BASTROP PUBLIC LIBRARY

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WELCOME TO A BRIEF LOOK BACK AT 2022!

The library staff is proud to highlight some of the great happenings here at the Bastrop Public Library over the past year. We have faced struggles, but through it all, we worked to provide quality service to our community. But what does that mean?



Bonnie Pierson

Service means that the library is where groups, big and small, can come together with common interests, community, and laughter. It means parents can share time with their children playing board games, working on homework, attending programs, or reading books. It means teens can explore ideas, hang out, and be themselves. It means you can build LEGO® creations, find a special cake pan, and print wirelessly from your phone. It means you will receive a warm welcome every time you walk in and get a cup of coffee on Fridays. It means we are a place for everyone!

We know we still have work to do. There are barriers and biases in our community that we must work through to truly make the library a place for all people. We need to reach out to the community and create relationships with those unfamiliar with the library, while enriching the relationships we already have.

As you look through these pages, I hope you will see a multifaceted library that is growing and changing with our community. Some say growth and change are hard, but we are embracing them. I encourage you to be part of this change. Let us know what you think and make suggestions so we can serve you better.

Thanks for letting us share the year with you!

Bonnie Pierson

Library Director

BASTROP PUBLIC LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS



People Using the Library!

- 64,364 visitors walked through the doors
- 1,795 times the meeting rooms and study rooms were used
- 15,000+ questions answered
- 2,362 hours adult and teen volunteers helped
- 67,561 wifi and public computer sessions utilized
- 1,042 new cardmembers welcomed
- 1,608 memberships renewed
- 240 programs led for youth and adults
- 8,813 people attended programs



Books and More!

- **$1,244,029.08 saved by patrons**
- 132,019 items checked out
- 20 hotspots checked out 257 times
- 4,349 new books in the collection
- 14,980 ebooks borrowed
- Most popular book: The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave

Summer Reading Fun!

- 869 participants read 1,780,998 minutes
- 56.3% of readers met their goal of reading 500 minutes
- 526 free books given away



"Bastrop Public Library has been a great place for my little one and me to explore, learn, and meet others! We love participating in storytime and reacting with peers. It also allows me to make friends with other moms who are in my same boat!" -Danielle P.

"I've tried and failed at finding this document and printing it from other businesses and was so frustrated, but the Bastrop Public Library staff made the whole process so easy! I should have come here first, and I will definitely be coming back again in the future!" -Computer user





PROGRAMMING

Preschool Storytime: Over 3,000 children and caregivers enjoyed this program last year and made stories, songs, movement, laughter, and fun part of their weekly routine.

"I look forward to bringing my child to Storytime each Friday. It's always a fun time. – Storytime mom to Kat Durham



LEGO® Club: What's engaging and teaches math, science, and engineering? LEGO® Club! Each month kids have building challenges and opportunities for creativity during free building time.

Coffee with Catherine: What started as a way for a group of ladies to connect and has grown into opportunities for a variety of activities and presentations. They meet every Wednesday.



City Friends Storytime: Six times a year, employees from the City of Bastrop share information with our young friends. We've danced with Recreation Manager Terry Moore, voted with City Secretary Ann Franklin, and even became friends with Mayor Connie Schroeder.

Teen Thursdays: Teen Thursdays is a weekly 90-minute program where we focus on having fun—with some sneaky learning thrown in too. Recent favorite programs were Tower Challenges, Crackers and Cheez Whiz Construction, and Oreos and Opinions.

"I came to Teen Thursdays to make friends, and I did—my first time here!" -Mikayla



Annual Holiday Open House: Our festive holiday party where more than 800 visitors enjoyed music from the Honor Choir, Heart of Texas Music Academy, and Mary Smith's accordion. Our traditional Graham Cracker House Decorating found children and parents creating masterpieces and happy memories.

"Thank you for making this a Christmas tradition." -Jennifer M.

Summer Reading 2022: Oceans of Possibilities! Our multiweek program was a huge success filled with programs, performers, activities, and lots of reading.



Participation: 528 kids, 85 teens, and 256 adults registered to read 500 minutes.

"We're registered! So excited!" – Inge W.

Reading: Everyone read 1,780,998 minutes this year earning over 1,000 prize books that were donated by the Friends of the Bastrop Library.

Opening Week: There were activities each day to get summer started. We created a mural, fished for time, built towers, guessed book characters and more.



Community Adventure: Completing tasks in the library and around town gave kids an opportunity to win a gift basket full of gift cards for local businesses.

Performers: Comedian and magician, Oscar Munoz, wowed a record setting crowd and Sky Kings Falconry amazed one and all with an aerial birds of prey demonstration.

The entertainer [Oscar Munoz] was top notch, the crowd was engaged and loving every minute and the Bastrop Library was shining!" -Kathy D.



Patriotic Shoebox Parade: Amazing shoebox size floats were decorated by local non-profits and displayed for judging by the public. The Bastrop Area Pickleball Association gained a month of publicity on the library's social media pages for receiving the most votes.

More Great Programs: Storytime with a Cop, The Bermuda Triangle Escape room for teens, Sisters 'N Goods, local kid entrepreneurs at Coffee with Catherine, Rockin' Reading music program with Allison Bumstead for families, and a Tropical End of Summer Reading Party with an inflatable slide in the library!



Interested? Summer Reading 2023 is set for May 30 through July 22!

"Bastrop Public Library staff go above and beyond not only in the variety of services and activities they offer, but also by way of their exceptionally personable and friendly staff. Every time I've emailed and asked for book recommendations for my 12-year-old, a librarian responds with tailored lists. I can't say enough about our library; if you haven't been, you're truly missing out!" -April L.









