

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Rebecca Gleason, Assistant City Manager
Date: March 4, 2022
Subject: Weekly Memo, February 27 – March 4, 2021



Personnel Updates

Heath Ferguson began employment on February 28, 2022, as an Information Technology Systems Administrator.

Michael Hoffman began employment on February 28, 2022, as a Water & Wastewater Systems Technician.

Upcoming Training

TML Newly Elected Officials' Webinars – Understanding Your Financial Oversight Responsibilities

Date: March 10
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Location: webinar

TML Newly Elected Officials' Webinars – Interacting Constructively with the Media

Date: April 14
Time: 11:00 a.m. – Noon
Location: webinar

TML Newly Elected Officials' Webinars – Governing Ethically: Understanding Your Influence

Date: April 26
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: webinar

TML Small Town Conference

Date: May 19, 2022 – May 20, 2022
Time: All Day
Location: Fredericksburg

TML-TAMCC Newly Elected City Officials' Orientation

Date: August 11, 2022 - August 12, 2022
Time: All Day
Location: San Antonio

City Hall Essentials

Municipal Fundamentals Seminar

Date: May 20, 2022
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Webinar

March 22 Agenda Item

On January 12, 2021 City Council approved the second reading of Ordinance No. 2020-34, amending the Code of Ordinances, affirming the creation of Assistant City Manager positions, addressing designation of an Acting City Manager, and removing the Director of Public Safety position by amending Sections 9.02.004 and 9.02.005, and repealing Article 9.05, Division 2. When the City went through a reorganization and removed the Director of Public Safety position, the ordinance should have been amended creating the Chief of Police position and removing the remaining references to the repealed Director of Public Safety position. This will be rectified on the March 22, 2022 Council Agenda.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Town Hall Meeting

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is hosting a town hall meeting Monday, March 7, at the Bastrop Convention Center from 6-8 pm, to discuss the independent panel's findings regarding the Rolling Pines Fire. Speakers will include Chief Darryl Jones, South Carolina Forest Protection Chief and team leader of the independent review panel, TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith, Fire Chief for Texas A&M Forest Service Wes Moorehead, as well as state and local elected officials. Once the findings have been shared, the public will have an opportunity to speak. Fire Chief Rosales will be in attendance.

Follow-up to February 22 City Council Meeting

Citizen Comments from Donald Barron

Development Coordinator, Vivianna Andres, spoke to Donald and Phil (Donald's Project Coordinator), concerning their feedback on the MyGov Portal. They had two major pieces of feedback that asked Vivianna to look into. The first, was the inability to save partial applications on MyGov- Vivi explained that we have asked MyGov to code this into the program on several occasions but that we would continue to send in that feedback until it is hopefully made a reality. The second item concerned which items they believed would be helpful to be included in the knowledge items. Vivi, Allison, and Nicole are working together to add those items to all of the different templates. Mr. Barron said he appreciated the conversation and wanted to thank the City Manager for having someone call him to discuss his concerns.

Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District Public Hearing

As part of the Simsboro Aquifer Water Treatment Plant, Well Field, and Transmission Facilities Project, the City is required to apply for the following wells drilling and operating permits: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District (LPGCD).

With the assistance of the Engineer, Freese and Nichols (FNI), we applied for the wells drilling and operating permits to TCEQ and LPGCD for the three water wells. TCEQ granted the permit on November 30, 2021 and LPGCD notified us on February 15, 2022 that the permit was considered administratively complete.

According to LPGCD permitting requirements, once a permit application is considered administratively complete, a public hearing is required. Engineering and Communications staff has been coordinating with LPGCD on scheduling the public hearing at the Bastrop Convention Center for April 4, 2022.

LPGCD has informed the City that they would be mailing notices, with City Engineering staff assisting with that, if necessary, and printing in newspapers in both Lee and Bastrop Counties. People can only protest until five days before the hearing on April 4. If no one protests, then LPGCD can issue the permits within 90 days of the hearing date, and City can decide to move forward with drilling and developing the three wells or wait for the final permit.

