

Between the Lines

Spring, 2014

Alpine Public Library and Friends

www.alpinepubliclibrary.org

APL's Regional Benefits Are Many

This month APL submitted a 2015 funding request to Brewster County, hoping to recover some of the 2014 cuts and return to our 2013 funding level. Preparing the county questionnaire and presentation allowed me to take a fresh look at all that APL does for the Big Bend.

A recent economic impact study of libraries in Texas determined that for every \$1 APL spends, it returns \$3.73 to the local economy. That includes the value of our services as well as employment and business benefits. In this way, APL acts as an economic development driver, and confirms our role as a valuable catalyst to community growth.

Our adult education programs, such as English tutoring and basic computer skills training, have served hundreds over the past five years. We hear first hand from patrons who gain employment as a result of attendance. In this way, APL

also acts as a workforce development driver, helping residents to prosper and flourish.

One of our goals for 2014 has been to enhance these benefits directly by adding books and technology that help take our efforts even farther. This summer we added 100 new titles on entrepreneurship, careers, job skills, and management topics to help patrons to grow their businesses and increase their personal success. We are also adding new titles on nonprofit management to help regional organizations operate in a challenging and competitive funding environment, so they can continue to provide critical services.

On page two is a short story that describes new software available on APL patron computers, also intended to help develop and market businesses. Other resources already in place include Learning Express Library, available at our

webpage, with many educational and career resources, practice tests, entrance exam prep tools, and college prep aids in both English and Spanish. Our TexShare databases allow patrons to research topics such as business development, home improvement, and medicine. Some are designed for kids.

Workforce development is becoming a priority for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, as well. We expect to see new resources coming from TSLAC in the coming year, in the form of new library staff training, program development resources, and cooperative efforts.

Please let me know if you have skills that could help APL in this effort. Our patrons, and our funding, rely on APL's ability to respond quickly and meaningfully to real needs.

-Paige Delaney, Director

Friends of the Library

The Friends group of Alpine Public Library is growing in numbers. We really appreciate everyone who is showing support for Alpine Public Library in this way. We encourage you to attend our next meeting at noon, Tuesday, September 9th.

The Friends group is growing in services to the library. Various members of the group have provided the delicious cakes we've enjoyed during the library's newly instituted Hump Day Lunches. Hopefully, you've been able to attend the previous lunches. Regardless,

save a Hump Day in October for the next Hump Day Lunch.

The Friends group wants to continue to grow. If you have suggestions, please send them to:
friends@alpinepubliclibrary.org.

-Linda Bryant, FAPL Pres.

Coming Soon to Re-Reads:

- Online Inventory
- Rare, Interesting & Valuable Book Collection
- Special-Request Searches
- Non print Items
- Free Magazines

The Friends of APL meet on the Tuesday before the 2nd Thursday of every month at noon, except during the summer. Everyone is welcome!



APL Always Needs Volunteers!

- Children's Programs
- Re-Reads Bookstore
- Fundraising Events
- Front Desk Services
- English Tutoring

Volunteer applications available at
www.alpinepubliclibrary.org
or call 432-837-2621

Thank You!

APL Receives Grants

APL has been approved for a \$1,525 reimbursable grant from the **U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services through a grant to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission** for technology, including two iPads for patron checkout.

APL has received a \$5,000 grant for workforce development books and adult audio fiction from the **Tocker Foundation** in Austin.



APL has been offered a \$9,000 grant for general operations by the **Abell-Hanger Foundation** in Midland. APL must match the funds in order to receive the grant. Match requirements include: donor must be from Brewster

County; donor must be new to APL or, for existing donors, only the amount in excess of their last donation will count toward the match; donations must be unrestricted. The deadline is January 31, 2015.

APL received a \$4,650 grant from the **Texas Book Festival** in Austin for computers.

APL has received a \$5,000 grant from the **Alfred S. Gage Foundation**.

APL has been approved for a \$10,000 grant from the **Permian Basin Area Foundation** in Midland to bring the Family Leadership Institute to Alpine. This is a cooperative project with the Alpine Independent School District, and is contingent on two additional pending grant applications (decisions are due in September). The program teaches leadership skills to the parents of local students, with the goal of improving academic and personal success.

