



700 E Common Street
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Across the Back Fence

Volume 2, Issue 1: February 2023

As promised, 2023 will be another banner year for the New Braunfels Public Library, and we Friends continue to be an integral part of its public service. See what we are accomplishing and join in if you haven't already. Enjoy, *Bonnie Leitch*

Save the *Many* Dates

- Saturday, **May 6**, critical **Yes Vote for Proposition 3 in Bond Election**
- Tuesday, **May 9** at 10 am, support our wonderful library and have fun at a great event, the **Book & Author Luncheon**. See article for details.
- Saturday, **May 13** at 10 am is the second **Membership Meeting** of the year.
- Saturday, **September 9** at 10 am is third **Membership Meeting** of the year.
- Thursday, **October 12** from 5pm to 7:30 pm is the **Friends Preview Night** where members have first shot at the books and a chance to celebrate with fellow FOLs.
- Friday, **October 13** from 9 am to 7:30 pm is the **first day** of the annual **Book Sale**.
- Saturday, **October 14** from 9 am to Noon is the **Book Sale's second day**.
- Saturday, **October 14** from 1 to 5 pm is the **\$5 Bag Sale**.
- Saturday, **December 9** from 10 am to Noon is the **December meeting and luncheon**.

Editor's note:

For more info go to the FOL website: <https://www.friendsofthenewbraunfelspubliclibrary.com/>

GET OUT the VOTE for PROP 3 on the MAY 6TH BOND ELECTION

by Susie Waters

On Monday, February 13, the New Braunfels City Council formally adopted the Bond Election propositions, including the very important PROPOSITION 3, which proposes the construction of a 23,000 square-foot library within walking distance of nine schools. Located in Guadalupe County

Across the Back Fence – Volume 2, Issue 1: February 2023

near Klein Elementary School, the Southeast Branch will serve the fastest growing quadrant in New Braunfels and the highest concentration of families with children. The library has been designed specifically to meet the needs of this population with four meeting rooms where programs for all ages can run concurrently and smaller meeting rooms for organizations like HOAs and civic groups. The Southeast Branch will offer essential after-school programming and feature STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) enrichment programs for students.

Why is this branch needed? The standard MINIMUM square footage recommendation for a city the size of New Braunfels is 60,000. When the Westside Community Branch Library opens in April, the city will have a total of 36,000 square feet of library space. This new branch will get this city the space the library needs to be able to serve our community. You can't offer programs if you don't have the spaces for them!

What can you do?

The FOL is an ARMY of library supporters. So, make a list of 10 to 15 people to contact to vote Yes on Prop 3. Chat up your neighbor, your pastor, your book club. Help get the vote out in this critical election.

If you belong to a group or organization and would like a speaker to talk about the Southeast Branch and the bond, just contact Susie Waters at 214-357-2019 or waters2006@msn.com.

Here's our message:

1. Much more than books

Some people think that the library is merely a repository of books, and with so many digital resources, a new library is not needed. We need to show them the many varied programs that the library offers. It is not just a book depository, but a community gathering place, a community center, where we can learn and grow together. So, call it the **New Braunfels Public Library PLUS!**

2. No new taxes

There will be no tax rate increase with this bond package. The Bond Committee and the City Council have worked diligently to ensure that there will be no tax rate increase from these bond propositions. 71% of the funds will go to roads, 9% to the Mission Hill Park, and 20% to the library proposition.

3. In the right place

The Southeast Branch's location will make it a perfect partner with the nine schools within walking distance of the library. The STEAM activities, after-school programming, and early literacy programs will serve a large student population. In addition, Guadalupe County will provide some operating funds for this branch because it will also serve those citizens. The travel time to the main library is over twenty minutes, which is a factor that affects library usage negatively. The branch is needed to serve this area of New Braunfels and to provide additional space for our fast-growing community.

Editor's note: If all this library bond talk has you wondering where the last bond's library initiative lies, read on.

Update on the Westside Branch

by Gretchen Pruitt

Construction continues to move forward on the Westside branch, and we are hoping to have the building substantially completed by the end of March. There will be a 30-day period for library systems and furnishings to be moved into the building. We anticipate an opening date in very early May.

We would like to have a reception and sneak preview for Friends prior to opening day, so watch for an announcement closer to mid-April on that date and time.

There are still a few naming-right opportunities, and Kelsey Decker at the library can give you the details. There will be commemorative bricks in the garden. We are working with a local vendor on details for the engraving, so we will announce this opportunity separately, in just a few weeks.

The branch is going to be an exciting opportunity for all in New Braunfels to share the same great library services that they love. We are so happy that, in addition to all their other contributions, the Friends of the Library supported the computer area for the children.