Movies in the Park

Movies in the Park returns this Saturday, March 5, at Bob Bryant Park with The Little Rascals. Showtime begins at sunset, with many fun activities including oversized games, face painting, community art, light concessions, and plenty of family fun. The City has invited our community support groups and several BISD Clubs to be part of the fun.

New Businesses of Interest

- 926 Main Street - Patriot Equipment Solutions, LLC Office Space
- Burleson Crossing - KoKo's Mexican Snacks

BEST Leadership Presentation- Quality of Life

Assistant City Manager, Rebecca Gleason presented to this year's BEST Leadership Cohort this week on the impact your local government has on your Quality of Life as well as the impact citizens can have back on their local government. This is a presentation the ACM gives annually and was well received. The City is proud to have three attendees to this year's BEST Leadership- Chief Andres Rosales, Fire Chief; James Wilson, Water/Wastewater Superintendent; and Candice Butts, Community Impact Manager.

Upcoming Road Closures on the Hwy 71/Hwy 95 Project

There will be several lane closures next week. All closures are scheduled from 8:00 pm - 5:00 am.

Tuesday night – Wednesday morning:

The West Bound Outside (Right) Main Lane of SH 71 will be closed from the SH 95 Overpass to just east of the Colorado River Bridge.

The West Bound Frontage Road Inside (Left) Lane will be closed from the UP Rail Crossing to the Colorado River Bridge

Wednesday night - Thursday morning:

The East Bound Outside (Right) Main Lane and the East Bound Frontage Road Inside (Left) Lane will be closed from Hasler Blvd to Childers St.

Thursday night – Friday morning:

The East Bound Outside (Right) Main Lane and the East Bound Frontage Road Inside (Left) Lane will be closed from Childers St to the Colorado River Bridge.

These closures will allow for placement of Large Overhead Sign Supports.

Streets and Drainage

Crews performed saw cuts on Main Street to level up the street for future street improvements.



Water/Wastewater

An Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) is a packet of information that an affected utility submits to TCEQ for review and approval. The plan applies to affected utilities and contains information about the water system and how it operates under emergency conditions.

Our Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) is complete and was submitted to TCEQ on February 28, 2022.

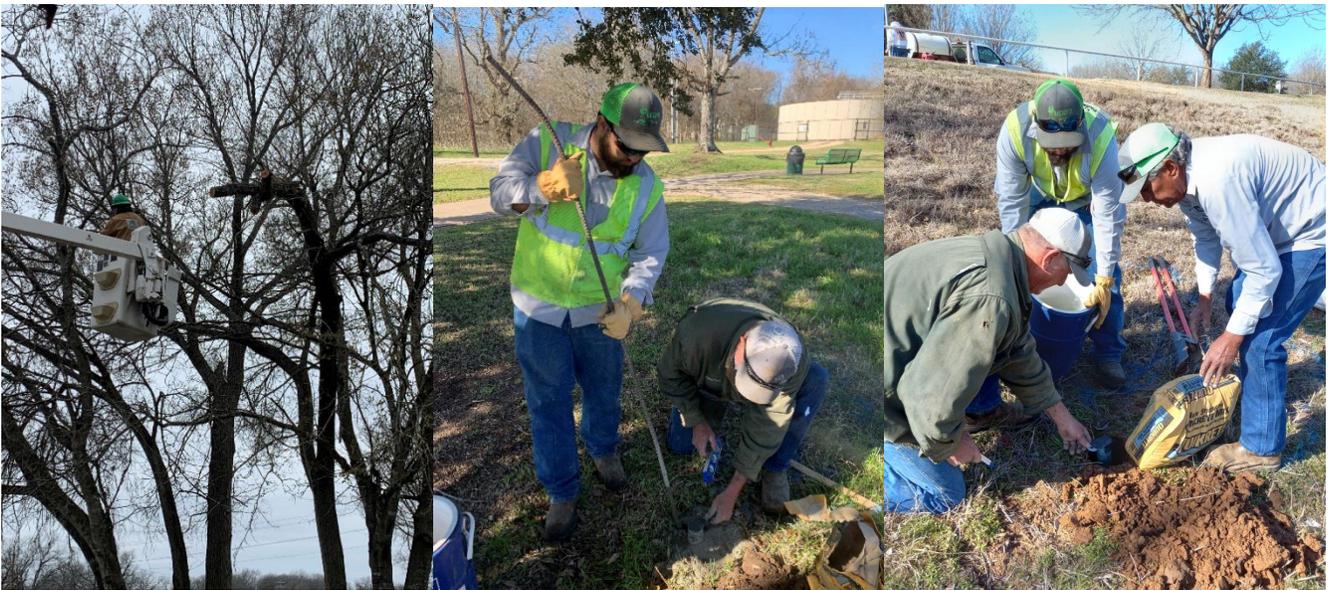
We will need to wait on TCEQ approval of the plan before it becomes final, and we forward it to the City/County Emergency Management teams, PUC-Public Utility Commission, and TDEM-Texas Division of Emergency Management. Unfortunately, we do not have an estimated timeline to expect TCEQ approval/disapproval.

