



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: Mar. 10, 2025

TITLE:

Library Director's Report

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:

Bonnie Pierson, Library Director

PROGRAMMING:

The Introduction to Birdwatching program series led by The Bastrop County Audubon Society and Bird City Bastrop concluded on Friday, February 7th. The series was well received with an average attendance of twenty-three per program.

On Saturday, February 15th, the library began providing a six-week English Second Language course led by library volunteer Miriam Mustelier, an experienced ESL instructor. The course takes place every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and will conclude on March 22nd.

The winter season's Adult Intermediate Sewing class concluded on Monday, February 17th. Classes will not be provided in the spring due to one of the two community leaders needing to take a hiatus from assisting with the program. The library plans to resume classes in the summer.

On Saturday, March 1st, Youth Services Librarian Eva Bernal and Children's Services Associate Ariel Dirienzo attended an outreach event at the Bastrop Farmers Market. The staff brought take-home crafts and the Seed Library to help promote library services and programming, such as the quarterly History Talk and Spring Break activities. The promotions were so successful that total of 107 seeds were given out and a couple changed their afternoon plans to go to the library's History Talk after stopping by the booth.

On Saturday, March 1st, authors and Bastrop County Historical Commission members Debbie Wahrmund and David Glen Robinson shared their knowledge of Elgin at the Quarterly History Talk. Debbie Wahrmund spoke on the history of Elgin including the Elgin cemeteries, focusing on the Latin Cemetery; the clay pits and the bricks produced in Elgin which are still seen today in the downtown area; and the impact the railroad had on Elgin's development. David Glen Robinson spoke on the Perryville cemetery, previously mis-labeled as the Hogeye Cemetery. He highlighted the history and the artistry found in the cemetery and the importance of working to preserve it.

After careful consideration, the library has decided to discontinue the Meet at the Library program series at the end of March. Library staff members plan to visit the Senior Center to gather feedback from regulars to determine if there is a program need the library can fill.

NOTEWORTHY:

Public Services Associate Terry Carwell celebrated six years at the Bastrop Public Library on Tuesday, February 4th.

On Friday, February 7th, the Friends of the Library hosted Bastrop author and creative Angela Castillo in the Pressley meeting room. She shared snippets of her wonderful stories, most of which are set in Bastrop, and talked about what it takes to become a published author.

One of the library's AC units broke on Friday, February 7th. The unit has been repaired, however, there are plans to replace it. There is no timeline for this yet.

Capitol of Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association intern Ashley Taylor reached out to the library to possibly schedule some partner programs. Director Bonnie Pierson and Media Specialist Cary Kittrell met with the chapter on Friday, February 22nd. The two organizations are considering dates in late spring or summer 2025 for potential partner programs.

The library board's fiscal year 2025 workplan was approved by the City Council on Tuesday, February 25th.

The library has ordered laptops to replace four of the six current devices. The laptops will be available for staff for a variety of purposes such as programming, digitization, and working remotely.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has been at the library four Saturdays in the Pressley meeting room from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. to assist community members with tax preparation and electronic filing. They are scheduled to be at the library two more times on Saturday, March 22nd and Saturday, April 5th.

UPDATES ON THE FOLLOWING:

Photo ID cards: Preliminary costs for equipment and supplies are being gathered. A query to regional library directors about the popularity of this service was sent out and few responses were received. There was a suggestion to reach out to San Marcos for detailed information.

Board Requested Information

- TSLAC Assigned Population: 11,679
- TSLAC MOE: \$681,757.00
- TSLAC Minimum per Capita \$17.50
- BPL MOE: \$831,760.00
- BPL per Capita: \$68.13
- Non-Res Distribution

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:

"This is becoming the best community activity place in the city!"

- Patron

"I don't use computers often enough to be super competent, so I'm so thankful for y'all."

- Patron

“My father moved here a few months ago, and he’s had nothing but great things to say about Coffee & Friends. It’s just so great!”

- Patron

Bastrop Public Library Feedback Form

Please use this card to give us your suggestions, compliments, or complaints. All feedback is equally important for the us to know what our community wants, what we are doing right, where we can improve, or anything that concerns you. Place your completed form into the box.

This feedback is a: Suggestion Compliment Complaint

Please write details of your feedback here:

Warm & welcoming library! Super friendly
& helpful staff 😊

“Warm & welcoming library! Super friendly & helpful staff 😊”