

Burleson Public Library

The Burleson Public Library became a City Department in 1974 with the adoption of Article 2, Section 16 of the City charter and was one of six departments created by the City's home rule charter approved by citizens in 1998. The Library's history begins with residents "planting" the idea of a library at the Eumathian Club meeting May 21, 1969, at the home of Club President Mrs. Herschel C. Winn. At a town hall meeting in the Renfro-Clark house on August 21, 1969, the Eumathian Club began the process of garnering public support for a public library to be located in the historic home. The resulting citizen group was incorporated on October 13, 1969 as Burleson Library, Inc. A loan for the purchase of the Renfro-Clark home was finalized on November 15, 1969. The library opened for business on January 17, 1971, with 1,000 books on the shelves.

Prior to the opening, President W. T. Hollingsworth of Burleson Library, Inc. had established an agreement with the City of Burleson for it to assume the responsibility for all library-related expenses and for the Corporation to provide maintenance of the house and for historical refurbishing. The final loan payment was made by the Corporation on November 1, 1973. April 29, 1978, was the date of a bond election containing a \$175,000 proposal for a new library facility. Residents approved the bonds. The library staff moved 15,000 books to the new library home at 216 S.W. Johnson Avenue the last week of February 1980. The library officially reopened March 4, 1980.

In the early 1990s the need for a larger library facility was recognized. In a special election May 1, 1993, voters approved a sales and use tax for "land acquisition and construction of a library." Construction of the facility located at 248 S.W. Johnson Ave. took place in 1995/1996. The new facility opened in June of 1996. In late 2004/early 2005 the Burleson Public Library joined the MetrOPAC consortium of libraries, sharing the Fort Worth Public Library automated system (DYNIX) and agreeing to reciprocal borrowing between member libraries. In April of 2006 an agreement was signed between the City and Hill College that the library would serve students of the Hill College Burleson campus regardless of residency. Additional public access PCs were added in 2010 with funds from the Loan Star Library grant program of the Texas State Library, expanding the number from 14 to 20. In the fall of 2011, Young Adult Librarian Matt Morrison applied for a \$5,000 grant from the Best Buy Foundation. The grant was awarded in order to provide furniture and additional materials for the library's Young Adult area.

The Friends of the Burleson Public Library have been instrumental in bringing a new look to the library. In the spring of 2010 the Friends augmented a grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission which allowed for a remodel of the foyer of the library, creating an inviting and spacious feel. In 2011, the Library's 40th year of operation, the Friends were instrumental in recognizing the library and providing items to be given away at the library booth during the Founder's Day Celebration. In 2011/2012 the group assisted with a complete inventory of the library's holdings and voted funds to replace older, larger computer study carrels with updated furniture.