A Happy Announcement

Editor's note: There was a special celebration after the first meeting of the Friends to celebrate Gretchen Pruitt's coming nuptials. Here is her introduction to her husband-to-be.



My fiancé Angel Madrigal was born and raised in Mexico and immigrated to the United States as a young man, obtaining his citizenship under President Reagan's initiative.

He did not have any opportunity to complete his education and did not grow up using libraries. Somehow, he developed a love of reading and learning – and now, libraries. This is the common thread that drew us together and will keep us young and vibrant for the rest of our lives. We met during COVID while walking our dogs, as he was a neighbor. I am blessed to have found such a curious and thoughtful partner, and I hope you all will get to know him and appreciate his enthusiasm for our work as well.

Meet Treasurer Patty Shipp



After Patty Shipp’s parents’ careers in DC, they moved back to Northeast Texas, where Patty grew up. She went to East Texas State University and majored in Mathematics, Inter-disciplinary Business and minored in Computer Science. The first part of her career was in educational administration. The last thirteen years she has spent at the Brazle & Pfeuffer Law Firm.

Patty has always loved reading and has a life-long experience with books. She found the Friends when Margaret Brazle invited her to join. She treasures all the members she has met because they have the same goals she has and “positive attitudes that promote learning.”

She has provided the 2023 budget and the year-to-date financial reports at the back of this newsletter.

NB Library Plus in Action

by Natalee Corbett

Last year when the Comal County Cares Utility Assistance Program was introduced, NB Food Bank, McKenna, and New Braunfels Utilities let patrons know they could use public computers at the library to complete the application. Without training and through trial and error, staff assisted hundreds of patrons in navigating the process. They created a procedure and annotated the application, noting potential errors, tricks for correctly uploading required documents, and a checklist for the required documents patrons needed to bring with them.

The New Braunfels Public Library became an integral part of the Comal County Cares Utility Assistance Program, by regular meetings with the Food Bank, McKenna, and NBU, to ensure that our patrons received needed help.

The NBPL staff created a more efficient, easier process for those in greatest need. We’ve been able to report errors in the application, provide feedback on parts of the application that are not particularly intuitive, clarify the application process, and get our patrons the financial help they need.

This is a just one example of the New Braunfels Public Library and our amazing staff working with other local organizations to help our community and library patrons.

The Bookstore Report

by Nancy Lindley

Even though the library was closed a couple of days in January, the bookstore had a record-breaking month of sales with \$4051.31! Congratulations, and thank you to all our hard-working bookstore volunteers and customers. Let's keep that trend going and have a record-breaking year.

January featured some book challenges for the month and the year. If you are still interested in a list of suggestions for the rest of the year, they are available at the checkout counter in the bookstore. In addition, you will find a variety of reading logs to track your progress.

February features a month-long Blind Date with a Book. Check out our surprise books wrapped in red and white paper. We've added a few descriptive words to help you. Think of it as your book's dating profile. Books are from an assortment of genres, like mystery, adventure, horror, romance, poetry, biography, teen, and children's books.

This month also features half-priced DVDs, and we encourage everyone to stop in a celebrate International Book Giving day. Buy one and get half off on your next book. Buy one for you, and give the extra one for a friend, give one to a child, leave a book somewhere for someone to enjoy, or simply donate a book. The opportunities are endless.

Be sure to watch our Facebook page, the Stammtisch in the local paper, and advertising around the bookstore for all the future events. We always have something fun planned that you won't want to miss.

Editor's note: See flyers at the end of this newsletter for current and upcoming events at the bookstore.

Volunteer Report

by Ashleigh Chesser

In 2022 the Friends volunteered more than 6700 hours. Several of our members registered impressive personal service. I would like to recognize the following:

Diane Watson dedicated over 400 hours of her time last year to the library and will be presented a nameplate in a book for the library.

Members who contributed more than 200 hours include the following:

Janet Brandt, Sandy Day, Sharon Meppen, Margi Koranek, and Pam Hoverter

Friends with more than 100 hours were Cathy Lauer, Patricia Bischoff, Kay Bolte, Marcy Green, Linda Moore, Sandra DiMaggio, Diane Weaver, Nancy Lindley, Craig Meppen, Shauna Foard, Jennifer Silbaugh, Lori Brooking, Barb Nelson, Jeanette Jamjoo, and Sharon Denton.

Yearbook Report

by Nancy Lindley

A print copy of the 2023 Yearbooks is available in the FOL Bookstore. Members are welcome to stop by and pick up their copy. A digital copy will also be emailed to all members. Please let me know of any errors at nancy.lindley@gmail.com. And, thanks to Sharon Meppen for all her help.

News from the Sorting Building

by Diane Watson

We are nearly overwhelmed with donations. We have two crews of sorters each week busily trying to deal with the mountain of material received each week. So far, we are in a good situation for the sale this October.

