National Library Week Is April 7–13

National Library Week is a time to celebrate! Libraries and library workers contribute greatly to our communities, so now is the time to encourage everyone to use, support, and promote your local library. From free access to books and online resources to programs for all ages to a comfortable place to get out of the heat or in from the cold, libraries offer opportunity for all.

The Bastrop Public Library, just like libraries all over the country, provides free access to information and technology. But it wasn’t always that way. When the Ladies’ Reading Circle established the Public Library Association in Bastrop in 1900, members were charged $3 for a library card. And in the 1970’s and 1980’s, non-city residents were charged $20 for a library card. Today, however, anyone can get a library card, use a computer, connect to wi-fi, or attend programs free of charge.

It is the mission of Bastrop Public Library to provide free access to informational, educational, cultural, and recreational materials and services for all ages. This is a lot to expect from one library, but we strive to do this in a variety of ways.

Storytime helps prepare young ones for school by introducing them to letters and other literacy concepts. Not everyone can afford to send their kids to daycare, but we provide a lot of the same learning and socializing opportunities at our free, twice-weekly storytimes.

Studying for the SAT, GRE, or other alphabet-soup test? We have study guides that you can use for free. You’re already having to pay for the test; you might as well study for free.

We have physical books on the shelves and online resources that give you immediate feedback to help you be successful on these tests. There is a saying that education is the best way to better yourself, and we want to help you accomplish those goals.

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Welcome, Catherine!

Catherine Lombardo joined the Bastrop Public Library staff in December as the new Library Associate, Circulation Manager and Adult Volunteer Services Coordinator, and we are very happy to have her smiling face amongst us!

Thank you!

The Book and Plant Sale, co-hosted by the Friends of the Bastrop Public Library and the Lost Pines Garden Club was Friday and Saturday, March 29-30. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to purchase books and plants and bid on items in the silent auction.

An estimated $1300 was raised to support Bastrop Public Library programs and other projects. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make it a successful weekend!

Library Closings

- Friday, April 19 for Good Friday
- Saturday, April 20 for Easter weekend
- Monday, May for Memorial Day

SRP 2019 Preview

Summer Reading 2019 will ignite on Saturday, June 1st with a Blast-Off into Summer Reading party. It will be at the library from 10am-12pm. Come play games, win prizes, sign-up for summer reading, and more fun as we kick-off our summer reading program: A Universe of Stories.

We'll have programs for all ages, and opportunities for you and your kids to read and win prizes. When you read or read to your child, it counts as minutes you can log! And that includes audiobooks, reading for work, flipping through a magazine, or scrolling on screen.

Put these dates on your calendar:
- Blast-off to Summer Reading: Sat., June 1, 10:00-12:00
- 5th Annual Pie Social: Sat., June 22 from 1:00-3:00
- YMCA’s Big Games Day: Tues., July 9, time TBD
- Star Wars: A Finale Party: Sat., July 27, 11:00-2:00

Take a look at the Summer Programming Guide for details regarding recurring programs such as storytime and Teen Thursdays.

Summer Volunteers Needed

Summer is quickly approaching, and the library needs you to help us make it a successful time!

We need volunteers to help with:
- Book Buddies: a new program that will involve reading to/with kids
- Special programs, such as opening day party, closing party, performers, movies, and more.
- Shelving: we always need extra hands to help re-shelve checked-in books
- Prep programming materials: cut things out for storytime, stamp bookmarks, and more behind-the-scenes jobs

Teens (14+) can apply to volunteer by filling out the application available at bplteens.weebly.com/volunteering and returning it to Bethany at bdietrich@bastroplibrary.org or in person. For teens who need to earn volunteer/service hours, this is an excellent opportunity to do so!

Adults (18+) can apply to volunteer by picking up an application at the Circulation Desk and returning it to Catherine at clombardo@bastroplibrary.org or in person.
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Whether you’re typing up a resume, researching homework, or scrolling through Facebook, we provide internet access to you. We have 30 computers you can log on to or you can bring your own device and access the wi-fi.

