

Keller Public Library developing storybook trail with artwork

BY MAYA CONTRERAS

The city of Keller is working on a new outdoor educational activity for families to promote reading called the Tale Trail Project.

It is a joint effort by the city's public library, the parks and recreation department, and public arts. The project will be located along an existing path behind the Keller Public Library. It will include 20 plaques displaying pages from a children's book; three sculptures from a company called Wind & Weather; a wall mural from a commissioned artist; boulders and benches for seating; and more.

The mural will be located at the old Keller Senior Activities Center next to the library. The center will be the new home of the library annex and the Friends of the Keller Library Bookstore, according to a June 7 City Council meeting.

Wendy Dunn, children's services

librarian for Keller Public Library, said the project promotes early literacy and provides an outdoor activity for families to enjoy.

Funding for this project comes from a \$65,000 grant to the library.

The project is also part of a memorial to the late Lisa Harper Wood. She was the director for the Keller Public Library for 20 years.

As director, Wood started a program called Harvest Stew, "a fall festival that served stew and cornbread to community members in the park behind the library," said Rachel Reynolds, Keller communication and public engagement manager.

Jana Prock, the city's director of library services, said she is "hoping our first book will be 'Stone Soup.'" She said that was one of Wood's favorite books.

The book by Marcia Brown is about three soldiers who find a village with

A TRAIL FOR A TALE

Keller Public Library's Tale Trail Project will be developed along an existing path behind the library with funding from a \$65,000 grant. The project includes:

20 plaques with book pages

3 sculptures about reading

1 wall mural

SOURCE: CITY OF KELLER/
COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

Keller Public Library,
640 Johnson Road

Tale Trail Project

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people frustrated from war. Hungry, the soldiers boil a pot of water with a stone that attracts villagers. The community brings items from home to add to the pot, and together they create vegetable soup.

Organizers chose this book because it brings "the idea that if everybody comes together, you make something big and nourishing for the whole community," Dunn said.

The project will also include a boulder along the walking trail to honor Wood with a quote from the book: "Many thanks for what you have taught us. We shall never go hungry

now that we know how to make soup from stones."

The plaques will display the actual pages from the book in the correct sequence along the path, according to Dunn. The Keller Public Library hopes to change the book quarterly.

"We always try to, with everything we do, enrich the lives of the citizens of Keller," Dunn said.

The project is expected to be available in spring 2023, officials said.

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