



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 6, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 5A

TITLE:

Library Director's Report

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:

Bonnie Pierson, Library Director

PROGRAMMING:

One hundred eighty-six seed packets went out in the month of March, the first month of the Seed Library.

Retired University of Texas at Austin Professor and author Farnaz Masumian led a meditation program at the library on Saturday, April 6th 11am to 1pm. Nine people were in attendance.

The library participated in The Solar Eclipse Watch Party at Bob Bryant Park from 12pm to 2pm on Monday, April 8th in partnership with Visit Bastrop and Bastrop Parks and Recreation. Despite the cloudy skies, seventy people stopped by the library's booth during the event.

The library partnered with Austin Financial Center to host a financial literacy miniseries the second, third, and fourth Saturdays of April from 11am to 12pm. The program—It Makes ¢ents—focused on three different topics each Saturday: Increasing Cash Flow and Debt Management, Retirement Planning and Optimizing Social Security and Medicare Benefits, and Estate Planning for Health and Wealth. All attendees were entered into a drawing for a \$25 HEB gift card.

Twenty-six of McDade Elementary's second graders were given a tour of the Bastrop Public Library on Friday, April 19th. Director Bonnie Pierson and Children's Services Associate Ariel Dirienzo led the tour, where they taught the students how to search for books within the library and explained the other services the library has to offer. The tour ended with a brief Storytime.

On Tuesday, April 23rd, Parents as Teachers hosted an Information Fair sponsored by Bluebonnet Trails at Fisherman's Park. Youth Services Librarian Eva Bernal and Children's Services Associate Ariel Dirienzo represented the Bastrop Public Library at the fair to provide information on library resources, programs that could help parents become better educators for their children, and the 2024 Summer Reading Program. A total of sixty-five people stopped by the library's booth.

The library's second History Talk took place on Saturday, April 27th. Award-winning, western author Vicky J. Rose, who writes under the names V.J. Rose and Easy Jackson, presented on the outlaws that populated McDade, Texas in the late 1800s. A total of twenty-seven people were in attendance.

Bastrop Public Library's first Día de los Niños, also known simply as "Día", celebration took place on Tuesday, April 30th with a total of sixty-five participants. Día is the celebration of Children's Day and Book Day, which highlights bilingual literacy in libraries across the nation. Organized and led by Youth Services Librarian Eva Bernal, the activities included a book giveaway, a bilingual Storytime, a live piano performance, a piñata, crafts, and a popsicle distribution. The library also promoted upcoming programming that will cater towards Spanish-speaking families and individuals. The volunteers for the night included ten students from Bastrop High School, along with the Spanish teacher Ms. Rosalez.

NOTEWORTHY:

On Monday, April 8th, a camera was installed inside the library bird house. The footage will be streamed on the website once there is activity on the cameras.

The Bastrop Public Library submitted its 2023 Texas State Library and Archives Commission report on Thursday, April 4th and has been accredited for Fiscal Year 2025.

Supervisor of Access Services Librarian Amie Cuvelier and Youth Services Librarian Eva Bernal attended the annual Texas Library Association (TLA) Conference in San Antonio from Tuesday, April 16th through Friday, April 19th.

The library has partnered with Astronomers Without Borders to collect gently used and new solar eclipse glasses from the community. Glasses donations will be accepted through Saturday, May 11th, after which they will be vetted for quality, and sent to other communities around the globe that will be experiencing eclipses.

Supervisor of Access Services Librarian Amie Cuvelier celebrated her two-year anniversary with the library on Saturday, April 27th.

The Friends of the Library held their annual Spring Book Sale on Friday, May 3rd from 10am - 5pm and Saturday, May 4th from 10am - 3pm. The Lost Pines Garden Club partnered with the Friends of the Library and held a plant sale in tandem with the book sale on Saturday, May 4th.

UPDATES ON THE FOLLOWING:

Personnel.

Photo ID library cards update.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:

"Thank you so much for having Dr. Farnaz lead today's session on meditation. It was truly fantastic—and I've been studying meditation since the 80's!"

- Patron

"I got a job! A J-O-B job! Thank you so much for all of your help and patience helping me apply to jobs these past months!"

- Wilma, patron

"I'm visiting from Austin, and I just wanted to let you know that y'all do a great job here. I would drive out here to just hang out."

- Patron