



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: Dec. 4, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 4A

TITLE:

Library Director's Report

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:

Bonnie Pierson, Library Director

PROGRAMMING:

On Friday, November 17th, Helen Taylor from Project Linus attended the last Quilting with Mary group session. Project Linus is a non-profit organization that accepts handmade blankets to distribute to children under eighteen who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. Helen Taylor talked to the ladies in attendance about how they can get involved with Project Linus in the future.

Youth Services Librarian Eva Bernal has officially transitioned into running teen programming. Currently, Teen Thursdays is in the middle of an Introduction to Dungeons and Dragons series, a popular interest among attendees.

The library is planning a variety of adult programs to begin in January 2024.

- **Meet At The Library:** A rotating weekly program aimed towards retirees and other adults with free afternoons. Some activities taking place during this time will be matinee movies, board games, and health education discussions.
- **History Talks:** Inspired by the History Fair, community members with historical knowledge will be invited to teach and share their niche with others.
- **Sewing & Quilting Group:** An adults-only program where community members can bring their personal sewing or quilting projects to work on in a social setting.
- **Beginning Sewing with Mary:** An adults-only introduction to sewing, taught by Mary Smith. Registration is required due to limited seating.
- **Knitting Group:** For anyone thirteen and over, a program where community members can bring their individual knitting projects to work on in a social setting.

NOTEWORTHY:

Children's Services Associate Jackie Baez resigned unexpectedly from the position. Her last day was Wednesday, November 1st. An updated job description for this position was opened to the public on Wednesday, November 22nd.

The library hired Karen Caldera-Martinez as a temporary library clerk for 90 days. Her first day was Thursday, November 9th.

Library Services Circulation Associate Catherine Lombardo began medical leave and working from home on Monday, November 16th. She is expected to return to work full-time in six weeks.

Library Services Circulation Associate Catherine Lombardo celebrated her 5th anniversary with Bastrop Public Library on Sunday, December 3rd.

UPDATES ON THE FOLLOWING:

Photo ID library cards update.

RFID feasibility update.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:

"I think Libby eaudiobooks is such a great service. We were spending too much buying them, so this saves us a good deal of money!"

-Judy Mitchell, patron

Local history buffs gather to share stories
Elgin Courier, Nov 8th 2023

By Niko Demetriou
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BASTROP – Nestled in the Bastrop Public Library, local experts and enthusiasts of Bastrop County history gathered this past Saturday to share information and stories from the towns that they call home.

Representatives from each city were eager to discuss what they believe makes Bastrop County special.

Stands were full of detailed information and infographics, including more localized stations like the Fairview Cemetery's.

Dating back to the war of 1812, the burial ground was placed on a hill to keep a lookout for potential attackers. It includes a section dedicated to babies lost in WWII, and is still in use today, looking to expand.

County Clerk Krista Bartsch was present, and the Bastrop County Genealogical Society discussed how they can help locals looking to learn more about their family background.

The Smithville historical society brought out antique items for display, traced back to founding members, and McDade's representative was ready with stories of saloons and shootouts, prepping for their re-enactment Dec. 23 at their

only remaining block of original buildings.

While not everyone may be as invested

in the history of their hometowns, these local buffs put in the work to preserve what once was.

Janet Dunbar and Charlene Hanson Jordan happy to represent Elgin and its rich history.

Photo by Niko Demetriou

A local quilter was inspired to join Quilting with Mary because she needed the accountability to finish the quilt she started when her grandbaby was born 18 years ago!

Hi Bonnie,
Wanted to send you a quick hello and tell you I used your 3-legged stool analogy for my library advisory board presentation, and it was well received. I was trying to explain to them how we must take so many things into consideration when creating our strategic plan. I wanted to help them understand that we are more than just books. Below are two of my slides that I used in the presentation. Thanks again for the idea.

Library Service Model

Library Planning

The library is one department in a larger organization. The strategic planning process considers the following documents.

1. Library Master Plan
2. 2035 Comprehensive Plan
3. Downtown Master Plan