Parks

The white pipe fence at Mayfest Park was damaged after an 18-Wheeler hit the fence and fled the scene. Bastrop PD stated witnesses were able to obtain the license plate.

Crews trimmed broken tree limbs in Bob Bryant.

Posts are being installed to prepare for our Disk Golf Course.



Update on Future Car Shows

We had previously reported that due to the pressure the City placed on the illegal car show, the date had been moved from February 26 to March 5. Since that time, Chief Nagy has been working diligently to attempt to put pressure on the organizers to cancel the event as well as create an Event Action Plan to be prepared with an adequate response should it occur. I am happy to report that as of intel from yesterday evening and this morning, the event has been moved to a lot in Austin, off Metlink Road. Chief

will still ensure there is a presence at Burleson Crossing should anyone show up, but we are under the belief that this will be a non-incident. Thank you to the hard work of Chief and his team on deterring the event from even occurring.

Time out of the office

Paul is planning vacation time on March 10 and 11, and the week of March 28.

Future Agenda Items

March 8, 2022

- Accept certification of unopposed candidates/cancel May 7 general city council election
- Discuss FY22 strategic planning calendar
- Receive Annual Comprehensive Report
- Second Reading of Colorado Bend items
- Temporary Sign Enforcement Work Session

March 22, 2022

- Contract for Phi Air emergency air transport
- Presentation on Cultural Arts Commission Work Plan Year 1 and 2
- Mid-Year Budget Amendment

Attachments

- TML Legislative Update Number #09
- Bastrop Public Library March Newsletter



Legislative UPDATE

March 4, 2022
Number 9

Enhanced Cybersecurity Risks

Last Friday, Governor Abbott [directed](#) the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) and the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to use every available resource to safeguard the state's critical infrastructure and to assist local governments in Texas with their needs in response to an enhanced risk for a Russian cyberattack. The governor outlined critical actions that must be taken by DIR and DPS including:

- Enhance Texas' cybersecurity through the use of best industry practices and other key measures
- Ensure Texas can quickly detect a potential cyber intrusion through the use of software services, such as antivirus and endpoint detection and response technologies
- Prepare for an intrusion by utilizing a cyber incident response team
- Maximize the state's resilience to a destructive cyber incident
- Track and report any attacks from Russian sources so the public is fully aware of their tactics

In addition, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidance is available at www.cisa.gov/shields-up. The guidance includes steps cities can take as they implement a

heightened cybersecurity posture, a list of free cybersecurity resources available to critical infrastructure of all sizes, and guidance on how to prepare and mitigate the impact of potential foreign influence operations. DIR has also issued a [press release](#) detailing the rising risks and a list of valuable CISA resources.

During this heightened time, CISA is encouraging all partners to lower their thresholds for reporting potential cyber incidents. If you believe that your city, or a critical infrastructure partner, has experienced a cyber intrusion, please report incidents and anomalous activity to CISA (Central@cisa.gov; 1-888-282-0870) and/or the FBI's 24/7 CyWatch at (855) 292-3937 or CyWatch@fbi.gov.