NEW BOOKS IN NONFICTION

New books! That phrase brings joy to so many people. This year kids were the focus for a massive upgrade of our Juvenile Nonfiction collection. We looked at all the kids' nonfiction books–over 4,000 items! We identified the ones in poor condition, ones that weren't being read, and ones that were outdated (bye-bye 80's sweaters!) so there was room on the shelves for new books. Books still in decent condition were donated to the Friends of the Library for their book sale.

This project took many hours, and our teen volunteers were instrumental in getting it done. Initially, they learned how to identify books that the librarians needed to examine for content and condition. Then, as books were purchased, the teens removed the old materials from the shelves so there was room for all the great new titles coming in.

All this hard work is evident in how much cleaner, tidier, and shinier the shelves are! Look for these shelves in the natural sciences (Dewey Decimal System 500's); technology from farming and pets to engineering and robotics (600's); social situations and manners (100's); religious books (200's); and forensics, holidays, and fairy tales (300's).

We are still working on this massive project and more new books will be coming for the juvenile nonfiction shelves! We will be adding books in the 700's which cover sports, crafts, music, and movies. Literature and poetry will be updated in the 800's; and history and biographies in the 900's.

Let us know what you think about all new books, and if there's something we missed, we will try to fill that gap! You can find these new books in the juvenile nonfiction shelves and on the "New" shelves in the children's area along the purple wall.

If you are impatient to see what's new, scan this QR code to take a peek and put something on reserve. Happy reading!

"I love that over the past 20+ years that I've lived here, Bastrop Public Library has grown and changed with the community." -Lisa H.

WHEW! WE'VE BEEN BUSY!

More Items! More Time! We increased our loan limit from 15 to 20 items and the loan period from 2 to 3 weeks.

New Hotspots! We purchased 10 additional devices to bring our total to 20 hotspots for adults to check-out.

Circulating Puzzles! Folks enjoyed the community puzzle so much that we added a variety of puzzles to check-out.

Pollinator Garden! The Texas Master Naturalists installed a pollinator garden visible from the children's area to support the local ecosystem.

Recreation! Bastrop Recreation Center included the library in National Walking Day and International Yoga Day programming.

Sharing Information! Austin Community College brought financial aid information to parents and high school students.

Supporting Education! We partnered with the BISD ACE program to get cards for all their students.

Community Fun! We had a blast at the Boo Bash, Movies in the Park, Spring Fest, the Senior Health Fair, and the Back to School Bash.

Great City Decorating Contest! 243 votes were cast for the 14 entries of our city decoration competition. The Bastrop Police Department took home the trophy!

Furniture Shift! The adult computers moved, creating some open space and room for eye-catching displays.

Book Count! We inventoried all our materials, more than 48,000 items.









"I love the staff! They're so helpful and upbeat and creative! Timely, too, as they are up to date on new titles and topics. Bastrop Public Library is exceptional in many ways!" -Marie B.

"Libraries have all the fun stuff—like books!" -7-year-old patron

I'VE ONLY READ 8 BOOKS THIS YEAR: A LIBRARIAN'S CONFESSION



I am a voracious reader! Well, I should say I was a voracious reader. As a librarian, it feels weird to admit this, but it's true.

Just like many other people, the years since March 2020 have been hard and have required that I step out of my comfort zones to adjust my work life, family life, home life, personal relationships, and well... everything. I just don't have the energy for any more zones, even if it's a beloved comfort zone within a story.

I started realizing that I was struggling to read in late fall 2021. After many failed attempts at finishing a book, I decided to have some grace with myself. I just stopped trying. I didn't berate myself anymore for not doing this thing that I had loved since elementary school and that I had turned into my career.

In November 2022, I finally finished a print book! It was the first book I'd read from start to finish since March 2022. That brought my yearly total to eight books read. As someone who averages reading over 200 books a year... reading eight books in a year seems pretty paltry.

But those eight books mean a lot to me. All eight were library books, and even if it took me longer than the 3-week check-out period, I could renew them and take my time without feeling bad about reading so slowly.

So, you may be asking, what did I do during all that time I could have been reading? Watching TikToks and doing the Wordle thanks to a hotspot borrowed from the library.

Now why am I confessing all this to you? Shouldn't I be telling you how great reading is when you're feeling out of sorts? I could, but the real message is that the library is here for you without judgement. Whether you're a voracious reader, a slow reader, a non-reader, or somewhere in-between, we are here for you. If you need DVD's and escapism, cakepans for treating yourself, hotspots and web surfing, ebooks and easy reads, puzzles and down time, friends and community, we are here. We will help you find your zone, your groove and maybe even a little stability.

The next time you're at the library, stop and say "Hi!" if you see me at the desk. Maybe I'll have finished another book-then again, maybe not.

Bethany Dietrich

Public Services Librarian

Meet the Staff



Bonnie Pierson, Director

Amie Cuvelier, Technical Services & Circulation

Bethany Dietrich, Public Services Librarian

Carmen Serna, Children's Services Associate

Cary Kittrell, Media Specialist

Catherine Lombardo, Associate, Circulation, & Volunteer Services

Kat Durham, Associate, Public Services

Ronni Nunez, Executive Administrative Assistant

Sheila Bowman, Administrative Services

Terry Carwell, Associate, Circulation Services

Hours

Monday - Wednesday - Friday
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Tuesday - Thursday
1:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed Sunday

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