Of course we also have books for all ages. Many readers bury their noses in the pages of a book for escapism. (Which we highly recommend!) However, we have resources for healthy cooking, dealing with depression, learning to draw, historical figures, and so much more. We have gads of books to help you and your family be the best you can be.

It’s a big job to serve the Bastrop community, and not everyone agrees about how to get it done. Some think the kids and teenagers are too loud. Some think we don’t have enough new DVD’s. Some think our fiction collection is too small. Some think we don’t offer enough programs for elementary kids. But that’s okay. It takes everyone’s opinion to make the library better for the community.

The Bastrop Public Library has been part of the fabric of the community for over 50 years. We have changed and evolved to better serve the people of Bastrop, and we look forward to entertaining, empowering, and informing Bastropians for years to come.

Hobbies, Crafts, and Home Improvement Reference Center Databases

Do you spend a lot of time crafting and want a new pattern to knit? Or scratching your head about how to build that new fence? Or interested in learning how to make jam? Or any other number of hobbies? Thanks to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, we can give you access to how-to’s on high-quality databases so that you can have all of this and more for FREE!

To access, go online to cityofbastrop.org/page/lib.eresources.texshare and plug in the log-in credentials, which you can get at the Information Desk. We are working on a fix for making log-on easier, and we’ll let you know as soon as we get it all worked out. If you need help navigating the databases, stop by the Information Desk and let us give you a quick tutorial.

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Staff Picks

Cary Kittrell:  
The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides  
This is a psychological thriller…I absolutely love them! Alicia shoots her husband Gabriel in the face five times one evening when he returns home. She then..never speaks another word again. Why? You will have to read it to unlock the mystery!  
Find it: MYS Mich (New shelves) and on OverDrive/Libby

Bonnie Pierson:  
Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh  
Ahmed fled a life of uncertainty and suffering in Aleppo, Syria, only to lose his father on the perilous journey to the shores of Europe. He goes into hiding. Max, an American boy uprooted from Washington, D.C. and living in Brussels, Belgium, is lonely, homesick, struggling at his new school and just can't seem to do anything right. Max and Ahmed's lives collide and both boys must make decisions that will change their lives.  
This is a gripping tween story full of tension, suspense, struggle and realism that will keep you turning the pages late into the night. It is a must read book for tweens and adults that will fill you with compassion and hope.  
Find it: JF Mar (NEW)

Catherine Lombardo:  
The Pianist  
The Pianist is based on the memoirs of Wladyslaw Szpilman, a brilliant Polish Jew pianist. The movie might be a little slow in some parts; however, it makes up for it when it pulls you in with all different emotions as you get to know Mr. Szpilman. Make sure that you watch the extras to see what Mr. Szpilman did after the war.  
Find it in the DVD’s: DVD F Pia

Bethany Dietrich:  
Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World by Penelope Bagieu  
"Biography," "anthology," and "graphic novel" are all book descriptors that I typically stay away from as they aren't my cup of tea. HOWEVER, Brazen is fabulous! It's a collection of about 30 women throughout history and from all over the world who said, 'I am an important contributor to society! Hear me roar!' Okay, so I paraphrased, but that's what I imagine so many of them said. This is a perfect read for tweens and teens who want more girl power in their lives. Bonus: included, there were so many women that I'd never heard of!  
Find it in the Teen Room: YA GRN Bra

Most popular check-outs of January and February 2019:  
Picture book: Bye-Bye, Big Bad Bullybug! by Ed Emberley ~ E Emb  
Chapter book: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth ~ JF Kin  
YA: Attack on Titan volume 21 ~ YA GRN Att v.21  
Adult fiction: A Delicate Touch by Stuart Woods ~ MYS Woo (New)  
Adult nonfiction: Educated: A Memoir ~ 92 Wes