AEP Foundation Funds New Library

The Alpine Public Library capital campaign has caught the attention of the American Electric Power Foundation. AEP does business in west Texas and believes in supporting communities where their employees and customers live and raise families. In October, AEP representatives visited Alpine and presented the library with a generous donation of $100,000. Wade Smith, president and COO of AEP Texas, and Fred Hernandez, director of community affairs, feel a strong commitment to Alpine.

“The new central Alpine Public Library will reflect the needs of the community,” Smith said. “It will be a family center offering programs and services for all ages, a high-tech center to support a modern society, a cultural center offering diverse programs for all citizens, and an information center for a community of lifelong learners. On behalf of the AEP Foundation, we are proud to play a role in helping to bring this new facility to the Alpine area.”

The Library board of directors has decided to name the library’s multipurpose room the “AEP Foundation Multi-purpose Room” in appreciation of the Foundation’s contribution. This donation will put the project on the homestretch, with sheetrock next up for completion.

Wade Smith, president and chief operating officer, AEP Texas; Fred Hernandez, director of community affairs, AEP Texas; Kathy Bork, president, Alpine Public Library Board of Directors; Paige Delaney, Alpine Public Library executive director

Kathy Bork

“Don Wetterauer, president of the Friends of the Alpine Public Library, meets Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Smith.”

Don Wetterauer, president of the Friends of the Alpine Public Library.
Special Donations

IN MEMORY OF
Ralph Meriwether:
Audrey Painter
George & Sally Johnson/Johnson Feed & Western Wear
Toni Pate Brookover & Family
Judge Kenneth D. DeHart
Rosa Wright:
Alpine Public Library
Board of Directors
Alpine Public Library Staff
Margaret Rae Lockard Hedges:
Kathy & Albert Bork
Ruth & Norman Beard:
Sharon Henderson
Dr. John Marshall:
Bob Fast, Prescription Shop
Merrian Sohl:
Debbie Allison & Wayne Cline
Julie Reeves:
Marcy, Heather, Christine, Jamie, Monica & Denise
J.B. Tabor, Jr.:
Judge Kenneth D. DeHart

IN HONOR OF
Kathy Hibbert:
Scott & Karen Williams

Opening Day Collection Update

Wow! When I realized we were faced with raising $67,000 for 3,000 new books to fill the shelves at the new library, I was a little nervous. I thought it would be nearly impossible to raise that kind of cash while still seeking major grants and donations for construction itself. I didn’t need to worry! Thanks to generous booklovers and several grants, we have raised over $52,000! The remaining $16,000 is needed to purchase teen books, books in Spanish, and adult and children’s audio books and DVD movies.

We know there are a lot of movie lovers out there! Our DVD circulation is skyrocketing, and most of our new movies now come only from donations. If you feel strongly about a quality free movie selection at the library, please consider making a contribution to the opening day collection!

Do you drive long distances on a regular basis? Consider making a donation to purchase CD audio books. An updated collection will ensure that the time you spend in your vehicle will fly by.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed. We know the anticipation is difficult! All those new materials will be worth the wait.

-Paige Delaney

Quote of the Year:
“Well, then, it obviates that…”
- Chris Ruggia

Mary Beth, Valerie, Nora, Janie, Carol, Shirley, and Karen:
Thank you to my Dream Team for a magnificent year!
-Paige

Thank you to Brewster County, City of Alpine, and all 2010 library supporters!

HOLIDAY CLOSURES:
Both the Alpine Main Library and the Marathon branch will be closed for the holidays from December 23 through January 2.
Re-Reads will be closed Dec. 25 - Jan. 2.

Happy Holidays!
Third Annual ArtWalk Silent Auction a Success

Question: What do a geologist, an engineer, a math teacher, a rancher, a drama teacher, a bank teller, a former president of the Friends of the Library, a copyeditor, a Border Patrol agent, a graphic artist, a studio artist, and an animal rights activist have in common?

Answer: All of them worked with dozens of other volunteers for dozens of hours during ArtWalk, November 18–21, to bring the Silent Auction together and to raise $15,500 for the Alpine Public Library’s Building Campaign.

