Vamos a Jugar/Let's Go Play programs in June, welcoming 39 participants. Children explored a variety of educational topics through interactive, hands-on activities, including learning about the FIFA World Cup by creating tabletop foosball games and discovering the field of paleontology through a dinosaur fossil excavation activity. The program encouraged curiosity, creativity, and learning through play while fostering family engagement.

K-POP Club

On Tuesday, June 23, 2026, Sam Garcia Library held K-Pop Club for forty participants. This week, participants made K-pop inspired buttons and decorated them as prize ribbons. They had the opportunity to socialize with other K-pop fans and express their creativity while engaging with fans of all ages.

More 2 Explore

On Wednesday, June 24, 2026, Sam Garcia Library held More 2 Explore for twenty-nine participants. Patrons learned why fireworks are used during the 4th of July celebration and how the bald eagle became America's national bird.

RECREATION DIVISION

Sports:

Adult Softball League

This summer launched a Coed Adult Softball League with 10 teams competing on Sunday nights. The new league is in addition to our traditional Men's Adult Softball League, which features 16 teams playing on Tuesday nights.

	Number of Participants
Summer Pickleball 2025	126
Summer Pickleball 2026	156

Special Interest Classes:	**June 26**	**June 25**	**Difference**
Tot & Youth Programs Offered	22	37	-15
Tot & Youth Participants	434	388	+46

Mountain View Community Center:

	June 2026	June 2025	Difference
Door Counts	7859	6700	+1,159
Program Registrations	483	677	-194
Room Rentals	11	16	-5

Cermaics

Mountain View Community Center recently wrapped up another successful session of our Adult Ceramics and Intro to Ceramics classes, with ten participants in Adult Ceramics and thirteen participants in Intro to Ceramics. Participants created a variety of projects, including bowls, plates, and other unique ceramic pieces to take home. These classes continue to grow in popularity within the community, and we are excited to see continued interest and growth in future sessions.

Rec Summer Camp

Last month, Summer Camp kicked off at Mountain View Community Center with ninety children enrolled in our first session. The first week featured a Nerf Battle Tournament and a trip to the Aquatic Center, giving campers plenty of opportunities for fun and excitement. Campers enjoyed exciting second week with field trips to Slick City and the Aquatic Center, and we are excited to keep the fun going in our upcoming summer camp sessions!

Mountain View Community Center wrapped up its second camp session on Friday, June 26, and it was a huge success! A total of 118 campers participated throughout the two-week session, making new friends and reconnecting with familiar faces from previous summers. Campers enjoyed exciting field trips to Harkins Movie Theater to see Toy Story 5 and the Aquatic Center, and we are excited to keep the fun going in our upcoming summer camp sessions!

Culinary Adventures

Culinary Adventures wrapped up this week, and the class was a huge success! Mountain View Community Center partnered with the Resource Center to offer this cooking class for teens ages 13–17, which filled and received excellent feedback from participants and parents. Throughout the session, teens learned how to make omelets, homemade pizza, pasta, and more. We are excited to continue growing this popular program and offering more opportunities for young chefs in the future.

Events:

Mercados & Melodies: Juneteenth Celebration

On Thursday, June 18, Mercados & Melodies: Juneteenth Celebration brought together nearly 600 attendees for an evening of culture, community, and entertainment. The event featured twenty-three exhibitors, three food vendors, a moving National Anthem and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" performance by Aniyah Le'Duff, and an outstanding set from Sound of Steel. DJ Trauma kept the energy high throughout the night, filling the dance floor and creating a vibrant atmosphere that attendees enjoyed from start to finish.

Light Up the Sky

On Saturday, July 4, thousands of attendees gathered at Phoenix Raceway to celebrate Independence Day at Avondale's Light Up the Sky celebration, creating an unforgettable evening of community, entertainment, and patriotic spirit. Guests enjoyed 14 exhibitor booths, a craft area, face painting, the Arizona 250 Traveling Exhibit, and a high-energy performance by People Who Could Fly. The night concluded with the biggest fireworks show in the West Valley, lighting up the sky in celebration of America's birthday.

Upcoming Programs & Events:

Blank Canvas Summer Showcase Art Expo – Thursday, August 13, 5:30 – 6 :30pm – Avondale City Hall Lobby

Marketing:

	May '26	June '26
Accounts Reached (Facebook)	177.9K	274.2K
Accounts Reached (Instagram)	74K	149.9K
New Facebook Page Likes	166	979
New Instagram followers	115	161
Facebook Page Visits	3.1K	4K
Instagram Profile Visits	2.3K	3.9K

Avondale
PARKS & RECREATION
DEPARTMENT

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE | AUGUST 2026

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Front Desk Transaction Totals Report:

	May	June	July
Registrations	13498	21947	16225
Ramada Rentals	168	111	97
Field Rentals	370	378	279
In-Person Transactions	28	26	7
Online Transactions	5449	7433	4671

AQUATICS DIVISION

Aquatic Center Total Reports: **July 2026**

Walk Up Admission	12,512
Admission Pre-Booking	3,033
Rentals	109
Program Participants	754

Dive-In Movies

On Friday, July 17, the Aquatic Center held its second dive-in movie of the summer, showing Teen Beach Movie. The movie had eighty-eight pre-registration ticket sales and 203 tickets sold at the door, for a total of 291 attendees.

