

YOUR CITY, YOUR SERVICES



CORSICANA'S LIBRARY IS A PALACE FOR THE PEOPLE

Throughout history, libraries have been important cultural and educational touchstones. They are structures that contain valued information that connect a region's past and present. Beyond that, libraries provide windows to the world.

Libraries serve residents and visitors alike, fulfilling the vision of noted steel magnate and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, of being "Palaces of the People." Located at 100 N. 12th Street, Corsicana's Public Library has been one of our area's focal points for generations. A place to meet and consider the day's important questions, the Corsicana Library enables individuals to peruse a book or use computers or Wi-Fi to fill out and finish a resume or job application. Dr. Marianne Crandall Wilson has seen a lot in the seven years since being named the Director of the Library in 2018.

Wilson came to Texas in the mid-1990s, but her appreciation for reading and books began in her hometown of Philadelphia, affectionately known as "The Learning City." She received a BS from Temple University with a dual degree in Elementary/Early Childhood Education, with a master's degree and PhD in Library Science

from Texas Woman's University. Along with six other city employees Wilson coordinates and oversees various programs which enrich our region for students, residents and visitors alike. "There is no expectation or cost associated with the library. We welcome all and hope to serve as an equalizer in society," said Wilson.

"We strive to meet community needs where the community needs us," she continued, "Our mission is to provide materials and programs to enhance the educational, informational, recreation and civic needs of the community," she said. In 2024, the Corsicana Library welcomed over 74,000 people. Wilson chuckled, "There is no average day at the library. There is always something going on." It's no shock that summer is the peak season. During the months of June and July the library hosts weekly crafting activities, special performances, Lego free play time and movies. During the school year there are weekly "story times" and seasonal events. The library is already planning special activities during "DUCK-TOBER" and Fall Family Fun Night in November and the Very Merry Library in December. "We end the calendar year with a "BANG" and a balloon drop during our HAPPY NOON YEAR DANCE PARTY! The library hosts eight to ten adult programs each month including Book Club, Stitch Society, Puzzle Swaps, Art for the Rest of Us and YOGA!

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A full Nancy Roberts room during one of their Summer programs

The Corsicana Library continues to adapt to evolving technology with several library resources that can be accessed from home, or on personal devices, but for many the desire to sit in a comfy chair and read a good book remains. In 2024, visitors checked out almost 50,000 books and over 10,000 e-books. The Corsicana Library also participates in Inter Library Loan, which enables users to have access to books statewide. Last year the library loaned 600 books to other libraries and borrowed 550.

Wilson and her staff have big plans for the library's future including increased fun and informative programs for adults and children. "The most important thing is being responsive to the needs of the community," she said. "We want to continue to make this a place where the community can feel welcomed and comfortable to use and enjoy the library." The first step to realizing the full benefit of the Palace of the People is to get a library card, said Wilson. All that is needed is a valid photo identification card with your current address. For those who live outside Corsicana there is a suggested donation of \$10 or 10 nonperishable food items for a library card.

Wilson understands the opportunities that libraries offer because she has lived them. She and her staff of dedicated city employees are ready and willing to facilitate a lifelong love of learning and community. The library hopes to see you all soon. The Corsicana Public Library is open!

More information about events or program schedules can be found at the Corsicana Public Library Facebook Page and Instagram. For more questions about the library, you can contact Dr. Marianne Wilson at 903-654-4810 or mwilson@corsicanatx.gov.



Bronzes of Corsicana Library children greet patrons at the entrance.