Texas Primary Election Results

This week, Texans voted in the primary election to select party nominees who will face off in the November general election. The Republican primary resulted in three statewide elected offices that will head into a runoff: attorney general, land commissioner and railroad commissioner. On the Democratic side, four statewide offices will have a runoff: lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, and comptroller.

The full election results can be found [here](#).

Texas Comptroller Broadband Listening Tour

[H.B. 5](#) tasked the comptroller with developing a statewide broadband plan (Plan), among other things. The comptroller is currently developing the Plan, and over the next two months, will host 12 free public forums across the state to hear from Texans about internet access across the state. This information will help the newly established Broadband Development Office (BDO) determine how to close the digital divide in Texas. Linked below are two scheduled forums open for registration.

[March 7 at University of Houston-Victoria in Victoria at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[March 10 at Capital Area Council of Governments in Austin at 2:00 p.m.](#)

The other nine forums, listed below, have yet to open registration. The Comptroller's [website](#) will continue to be updated when a forum opens registration.

- March 22 in Dallas-Fort Worth at 2:00 p.m.
- March 24 in Amarillo at 11:00 a.m.
- March 31 in Beaumont at 2:00 p.m.
- April 4 in Waco at 2:00 p.m.
- April 6 in Tyler at 2:00 p.m.
- April 7 in Abilene at 1:00 p.m.
- April 11 in El Paso at 1:00 p.m. (local time)

- April 26 in Edinburg at 2:00 p.m.
- April 28 in San Angelo at 1:30 p.m.

City officials unable to attend or who wish to share input before or after an event are encouraged to do so through an [online survey](#). Feedback will be collected through May 5, 2022. Click [here](#) to learn more about the BDO and its programs aimed at closing the digital divide in Texas.

Treasury Releases Updated SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance

On February 28, 2022, Treasury released updated [Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#) for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program. The guidance includes updates to reporting requirements to reflect the SLFRF final rule that Treasury adopted on January 6, 2022. The updated guidance includes two parts. Part 1 contains general guidance related to key principles of the SLFRF program, statutory eligible uses of SLFRF funds, and award terms and conditions. Part 2 provides updated reporting requirements which vary depending on the population of the city receiving the funds and the size of the award. These updates take effect for the next Project and Expenditure Report that all state, local, and Tribal governments must submit by April 30, 2022.

SLFRF Grant Update

Over the past few weeks, TML has reported on the release of the American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) [Final Rule](#) by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and several key differences between the Final Rule and the [Interim Final Rule](#) that was released last year. Earlier updates can be found [here](#) and [here](#). The National League of Cities (NLC) also released guidance in the wake of the Final Rule's release including a list of [10 Things for City Leaders to Know about ARPA SLFRF Grants](#) and analysis of the [allowable water infrastructure projects](#) permitted under the Final Rule.

Of particular interest to many smaller cities is the addition of the “standard allowance” for lost revenue, which was introduced with the Final Rule. TML detailed this change in a previous [Legislative Update article](#), and NLC discusses it in Question 3 of the NLC grant article above, but it bears repeating. If a city chooses the “standard allowance” for lost revenue, the city may use SLFRF funds up to \$10 million to fund “government services,” which the rule says generally includes any service traditionally provided by local governments. Additionally, reporting requirements related to the standard allowance are streamlined when compared to reports required when a city chooses to calculate lost revenue.

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We Suggest

Fantastic Fun at Coffee with Catherine

Coffee with Catherine is our Wednesday social hour that meets from 3:00 - 4:00. Catherine and her crew have been bringing the fun this year!

In January, Catherine taught everyone how to make a fancy gift wrap bow. They twisted ribbons and fingers and laughed and laughed. Glitter was everywhere, but it was a fabulous time.

In February, a local Bastropian, Helen, shared her love of ballroom dancing and taught everyone a variety of ballroom steps. It was marvelous to have people of all ages move together!

And all the Wednesdays in-between were great, too. As always, the group celebrate highs and shares comfort amidst the lows. Coffee with Catherine has truly been a gift for those who have felt so lonely during the pandemic.

If you're looking to laugh, make new friends, or just want some extra socializing, join us on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00. We'll be the ones with the coffee and warm smiles.