Speaking of the sale, some items were left behind at our last sale—a bundt pan, a dark gray lightweight jacket with mesh lining and metal zipper (Tek Gear size L), a pair of sunglasses and a small battery case. We have them at the bookstore. If any of this is yours, please stop by the bookstore and retrieve your property.



With Kerry Staats leaving soon for an extended stay in the Northwest, during the membership meeting, we asked for someone to take her place schlepping donations from the library to the sorting building on Fridays. Bob Jones volunteered to be the Friday Schlepper. Thanks, Bob!

Also, if anyone is interested in joining the Book Sale Committee, please contact me at (830) 660-9750 or email at volleymom155@yahoo.com. We will start gearing up soon to set up things for our annual sale. See the Save the Dates in this newsletter for various book sale events.

Other Book Sale News

by Sandy Day

On February 4, the Friends of the Library held their Second Annual Groundhog Day Children's Book Sale. Bringing in around \$300 and connecting children with books, the sale was a big success. A team of volunteers moved books, set up tables, served as cashiers, then reversed the process and returned the lobby to the library staff.

Special thanks to Marlena Schlather, Sandy DiMaggio, Donna Laux, Fred Willard, John Davis, Margi Koranek, Loretta Carter, Nancy Flynn, and Diane Watson, and her son, Eric for their invaluable help. Gretchen Pruitt kindly allowed us use of the lobby, and Kelsey Decker, Jonathan Margheim, and the Saturday morning library staff provided welcomed support.

The sale would not have been possible without this wonderful team. The next sale will be Saturday, June 3. Watch for details!

Last, but Not Least – Hospitality

by Arlene Buhl

The first FOL general meeting of 2023 was a great success – many members attending and much was accomplished. Of course, it always helps to do good work with good things to eat.

The Hospitality Committee was very generous, as always, with long-time member Loretta Carter and new member Colleen Casaleggio contributing, along with me. We also had two new members join us for the coming meetings: Jennifer Silbaugh and Barbra Moran.

Please remember that these ladies are not reimbursed for their “goodies”; refreshments are donations in kind, although the budget for Hospitality pays for paper products and the meat at our December meeting.

Many thanks to my committee.

NB LIBRARY PLUS! SO MUCH MORE!



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU COULD ...

LEARN HOW TO USE a new iPhone or camera or ... at a DEVICE ADVICE SESSION for one-on-one help?

DOWNLOAD MUSIC FOR FREE to add to your own collection?

STREAM MOVIES FOR FREE ANYWHERE: here, in Orvieto, Italy, or in Gulf Shores, Alabama?

Get help from trained librarians to write your RESUMÉ and get help on a JOB APPLICATION?

Get your kids FREE ONLINE TUTORING?

Meet up and SIT N STITCH to learn how to KNIT or CROCHET with a fun group of people in the library lobby?

Join in physical fitness activities for FREE-LIKE TAI CHI, CHAIR YOGA, COMMUNITY YOGA, BASIC STRENGTH AND CARDIO, ZUMBA, WALK TO A BOOK ON TAPE, learn how to LINE DANCE or PLAY PICKLEBALL?

Learn how to speak ENGLISH or get your GED?

Get your teen involved in CHESS or your youngster involved with STEM activities with Professor Greybeard?

Apply for HOME DELIVERY OF BOOKS AND MATERIALS?

BOOK A 30-MINUTE SESSION WITH A LIBRARIAN for in-depth help with research, computer use, genealogy, and more?

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE THAN BOOKS AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

FOL 2023 Budget

Budget 2023vs 2022

	2023 Budget	2022 Budget*	Actual 2022
General Account			
Book Store Expense	\$ 2,150	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,204
Annual Book Sale Expenses (included storage)	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,165	\$ 6,870
Children's Book Sale Expense (Possible \$200)	\$ 250	\$ 220	\$ 200
New Braunfels Public Library *	\$ 65,000	\$ 63,570	\$ 63,570
Internet Access	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -
2022 Big Give gift to library Senior Tablets (raised approx \$7,000)	\$ 14,066	\$ 14,066	\$ 14,066
Big Give for Westside Library (pass thru) (Every other year)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Library Staff Support (including gift cards for 2 staff)	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,270	\$ 1,270
Chamber of Commerce (\$300 Annual due in November)	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
Texas Sales Tax	\$ 2,970	\$ 2,970	\$ 2,342
Bank Fees	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 67
Insurance	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,323
"Giving Back" Advertisement (Non-reoccurring)			\$ -
Big Give Expense (Every other year)			\$ -
2023 Bond Issue Publicity	\$ 500		
Totals	\$ 98,436	\$ 93,261	\$ 91,212
Membership Account			
Hospitality (mtg) Expense	\$ 550	\$ 550	\$ 30
Office Supplies & Misc.	\$ 200	\$ 200	
Website and domain name renewal (every other year)	\$ -	\$ 700	\$ 654
President's Contingency Fund (Not Annual)	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
Publicity	\$ 750	\$ 400	\$ 75
Lockbox Rental & bank fees	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30
Special Events (Staff Holiday issues)	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 273
Yearbook Printing (zero due to library printing - otherwise \$300)	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 35
Food both book sales	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ -
Postage	\$ -	\$ 100	
			\$ -
Totals	\$ 2,730	\$ 3,180	\$ 1,097