APL received a travel stipend grant for staff training at the Texas Library Association conference from the **Tocker Foundation**.

APL received a \$2,500 grant from the **La Brasada Foundation**.

APL received a \$5,000 grant from the **Kelleher Charitable Foundation**.

APL has been approved for a \$10,000 Impact Grant from the **Texas State Library and Archives Commission** for eBooks. This is a cooperative grant with the Marfa, Fort Davis, and Fort Stockton Public Libraries.

APL received a \$5,000 matching grant from the **ConocoPhillips Foundation**. This grant matched a donation by a retired employee.

FAPL Membership Drive a Big Success

Starting this year, your FAPL membership renewal date can be any time during the year, not just on January 1. Stacey Kohl, APL circulation assistant, has been working hard to update our membership spreadsheet and to contact prospective members individually. As a former employee of the Border Patrol Museum in El Paso, she has experience growing support memberships.

Stacey contacted over 100 business members and 400 individual members during the past several weeks. Since that effort began, FAPL memberships have increased quickly, putting them back on budget.

"I believe that personally reaching out to previous members increased their willingness to donate to something they believe in," Stacey says.

iPads Increase APL's Technology Arsenal

As mentioned in the grant story above, APL now has two iPad tablet computers for patrons to check out! There is an agreement form to fill out, as for our Nook eReader checkouts, and patron accounts must be in good standing. If you have an Apple iTunes account, you may purchase and install apps on the iPad for your use. (They will be removed by staff at checkin.)

APL hopes to help patrons increase their technology skills by practicing on these devices, which in turn could lead to new jobs.

APL has also added new grant-funded software to two patron computers for the same purpose. Dreamweaver, a webpage development package, is available to help patrons develop websites for their home businesses. Adobe Photoshop and Premier Elements are also now available to help patrons process photo and video content. A wireless printer is now available for laptop users.

Spring Fundraising Events



APL's HumpDay Lunch fundraisers have been fun & successful! Thank you to all who participated & to those sponsors who donated.



Beth Garcia read from her books and answered questions at a ticketed visiting author event. Thank you, Beth, and congratulations on your success! Thanks to all who attended!

Science Trailblazer Visits APL

In July APL received a visit from the Science Trailblazer—a roving science museum filled with hands-on experiments for kids. Each station describing concepts from the physical sciences was staffed by a trained APL volunteer. Visitors learned about electricity, chemistry, and other natural phenomena that affect and improve our everyday lives.

The Trailblazer visit was funded by a grant from Connecting Texas Libraries Statewide (CTLS), a nonprofit consortium of which APL is a member. CTLS has also provided resources for other summertime science programs at APL.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made the visit a success, to Mary Beth Garrett for organizing, and to Yvonne Martinez for providing a shade tent for waiting patrons! Thank you to CTLS for including APL in the grant.



Re-Reads Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Re-Reads celebrated the tenth anniversary of existence June 14, 2014. Many people have contributed untold hours of service to the used-book store as the community has contributed countless volumes of reading material, making it possible for other people to enjoy items not found elsewhere.

The stated purpose of the store is to raise funds for Alpine Public Library. However Re-Reads celebrated the tenth anniversary with cookies for everyone and a free book for everyone who signed the guest book that day.

Many people who attended the party indicated they knew the bookstore when it was an out-building located near the old library. Uniformly people seemed pleased with the current store. Re-Reads will continue to grow with the Alpine Public Library in its service to the community at the same time the community provides the materials for the store to grow.

-Linda Bryant

APL Board of Directors Begins Strategic Planning

APL's current strategic plan was completed in 2010, before our move to the new building. At that time, our top priority was moving the library into a more useful space. The APL Board of Directors Strategic Planning Committee, headed by Jon Roe, will soon begin analyzing APL's long-term goals for the next five years, and hopes to have a draft plan completed by January 2015. Our new physical space, as well as funding and changing technology, will largely influence APL's trajectory in the coming years. We anticipate continued program development and increased fundraising.

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Brewster County residents who help their
neighbors in times of need
by Anonymous