Spring Break Staycation

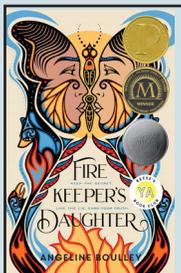
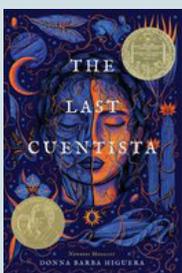
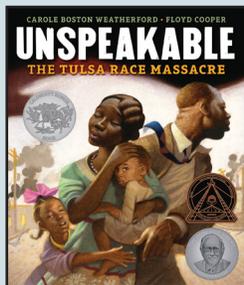
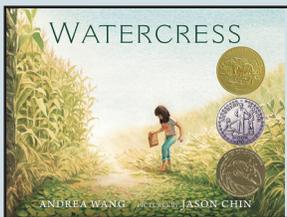
Is your family staying in Bastrop during Spring Break? Plan to come to the library for some fun self-directed activities— we've got something for all ages!

Kids can pick-up a take-and-make in the Children's Area, as well as answer our pretty silly opinion poll. Our regularly scheduled LEGO Club will be this week on Tuesday, March 15th from 3:00-4:30pm, and Ms. Carmen is pulling out all the stops with LEGORama! If you'd like to receive monthly reminders about LEGO Club, please sign up online.

Teens also have a poll question that they can answer in the Teen Room. Teen Thursdays that week is Brackets and Brownies. It's March Madness®, and we're having a bracket, but not for winning basketball teams. We are battling for the best...dessert! Teen Thursdays is every week from 4:45-6:15pm.

Last, but certainly not least, a new adult puzzle pack will be available on the New Adult shelves. Last time, we had a word search, crossword, scramble, and sudoku, so if you like to keep your brain thinking, you'll want to pick this up!

We hope to see you during Spring Break!



Youth Media Award Winners

In January, the American Library Association announced this year's Youth Media Award winners! And you can read some of these award-winning stories at the Bastrop Public Library!

Caldecott winner: *Watercress* by Andrea Wang

The Caldecott recognizes an American illustrator of children's books. Embarrassed about gathering watercress from a roadside ditch in this powerful and moving picture book, a girl learns to appreciate her Chinese heritage after learning why the plant is so important to her parents.

Find it: E Wan (New)

Newbery winner: *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera

The Newbery is awarded to an American author for distinguished contributions to children's literature.

Petra wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Petra's world is ending; earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children--among them Petra and her family--have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet--and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past.

CONTINUED ON PG. 3



1100 CHURCH ST.
BASTROP, TX 78602

They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again? This is an emotionally intense and suspenseful story that tweens, teens, and adults will enjoy.

Find it: JF Hig (New) + Libby ebooks

Printz winner: *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley

The Printz is based on literary merit and is given to an author of teen books. Daunis has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. As Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug. Reluctantly, Daunis agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source. But the search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined, exposing secrets and old scars. As the deceptions--and deaths--keep growing, Daunis must learn what it means to be a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and how far she'll go for her community, even if it tears apart the only world she's ever known. This intricately plotted and candid thriller will be a hit with any reader who likes mysteries.

Find it: YA F Bou

Coretta Scott King winner: *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre* by Carole Boston Weatherford

The Coretta Scott King Award recognizes African American authors and illustrators of children's and teen books that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values. This powerful title looks at the Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the worst incidents of racial violence in our nation's history. The book traces the history of African Americans in Tulsa's Greenwood district and chronicles the devastation that occurred in 1921 when a white mob attacked the Black community. News of what happened was largely suppressed, and no official investigation occurred for 75 years. This picture book sensitively introduces young readers to this tragedy and concludes with a call for a better future.

Find it: E976.686 Wea + Libby ebooks

If you'd like more Youth Media Award Winners, you can learn more online.

Congratulations to these amazing authors, illustrators, and books!

Book and Plant Sale Dates

The Friend of the Library Book and Plant Sale is Friday, April 29 from 10:00-6:00pm and Saturday, April 30th from 10:00-3:00pm.

Members of the Friends of the Library have first choice of the book selection during a Friends Only preview on Friday from 9:00-10:00am. To join the Friends, ask for an application at the Circulation Desk.

