



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 5, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 5A

TITLE:

Library Director's Report

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTED BY:

Bonnie Pierson, Library Director

PROGRAMMING:

With both relaxing and competitive programs, Teen Thursdays have been full of fun and excitement this summer. On June 20th, a total of twenty teens sampled tropical fruits and snacks and participated in trivia during the Tropical Treats program. Additionally, a collaboration with AgriLife on July 11th introduced teens to the local resource and the opportunity to make acai bowls and smoothies.

The 2024 Summer Reading Storytime programs have been full of fun, excitement, and connection within the community. The library has seen our regulars in attendance each week, as well as many new faces. Storytime with a Cop drew in a huge crowd both times, and the police officers that did a fantastic job reading to and interacting with the kids. The program has also received great feedback from Storytime families this summer.

The library's Sewing and Quilting Group visited Coffee & Friends--formerly Coffee with Catherine—to share some of the quilts they have made. Coffee attendees were encouraged to bring family and heirloom quilts to discuss as well.

June's Meet at the Library: Games program had a total of twelve attendees, the largest attendance yet. The program targets adults, however, a few kids attended as well. Patrons had a particularly good time competing in UNO against Library Media Specialist Cary Kittrell.

The library's quarterly History Talk took place on Saturday, July 27th with two presenters, Dock Jackson, chairperson of the Kerr Community Center Board of Directors, and Clint Howard, owner of Pyrology Foundry & Studio. Dock Jackson spoke about the history of The Kerr Center and the integral role it served in Bastrop's history as the community center for African Americans. The Kerr Center is currently hosting "The Journey to Freedom" statue of Harriet Tubman by Wesley Wexford. Clint Howard explained the creation process of the statue and how the statue not only represents the role Harriet Tubman is known for in the underground railroad, but also how, in helping others, Harriet reclaimed her power and freed herself.

The movie programs of Meet at the Library have been showing the first three Star Wars movies this summer, one in June, July, and August. Attendees at the three summer showings have also

been able to enter a drawing for a forty-ounce tumbler. The drawing will be held after the final movie. On average, the programs have been seeing twenty people, which is a major increase from when the program started.

A complete report of the 2024 Summer Reading Program will be provided at the meeting. Highlighted programs will include Bilingual Storytime, Plática con Cafecito, Time for Play, Lost in the Woods Escape Room, Read with a Friend, Silent Reading Club, and the Reader's Jubilee.

NOTEWORTHY:

During June, the City of Bastrop worked to collect food for the Bastrop Count Emergency Food Pantry. There were five collection bins throughout the city, with departments grouped off for counting. At the end of the month, the Library and Water and Wastewater had collected a total of 398 pounds of donations.

As of Monday, July 8th, Executive Administrative Assistant Veronica Nunez began working thirty hours a week.

On Friday, July 12th, the library finished vetting all the solar glasses that were collected after the total solar eclipse in April. Glasses that meet the requirements put in place by Astronomer's Without Borders have been boxed up and are ready to be shipped off when need arises.

A survey polling community preference for the organization of the Adult Fiction section was conducted from Monday, June 17th through Friday, July 12th. The survey found that 57% of those who completed the survey wanted the Adult Fiction section to stay organized by genre. As such, the Adult Fiction section will keep its current organization. However, patrons did note that they would like to see better signage for the section.

The library submitted the final reimbursement claim for eRate's 2023 year on Friday, July 26th.

UPDATES ON THE FOLLOWING:

Personnel update.

Monday, July 22nd - Boards & Commissions Fair update.

Friends of the Library update.

- October Author – Brian Porter
- Annual meeting

Photo ID library cards update.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:

"I use Libby for my insomnia. I just use the sleep timer, and I don't have to work hard the next day to figure out where I fell asleep."

- Sylvia, patron

"Summer reading is one of our favorite programs that y'all do!"

- Mary, patron

“Thank you for always being so helpful and kind. I am not computer savvy, but I know I can always come in here and get the help I need. I truly appreciate it.”

- Patron

“This was great for my daughter. She has dyslexia and reading has been a struggle. Having something like this really helps her confidence.”

- Patron, who brought daughter to Read with a Friend

“It’s always a struggle to get my grandson to read. He only wants to read Minecraft books. I am shocked he was able to sit for an hour and read different books with David [a teen volunteer]. This is great!”

- Patron, who brought her grandson to Read with a Friend

“It’s well worth the \$25 membership fee to read all of the Bridgerton books—and the Queen Charlotte spin-off book, too!”

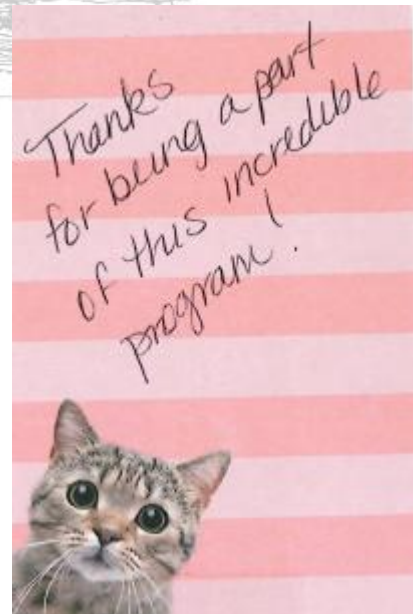
- Abigail, patron

“Mary is a wonderful teacher. She inspired and empowered by daughter and I to learn how to sew.”

- Patron

“Cary was so great! Thank you to all that put the escape room together. It was so much fun. We can’t wait for next year’s escape room.”

- Family, who completed the 2024 escape room



A sample of notes from community members who donated solar glasses.

The Summer Reading Challenge has begun! 📖



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#SUMMERREADING

