



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 9, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 6A

TITLE:

Library Director's Report

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:

Bonnie Pierson, Library Director

PROGRAMMING:

On Thursday, August 15th, Bilingual Storytime resumed after a successful summer trial. The session attracted a total of thirty participants. The theme for this Storytime was "Osos & Bears," with stories and songs presented in both English and Spanish followed by a playtime.

On Tuesday, August 20th, LEGO® Club welcomed seventy-nine participants of all ages. Attendees were challenged to build giant replicas of LEGO® minifigures, now displayed in the children's area of the library. Participants also enjoyed other challenges and free building time, making for a fun and lively evening.

The library began Adult Dungeons and Dragons sessions at the beginning of summer. Attendance has been consistent since the program's launch, and interest grew over the summer. As such, the library has expanded the program from one to two weekly groups, each with a community volunteer Dungeon Master.

Mary Smith and Dorene Ruggs will have two cohorts of Beginning Sewing this fall: a five-week course for adults in August and September, and a three-week course in October for kids. Adults will learn how to make a tote bag, and kids will learn how to make a sleepover pillow with a secret pocket. These classes continue to be very popular, and the waitlist is quite long.

To meet community interest, the library has begun offering stand-alone sewing programs titled Sewing Machines 101, where Mary and Dorene will give attendees a crash course to help them be comfortable with their own sewing machines. The first program took place on Thursday, August 1st, with subsequent classes planned for November and January. These programs are by registration only and are limited to ten participants.

The library is starting a program targeting tweens ages nine to twelve, with the first program taking place on Tuesday, October 1st. Tween Tuesday is scheduled to take place on the first Tuesday of every month from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. to give availability to tweens that would be getting out of school for the day. Program content will vary from month-to-month, rotating between activities such as complex crafts, art projects, and STEAM activities. Children's Services Associate Ariel Dirienzo and Youth Services Librarian Eva Bernal will be co-running the program.

NOTEWORTHY:

Public Services Librarian Bethany Dietrich celebrated seven years with the Bastrop Public Library on Wednesday, August 14th.

The library's temporary summer Circulation Associate Catherine "Cat" Morales's last day was on Friday, August 16th. Her presence was vital to the library this summer and in making the extended hours possible.

The annual Volunteer Luncheon took place on Tuesday, August 20th. A total of twenty-two volunteers were in attendance.

Executive Administrative Assistant Veronica Nunez celebrated three years with the Bastrop Public Library on Friday, August 23rd.

UPDATES ON THE FOLLOWING:

Personnel update.

Friends of the Library update.

- October Author – Brian Porter
- Annual meeting

Photo ID library cards update.

Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:

"I just moved here from Florida, where there are so many things for people to do during the day thanks to all the retired folks. In Bastrop, I was struggling to find something, until I came to the library! Thank you all so much for all that you offer! I've come to Knitting & Crocheting, Coffee & Friends, and the Gardening program, and I can't wait."

- Lori, patron

"I like Libby because I can make the font big! I can hardly see anymore, but Libby lets me read!"

- Janis, patron

"I so appreciate all that y'all do at the library. You are all so kind and gracious. I don't know what I would do without the library."

- Patron

"WOW! It's so amazing to move back and return to the library to see so much growth and development! It's amazing what they've done here."

- Patron

