



## LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATION

**DATE:** April 23, 2025

**FROM:** Laura Klenke, Library Director

**AGENDA ITEM:** Librarian's Report

### **SUMMARY:**

#### **General News**

The library behavior policy was approved by City Council on 1/6/25. We updated our website, and posted the policy around the library and outside on the bulletin board.

In February, I gave a presentation and overview of library services to City Council. It was the first time our department has given a council presentation. The response was positive and I enjoyed sharing the efforts of all the hard work we have put forth in the last two years.

I submitted our state annual report. I've been working on streamlining the statistical gathering process to better benefit data collection for both the annual report and City statistics. Many of our metrics have increased substantially from last year. We hope to continue the trends and grow the library.

We debuted a new newsletter in March. We had a lot of positive feedback from patrons. We hope to use it alongside our market research software to create welcome back campaigns. One of our goals is to increase the number of reactivated library cards.

We have been able to get ahead of our calendar planning schedule. We are still working on summer and hope to have it mostly completed soon. We will be the guest for the City's May podcast on the 266 Express.

We have a new part-time staff member Carol who started on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. She's been a great addition to our team. We have a part-time temporary position advertised to help us through the summer and possibly the remainder of the fiscal year.

Staff and I attended the Texas Library Association conference in Dallas. We received support from our City Manager and Council to close the library for a weeklong training. Patrons were supportive and were excited for us to all attend. Staff came back motivated and excited, brimming with new ideas on how to extend and improve library services to our community.

#### **Library Resources Update**

The library we be debuting a new resource Cloudlibrary at the end of the month. We will be joining a state consortium called Cloudlink. It will offer over close to 67,000 ebook and audiobook titles. We will have a soft launch this month and will begin promoting it in April. Staff has received training on the new app.

We are slowly migrating away from Hoopla. We will be giving patrons ample notice of us leaving the platform in May. The pay per use model isn't sustainable and while it has been helpful, with our membership to Cloudlink will hopefully fill the gap. Cloudlibrary does have pay per use model if we find we need book club titles.

We are now part of the Library Speaker's Consortium. The Library Speaker's Consortium brings bestselling author talks to communities of all sizes. We hope to host some author events in conjunction with the speaker's consortium. Patrons can access the upcoming event list from home and submit their own questions for these online author talks.

## **December 2024**

December was a festive month at the library, featuring creativity, holiday cheer, and the Winter Reading Program. Similar to the Summer Reading Program, it allowed participants to log their reading during winter break and win prizes.

The season began with a teen ornament-making hangout, using crayon shavings, plastic Christmas bulbs, and hairdryers. Mrs. Claus, played by staff member MaDonna Wade, delighted families with a holiday storytime during the Chamber of Commerce's Christmas event.

A highlight was the life-sized Candyland board game, attracting over 155 enthusiastic participants. The Crafts with Mrs. Claus program brought in 77 kids and 75 adults, who decorated snowmen, Christmas trees, and stockings.

The Paint a Squishmallow program was so popular it was offered twice, with 59 children participating. Another unique event featured Ms. MaDonna's goat at a special animal-themed storytime.

Adults got creative with holiday fabric postcards, while the library promoted services and signed up new members at the Sanger Arts and Crafts Fair. Sanger Art Studio Saturday focused on holiday ornaments, cards, and gift tags.

Movies at the Library returned with a Polar Express pajama party, complete with hot chocolate and popcorn. The adult book club read *Little Women*, and the UFOs Knitting and Crochet Group welcomed crafters of all levels.

By the end of 2024, the library saved patrons \$497,420.32 through borrowed materials.

**Monthly Statistics:** 2,474 physical and 426 digital checkouts  
66 new cardholders, 2,566 visits, 125 reference/computer-related questions.

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## **January 2025**

January introduced new programs and returning favorites, including the Lego STEM Class and a teen hangout called Popcorn and Puzzles.

The Winter Reading Program was a success, with 136 registered participants and 53 logging their reading over four weeks. The homeschool group explored printmaking, while Lego Club hosted 27 enthusiastic builders.