* Budget revised during September 2022 general meeting

January 31, 2023 General Fund Financial Report

**FOL GF Jan 31, 2023
FINANCIAL REPORT**

BEGINNING BALANCE FOR Jan. 1, 2023	\$109,649.60	
<u>REVENUES RECEIVED-</u>		
Deposits from January, 2023		
01-03-23		\$12.00
01-04-23		\$566.43
01-09-23		\$500.00
01-10-23		\$4,256.37
01-18-23		\$49.00
01-18-23		\$961.65
01-23-23		\$50.00
01-30-23		\$55.00
01-30-23		\$300.00
01-01 thru 01-31 Elec Square		\$2,071.06
SUBTOTAL		\$8,821.51
TOTAL	\$118,471.11	
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
<u>Fees from the bank</u>		\$3.40
<u>01-04-23 Ck # 1524 Chamber of Commerce dues - Outstd. Dec.</u>		\$300.00
<u>01-13-23 Ck# 1525 - Pam H. Dec. Luncheon Ham -Outstd. Dec.</u>		\$109.90
<u>01-25-23 Ck# 1526-Qtrly Sales Tax</u>		\$594.00
<u>01-27-23 Ck# 1527- Bookstore ads (\$75.00 & Step Ladder \$74.98)</u>		\$149.98
<u>Total Expenses</u>		\$1,157.28
REVENUES - (Minus)EXPENDITURES	\$117,313.83	
	\$14,732.18	
TOTAL ENDING	\$117,313.83	Reconciled with Bank
01-30-23 Ck # 1528 DEMCO supplies for Bookstore Outsd Jan.		\$138.23

January 31, 2023 Membership Fund Financial Report

**FOL MF Jan 31, 2023
FINANCIAL REPORT**

BEGINNING BALANCE FOR Jan. 1, 2023 (Membership Fund)	\$12,063.27	
<u>REVENUES RECEIVED-</u>		
Deposits from January, 2023		
01-09-23		\$310.00
01-10-23		\$15.00
01-23-23		\$105.00
01-30-23		\$105.00
SUBTOTAL		\$535.00
TOTAL	\$12,598.27	
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
<u>Fees from the bank</u>		\$0.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>		\$0.00
REVENUES - (Minus)EXPENDITURES	\$12,598.27	
	\$14,732.18	
TOTAL ENDING	\$12,598.27	Reconciled with Bank



SALE

**DVD movies
1/2 price**

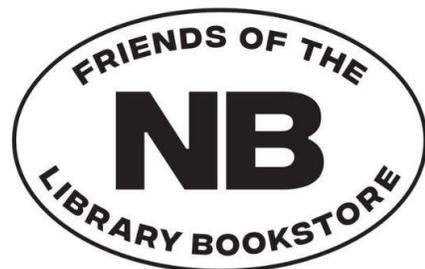
February 3 - 11, 2023

EXTENDED

Happy Hug a Librarian Day!



March 1, 2023



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

March Literary Events

March is National
Reading Month

1 - International Hug a Librarian Day

2 - Read Across America Day

2 - Dr. Seuss Birthday

5-11 Read an E-book Week

**17 - Lucky Day - BOGO
in the bookstore**

20 - World Storytelling Day

21 - World Poetry Day

26 - Robert Frost's Birthday

**30 - Pencil Day - stop by to
pick up your FREE pencil**

ONE DAY ONLY!

March 17, 2023

LUCK
of the 
IRISH

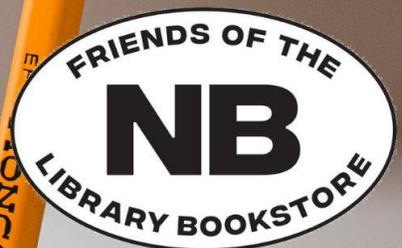
BUY 1
GET 1

FREE

FRIENDS OF THE
NB
LIBRARY BOOKSTORE

National Pencil Day March 30, 2023

Stop in the FOL bookstore and
celebrate with a FREE reading
pencil



National Eraser Day

April 15, 2023

**Get your FREE eraser inside the
FOL Bookstore**