LIBRARY DIVISION

Libraries	July 2026
Library Users	11,997
Items Checked Out	13,735
Program Participation	4,221
Outreach Participation	291

Mini Makers

Mini Makers was held at Civic Center Library throughout the month of July, serving a combined total of 249 patrons. The program provided hands-on learning through crafts, targeted toys, and open play. July activities included creating fireworks in a jar, dreamcatchers, coral reefs, fossil digs, and dinosaur hatchlings. Each session encouraged creativity, exploration, and learning through interactive activities, including bubble parties and visits to the Civic Center composting worms.

Wildman Phil

On Friday, July 3, Sam Garcia Library welcomed Wildman Phil for two exciting live animal shows. Families had the opportunity to see a variety of fascinating animals up close, including snakes, insects, and more. The two performances drew a total of 233, two hundred and thirty-three participants, making for a fun and educational experience for all ages.

Movie Monday

Movie Monday was held twice during July at Sam Garcia Library, welcoming a total of 41 patrons. Families enjoyed popcorn while watching *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*. Coloring activities were available during each movie, creating a fun and relaxed family experience.

Artastic: Natural Landscapes

On Tuesday, July 7, six participants learned about artists known for their landscapes. They then participated in a hands-on project where they collaged their own landscapes using newspapers and natural materials, including leaves and flowers.

Youth Book Club: Percy Jackson Movie

On Tuesday, July 7, fourteen participants watched *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief,* a film adaption of the book series they spent the earlier part of the year reading.

Grannycore

Grannycore met three times throughout July at Civic Center Library, serving a total of 63 patrons. Participants enjoyed nostalgic, hands-on activities including painting wooden peg people inspired by favorite characters or family members, Bingo, and a variety of classic board and card games that encouraged creativity and social connection

Serve and Socialize

Serve and Socialize was held weekly throughout July at Civic Center Library, serving a total of 48 teens. Participants volunteered by shelving books, cleaning the library, sorting seeds for the Seed Library, and assisting with other library projects. Following each volunteer session, teens enjoyed social time through activities including beading, button making, board games, Uno, coloring, music, and other creative projects.

Wigglers to Walkers

Wigglers to Walkers was held multiple times throughout July at Civic Center Library and Sam Garcia Library. The program served a combined total of 480 patrons across all sessions. Families participated in early literacy activities featuring themed stories, songs, movement, sign language, sensory activities, bubbles, and play opportunities. Program themes included Great American Cities, pets, and summer exploration, providing engaging experiences for young children and caregivers.

Youth Wednesday: Volcanoes

Youth Wednesday was held throughout July at Sam Garcia Library, serving a total of 69 participants. Weekly programs introduced children to topics including volcanoes, dinosaurs, jellyfish, and ocean life through interactive learning experiences. Participants created hands-on projects such as volcano and dinosaur dioramas and pipe cleaner jellyfish while exploring science and creativity in a fun, engaging environment.

Library For All

On Thursday, July 9, Civic Center Library welcomed twelve developmentally disabled adults and their caregivers to Library For All where they each created their own fossil and dinosaur eggs out of air-dry clay. Various tools, templates as well as beads were offered for them to embellish their creations.

STEAM Jr.: Oceans

On Friday, July 10, Sam Garcia Library held STEAM Jr. For twenty-three participants. Children enjoyed an afternoon of sensory play while learning about sea animals. They also practiced their colors, letters, and numbers through a variety of games.

Adult Craft: Stick Windchimes

On Saturday, July 11 Sam Garcia Library held Adult Craft for eight participants. We enjoyed making wind chimes and sharing ideas and creativity with each other.

Kids Craft: Ceramic Dinosaurs

On Tuesday, July 14, Sam Garcia Library held Kids Craft, where forty-five participants learned about paleontology, fossils, and celebrated summer reading program. Kids painted ceramic dinosaurs to take home.

Preschool Storytime

Preschool Storytime was held weekly throughout July at Civic Center Library, welcoming a combined total of 388 patrons. Families enjoyed stories, songs, movement, affirmations, bubbles, and interactive early literacy activities centered around themes including water safety, brain health, vehicles, and imagination. Special partnerships with the Avondale Aquatics Center, Brainolicious, and Avondale Toyota provided unique learning experiences that reinforced community connections and enriched each program.

Family Storytime

Family Storytime was held weekly throughout July at Sam Garcia Library, serving a combined total of 187 patrons. Storytimes celebrated themes including Great American Cities (America250), creepy crawlies, pets, and graduation. Families enjoyed stories, music, movement, American Sign Language and Spanish vocabulary, sensory play, LEGO building, and interactive activities. Highlights included a visit from Animal Control Officer Kayla Anderson and her dog, Hippo, and a graduation celebration marking the conclusion of the Summer Reading Program.