Sanger Art Studio Saturday focused on altered art journals, and preschool music and movement welcomed 28 attendees. Teens enjoyed Popcorn and Puzzles, while a Perler Bead Crafting session drew fans of Minecraft, Pokémon, and Marvel.

The adult book club took a different approach, inviting members to share their favorite books of the year. Top picks included *The Women* by Kristin Hannah and *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult.

A teen science hangout featured balloon rocket races, where participants learned about propulsion. The month ended with the second library puzzle race, where eight teams, including City staff, competed to complete a 500-piece puzzle. Team Puzzle People defended their title, finishing in just over an hour. Winners took home handmade polymer clay magnets.

The Lego STEM Class introduced kids to motorized Lego boats, which they designed and programmed to move. The class received excellent feedback, with sign-ups already filling for March.

**Monthly Statistics:** 2,675 physical and 610 digital checkouts, 47 new cardholders, 2,242 visits, and 99 reference questions.

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## February 2025

February was a month of celebration, as the library received the 2024 Achievement of Library Excellence Award, placing it among 102 award-winning libraries in Texas.

The Blind Date with a Book program saw 90 books checked out, with 27 participant reviews. Movie Time returned, with The Wild Robot winning a patron vote. Families also enjoyed a Sing-Along Movie Night featuring *Encanto*.

Kids Can Cook celebrated Valentine's Day with a grilled cheese workshop, where children experimented with different breads and cheeses. A teen volunteer demonstrated his pepperoni pizza grilled cheese, and 31 attendees enjoyed their meals with tomato soup.

The Sanger Art Studio Saturday group continued work on altered journals, while Lego Club welcomed 17 builders. The Teen Hangout featured a DIY Phone Stand workshop, where teens customized stands with washi tape. Homeschoolers took part in a kids' cryptography class, decoding secret messages.

A major milestone was the Spanish Language Collection Celebration, funded by a \$2,500 Texas Book Festival Grant. Due to weather, some events were rescheduled, including an Intro to Salsa Dancing, now planned for April.

The month wrapped up with teen hangout video game, drawing 18 attendees.

VITA Tax Assistance continued, offering free tax prep for households earning up to \$67,000.

**Monthly Statistics:** 2,439 physical and 610 digital checkouts, 43 new cardholders, 2,298 visits, and 122 reference/computer-related questions .

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## **March 2025**

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March was filled with engaging and creative programs for all ages at the library. The Dr. Seuss Weeklong Celebration included a "Which Dr. Seuss character are you?" quiz, a screening of Horton Hears a Who, a craft event where kids made wockets and Loraxes, a trivia night, and snack-making activities like fruit "Cat in the Hat" hats and graham cracker "One Fish, Two Fish" treats. The celebration was a hit with strong attendance.

Beth Patton led a Fabric Collage program for teens and adults on March 8, where participants crafted vibrant fabric art. Sanger Studio Saturday celebrated its 1st anniversary, with mixed media journal-making, and the program continues monthly.

Preschool Music and Movement had 11 children and 8 adults, fostering rhythm and movement through songs and instruments. Teen Hangouts featured button-making and a watercolor painting workshop, where teens learned basic techniques and created a kaleidoscope effect with washi tape.

Lego Club welcomed 32 builders in two sessions. Watercolor Class for Kids had 39 participants across two sessions, learning taping and blocking techniques. Toddler Storytime had 10 children and 6 adults, while Toddler Time grew to 9 children and 6 adults, encouraging fine motor skills through creative play.

Homeschool Community Meetups brought together 21 families, and VITA Tax Assistance continued, offering free tax prep for qualifying households.

**Monthly Statistics:** 2,735 physical, 535 digital checkouts, 53 new cardholders, 2,553 visits, 97 reference, 56 Computer questions.

### **FISCAL INFORMATION:**

Budgeted: YES/NO

Amount: \$0.00

GL Account: XXX.XX.XXXX

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION OR ACTION:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:**

N/A