New this year was a Buy It Now area for lower-priced items, but area artists and artisans were as generous as ever with donations. And, obviously, ArtWalk goers demonstrated their support of the library’s building campaign by purchasing art and other items ranging from vases to oil paintings to beaded shawls to signed first editions.

The Alpine Public Library had a lot to be grateful for this Thanksgiving.

—Kathy Bork

Photos by Mike Perry

ArtWalk Auction Volunteers
Ken Durham
Kathy Bork
Jodye Stone
Chuck Newcomer
Anne Calaway
Mary Jane Morgan
Paige Delaney
Juliette Schwab
Chris Ruggia
Ellen Ruggia
Albert Bork
Carla Lowry
Suze Quiett
Bonnie Bratton
Jackie Siglin
Darcy Newcomer
Gayle Lewis
Patsy Culver
Greg Schwab
Connie Rae
Cheryl Eakens
Diane Brown
Anna Kreger
Shelley Dreiss
Rhonda Cole
Marilyn Terry
Martin Terry
Jim Fitzgerald
Audrey Painter
Free Computer Classes in Full Swing

Session I of Basic Computer Education for Adults is almost over. The classes, made possible by a Texas State Library and Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, include an overview of computer hardware, the Windows operating system, common productivity software, internet, and email. Anyone who is interested in gaining basic computer skills for work or home is strongly encouraged to attend.

David Howard, the instructor, is a former library media and information technology assistant at Sul Ross State University.

These classes will help participants to increase job readiness and allow them to stay in better touch with far-away friends and family. Dave’s instruction will also help patrons become more savvy about internet safety.

Three more sessions will be held during 2011. The next round of classes will begin on January 4, 2011, and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm. Call or visit the library to sign up.

Speed Book Club

Finally! The library has its own book club! A SPEED book club, that is. The group has met three times, engaging in lively discussion of titles such as Room by Emma Donogue and Freedom by Jonathan Franzen. What makes this program unique is the timed, rotating one-one discussion, followed by group reflection. This format allows everyone to contribute and also get to know the other participants better.

All book genres are considered, and everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting will be in late January. Visit the library to sign up and to learn which titles are up for discussion, or call 432-837-2621. See you there!

Teen Book Club

Alpine Public Library’s new Teen Book Club is for kids 12 and up and meets monthly in the Southwest room at the library. Members choose the books! This program gives teen readers an opportunity to discuss titles that interest and inspire them, and to meet fellow book lovers!

Call or visit the library to find out the current book—copies are available for checkout at the library front desk.

Meetings last approximately 45 minutes and snacks are provided.

B E T W E E N  T H E  L I N E S
Alpine Children’s Librarian
Mary Beth Garrett, a volunteer and staff member for over nine years, has pulled off another terrific year of children’s programming. Under her creative and efficient organization, APL has seen its kids’ program lineup grow and thrive during 2010. New programs have included Spanish Story Time (led by Dr. Filemon Zamora, and soon to be joined by Audrey Painter), a kid’s chapter book club, a new teen book club, and lap-sit story time. Mary Beth has gained support from the Kiwanis Club, which faithfully contributes money to our children’s programs, as do the Friends of the Library. Parents have come to know and trust Mary Beth over the years, which has contributed to her success with recruiting volunteers and program attendees. In 2010, Mary Beth planned and implemented over 140 programs serving over 2,600 kids and teens! We look forward to expanding programming in our new library, with the addition of movie night, game night, and Wii tournaments. APL is very fortunate to have Mary Beth’s expertise. Call or visit the library to find out about upcoming children’s programs.
Marathon Branch Happenings

Be on the lookout for a Marathon Public Library Friends membership form in the mail! The Friends group at the Marathon branch is small but motivated. Friends volunteers administer the Toddler Time story hour, organize kids’ crafts and activities, and help out with cash infusions to the library collection.

This fall the Marathon Branch held a craft fair and flea market at Shirley’s Burnt Biscuit in Marathon. This event brought in several hundred dollars that will be used toward future Friends programming. We look forward to making this an annual event!