Teen Weekly

Teen Weekly was held throughout July at Sam Garcia Library, serving a total of 58 participants. Teens explored a variety of creative and cultural topics including the evolution of American music as part of the America250 celebration, origami, and K-pop dance. Activities encouraged creativity, artistic expression, and cultural exploration through collage art, paper crafts, music appreciation, and a dance workshop led by Arizona K-Pop Dance.

3rd Annual Uniendo Lazos Resource Fair

On Saturday, July 18, Sam Garcia Library staff participated in the 3rd Annual Uniendo Lazos Resource Fair. Sixty participants from across the Valley visited our table to learn about the resources, programs, and events offered by Avondale Public Libraries. Staff also signed up seven attendees for new library cards, helping expand access to library services within the community!

Lego Builders

On Tuesday, July 21, Sam Garcia Library held Lego Builders for seventeen patrons who spent an hour playing with Legos and using their imaginations to build.

More 2 Explore

More 2 Explore was held twice during July at Sam Garcia Library, serving a total of 46 participants. Children explored hands-on STEM concepts through pirate-themed activities, including compass experiments and flag making, as well as engineering challenges where they designed and built unique recycled robots.

Nature Nerds

Nature Nerds was held weekly throughout July at Civic Center Library, serving a total of 90 patrons. Each session explored a different topic of science and nature, including Arizona spiders, snow and winter weather, giant sequoias and redwoods, sharks, and companion planting through the Three Sisters tradition. Participants reinforced their learning through hands-on crafts such as pipe cleaner spiders, beaded snowflakes, pinecone owls, shark paintings, and Three Sisters gardens. Several sessions also featured educational partnerships with Brainolicious.

This Could Be fun: Cake Decorating with Abbie Cakes

On Saturday, July 25, Center Library held This Could Be Fun: Cake Decorating with Abbie Cakes for nineteen adults. Participants learned tips and tricks for upping their cake decorating skills and each took a delicious and beautiful cake home with them.

K-POP Club

On Tuesday, July 28, Sam Garcia Library held K-POP club for sixteen patrons where they enjoyed K-POP music and culture. Participants made flower bouquets of their favorite band members, and favorite characters.

ESOL

On Tuesday, July 28, 2026, Sam Garcia Library held an ESOL class (English class for speakers of other languages) for nineteen students, made them library cards, and gave them a tour of the library, its collections, its resources, and provided information on all of the programs.

RECREATION DIVISION

Sports:

Summer Pickleball League Session 1

The first session of summer league has wrapped up, and we have the league winners. With a total of 157 participants through 5 leagues, players battled the heat and competition. Summer session 2 is officially underway.

Special Interest Classes:	July 26	July 25	Difference
Tot & Youth Programs Offered	21	25	-4
Tot & Youth Participants	324	292	+32

Mountain View Community Center:

	July 2026	July 2025	Difference
Door Counts	5639	5300	+339
Program Registrations	371	389	-18
Room Rentals	5	8	-3

Culinary Adventures

Culinary Adventures with the partnership of Neighborhood and Family Services Department wrapped up its final summer session on July 7 - 8 with the 102 Course, an advanced class available only to participants who had successfully completed the introductory course. The teens had a great time building on the cooking skills they learned throughout the summer. A few of the dishes they prepared included chicken stir fry and brownies, and giving participants the opportunity to practice a variety of cooking techniques while creating delicious recipes. It was a fun way to end a successful season, with participants gaining confidence in the kitchen while preparing more advanced meals together.

Rec Summer Camp

Mountain View Community Center wrapped up of Summer Rec Camp, with 311 campers registered. Throughout the sessions, campers made new friends, stayed active, and enjoyed a variety of fun activities. A highlight of the session was a field trip to Dave & Buster's, where campers had the chance to play a wide variety of games, earn tickets, and win exciting prizes. Campers also enjoyed two new additions to the community center this session—Giant Connect 4 and a Pac-Man arcade gaming table, which quickly became favorites during free play.

Family Painting on Canvas

Mountain View Community Center hosted its Family Painting on Canvas class on Saturday, July 11, welcoming seven participants for a fun and creative morning together. Families had the opportunity to paint the themed artwork, "To Infinity & Beyond," creating colorful masterpieces while spending quality time together.

Events:

Blank Canvas Summer Showcase Gallery

The Blank Canvas Summer Showcase Gallery is officially set and ready for display, showcasing the incredible creativity of our young artists. City employees voted for their top three artists in each age category on July 30. The award winners will be announced during the Blank Canvas Summer Showcase & Art Expo on August 13 in the City Hall Lobby.

Upcoming Programs & Events:

Blank Canvas Summer Showcase Art Expo – Thursday, August 13, 5:30 – 6 :30pm – Avondale City Hall Lobby
Paddle Battle Pickleball Tournament – Saturday, August 15, 6 pm – Festival Fields

Marketing:

	June '26	July '26
Accounts Reached (Facebook)	274.2K	83.1K
Accounts Reached (Instagram)	149.9K	113.7K
New Facebook Page Likes	979	309
New Instagram followers	161	106
Facebook Page Visits	4K	1,6K
Instagram Profile Visits	3.9K	1.4K