On Saturday, April 30th the Lost Pines Garden Club will have a variety of plants ranging from shrubs and annuals to budding plants and vegetables. The sale starts at 10:00 and goes until they run out of plants!

Put these dates in your calendar so you won't miss these cheap books and great plants! All proceeds support the Bastrop Public Library.

Bakers Gonna Bake, Bake, Bake and Readers Gonna Read, Read, Read

Cake pans and literacy bags are back and available for checking out again!

We have a variety of cake pans for you to choose from from footballs to Christmas ornaments to race cars to Spider-Man to hearts and everything in-between.

Cake pans can be found between adult Spanish books and adult DVD's. If you need help locating them, please ask at the Information or Circulation Desks. We do rotate the holiday and seasonal ones, so if you're looking for Christmas in July or zombies in February, ask, and we'll see what we can find in the back for you.



For the little ones, Literacy Bags are back, too! Literacy bags are themed kits that include a picture book, finger puppet or small stuffed animal, a rhyming game or activity sheet, and more. Themes include stars, trains, dinosaurs, Old McDonald, elephants, and more.

There is a display of Literacy Bags next to the Children's Desk and more are located between the children's audiobooks and children's puzzles. Again, if you need help locating them, please ask at the Information or Circulation Desk. Enjoy baking and reading!



We Suggest!

Staff

Bonnie Pierson, Director

Carmen Serna, Children's Assistant

Bethany Dietrich, Public Services Librarian

Sheila Bowman, Administrative Services

Catherine Lombardo, Library Associate, Circulation, & Volunteer Services

Terry Carwell, Library Associate, Circulation Services

Hours

Mon. Wed. Fri.
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Tues. & Thurs.
1:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Sat.
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed Sunday

Contact Us

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Bastrop, TX 78602

bastroplibrary.org
info@bastroplibrary.org



A service of the
City of Bastrop

Dianne Tripp, Friend of the Library

***Stolen* by Elizabeth Gilpin**

A harrowing account of a 15-year-old whose parents turn her over to a “therapeutic” cult for her behavior problems, this is behavior modification at its sickest. Once you start reading this nightmarish true account about the abusive boarding school industry, you can’t put it down.

Find it: 92 Gil (New)

Brenda Smith, library volunteer

***Such a Quiet Place* by Megan Miranda**

When Ruby returns to Hollow’s Edge after her murder conviction has been overturned, no one in this small neighborhood is happy. Suddenly, suspicion spreads about the murder of the Truett family; not everyone told the truth about that horrible night. You will enjoy the twists and turns of this suspenseful thriller while trying to figure out who really killed the Truett’s and why. The ending is quite unexpected-- I was flabbergasted!

Find it: MYS Mir

Becky Bennet, library board member

***The Buried Giant* by Kazuo Ishiguro**

Iron-age Britons Axl and Beatrice leave their village to visit their grown son in another village, a three-day walk from them. On the way, they encounter ogres, pixies, King Arthur’s knight Sir Gawain, and other strange and mysterious creatures and people. They lament that they cannot really remember their son because of a “dense mist which hung over the marshes” that clouds everyone’s minds so that they cannot recall things that happened even a few days or hours ago. This strange and entrancing story offers interesting characters, plot twists, and an exploration of importance and purpose of memory.

Find it: NOV Ish + Libby ebooks

Bethany Dietrich, library staff

***The Anthropocene* Reviewed by John Green**

This is Green’s first foray into adult and nonfiction writing, and he hits it out of the park! This conversational book is essays, always personal, about things that have keenly affected Green. Topics range from Dr. Pepper to Halley’s Comet to the movie Penguins of Madagascar, and he rates each of them on a five-star scale. Despite being a one-star reader of nonfiction, I had to give this one five stars.

Find it: 814.6 Gre + CD Book 814.6 Gre (New) + Libby ebooks Fan

For more information on the Book & Plant Sale, visit our website or Facebook page.



** This is a physical copy of our electronic newsletter. If you’d like to receive the electronic version, please email us at infor@bastroplibrary.org.**