

Library Director's Report

April 2020

By Crystal Spybuck

- Friends Dinner and a Movie was on March 13th, we sold about 90 of the 100 tickets.
- On March 16th we decided to close the library due to the national crisis of COVID-19 and the recommended closure of “nonessential businesses.” The original closure was from March 17 – March 23. Dorothy decided to stay home for the health and safety of her and her family. We still had some volunteers coming in to help with the DVD project. We started “curb-side-service” for books on reservation and they were available for pick up at designated times.
- HOT IT delivered the upgraded laptops and took away old equipment for disposal.
- On March 19th we extended our closure to April 6th based on national recommendations.
- March 21st we appeared in the Austin American-Statesman on the front page for our closure.
- March 23rd we moved our “operating hours” to 10am – 6pm for phone calls. We shifted the schedules for paid staff for Crystal to be in the library 3 days a week and Brian to be in 3 days a week, Kee came in as needed, and Jackie only once a week. All returning items have to be quarantined for 3 days.
- Newspapers were suspended for 30 days.
- On March 26th we discontinued lending and returning materials as well as reservations for “curb-side-service” for the safety of our staff and community. Brian shifted to be the only staff member coming in on a regular basis for about 4 hours a day and work 4 hours a day from home. Crystal decided to “self-isolate” for her own health and safety and work remotely at full hours. Jackie would come in one day a week or every two weeks as necessary. Volunteers are no longer allowed in the library for their own safety. Kee would only come in as needed to pick up projects to work on at home.
- Volunteers and staff were asked to review the books and movies to share with the community and we are posting them on social media and the website as they come in.
- On April 2nd we extended our closure to April 30th based on national recommendations.
- On April 6th Blanco County issued “Stay At Home” orders. Staffing hours changed again: Brian will come into the library twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) to work 4 hours, primarily to check the building and maintain the plants, otherwise Brian will work from home. Kee will stop in on Sundays to check on the building, turn on the lights for the tree, pick up projects, and take trashcans to the curb. Jackie will come in once a week or once every two weeks as needed. Crystal continues to work 8 hours a day remotely.
- Mail has been forwarded to Jackie’s personal box in Dripping Springs.
- Still working on getting the phone calls forwarded to a new library cellphone otherwise the library’s voicemail is accessed remotely and phone calls are returned.
- Online library card registration has been set up along with an temporary email address for this time.
- Online library fine payments has been set up.
- Email newsletter account and database has been set up. First newsletter has been circulated.
- Still struggling with getting Story Time videos posted for Social Media, technology issues.
- First Friday Fellows had their book club meeting through Zoom.
- Working on getting other programs going online and videos posted.