Thanks to all the volunteers and members who made 2010 a great year in Marathon!

Contact Nichole Cardoza, Marathon Friends’ president, or Carol Townsend, Marathon Branch Manager, for membership or programming information.

Scenes from the 2010 Marathon Branch Holiday Open House
Congratulations to Valerie Howard for completing the Texas State Library's Small Library Management course program! In September, Valerie completed the last class in the series, Library Technology. Previous classes include collection development, young adult and children’s services, and reference services. The program takes over two years to complete.

Statistics Show Business Is Booming

The Libraries were busier than ever in 2010! We compile statistics to keep track of growth and to justify grant proposals. Here are some surprising numbers to show how much our communities depend on their libraries:

Re-Reads 2010:
Transactions: 3,872
Volunteer hours: 1,087

Alpine Public Library 2010:
Visits: 33,692
Circulations: 48,363
Computer uses: 8,128
Number of programs: 192
Program attendees: 2,879
Volunteer hours: 1,846
Homebound visits: 350
Interlibrary loans: 560

Marathon Branch 2010:
Visits: 2,173
Circulations: 7,136
Computer uses: 904
Number of programs: 48
Program attendees: 635
Volunteer hours: 118
Homebound visits: 22

Note: December 2010 numbers are carefully estimated.

Staff News

Congratulations to Valerie Howard for completing the Texas State Library’s Small Library Management course program! In September, Valerie completed the last class in the series, Library Technology. Previous classes include collection development, young adult and children’s services, and reference services. The program takes over two years to complete.

Dr. Paul Nussbaum on Brain Health

From “Six Stimulating Solutions for a Fit Brain” (www.fitbrains.com):

#2: Reading and writing on a daily basis are a great brain workout, especially when you’re learning or expressing something new. These 2 R’s help engage the hippocampus—the major memory component of your brain. The more you stimulate and massage your hippocampi the better your chances of reducing the risk of memory loss and other forms of dementia. For an added brain stretcher, try reading words backwards or writing with your non-dominant hand.

#4: Embrace Lifelong Learning Learning involves structural, chemical, and functional changes in your brain that can boost your brain health. Lifelong learning allows you to acquire new knowledge and talents that increase your brain’s neuroplasticity. In fact, research indicates that continuing education is a major factor contributing to brain longevity and health by helping lay down a rich network of neural associations or brain reserve, which helps delay the onset of neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease.

Consider enrolling in community or university courses or educating yourself on a continual basis. Learn a new language. Research has shown that language learning and the level of sophistication of a language system in young adulthood might actually be predictive of brain health in late life. Language development and higher IQ early in life also appear to be related to a reduced risk of dementia. However, taking up a new language at a later age also provides brain health benefits.

Delight Your Friends AND Support Your Library!

Library t-shirts and tote bags are available from the Friends of the Library at Re-Reads Bookstore next door to the library. Your donations are tax-deductible!
New Friends Business
Member Fall-Winter 2010:
Americana Salon

RE-READS BOOKSTORE
A project of the Alpine Public Library
Support your library by enjoying quality used books at great prices!
Ave. E at 7th St.
Now open 6 days a week!
Mon-Tue 10-4 / Wed-Sat 10-5

FRIENDS OF THE ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY
2011 MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM
We are a nonprofit group of citizens who believe that any community is a better place to live if it has a first-rate library.
Please fill out this form and send to Membership, FAPL, PO Box 886, Alpine TX 79830.
Your tax-deductible dues may be paid with check or money order (payable to Friends of the Alpine Public Library)
Dues support the ongoing operations and programs of the library. Your personal information will not be shared.

Last Name: ________________________ First Name(s): _______________________________
Mailing Address: _______________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ____________ ZIP: _________
Phone: _____________________ E-mail (saves us postage): __________________________

Annual Membership Type (2011 calendar year)
Senior (65+)/Student: $10.00  Individual: $20.00  Family: $25.00  Business: $50.00  Patron: $100+  Donation$_________