

Dear District 11 Neighbors:

I am the newly appointed District 11 representative for the Municipal Library Board representing our fabulous neighborhood library: **Fretz Park**, the largest and busiest neighborhood library after the downtown Central Public Library. **Fretz Park Library is celebrating its 50th Anniversary on January the 10th, between the hours of 1:00pm and 3:00pm.** There will be many activities for the younger set, as well as entertainment for all ages. The Library is located at the corner of Hillcrest and Beltline with lots of parking. Please come and enjoy the festivities, and if you are among those who haven't been to the library in years, you're in for a treat!

Libraries are often taken for granted as always being there when we want to go, always current with the latest novels and non-fiction books. Sadly, the city of Dallas Library budget for the Fiscal Calendar Years 2026/ 2027 has been reduced \$2.6 Million. There will no longer be sufficient funding to provide impactful, meaningful service at the 28 remaining Library locations and the 8 floors of the Central Library. While discussion of how and where to make adjustments to the system is on-going, all existing libraries will be feeling the shortfall in one way or another. The existence of Fretz Park Library is secure; it is the responsibility of all of us, the residents of District 11, to assure the continued excellence of outreach, programming, computer availability, printing services, work spaces available to residents as well as private rooms for Zoom conference calls.

Fretz Park is one of the few libraries in the system which does not have its own Friends of the Library organization. Yes, the Friends of the Dallas Public Library does allot funding to all the libraries under its auspices, but Fretz Park Library deserves its own dedicated Friends organization working along with the other "Friends" groups. We will be hosting sign-up sheets for an organizational meeting at the Anniversary Celebration, but **if you want to become involved in this effort, please reach out to me at CarolPinker@gmail.com.**

The Fretz Park Library is open for toddlers, bilingual story times, Mahjong games, knitting classes, Seniors reading newspapers and magazines, students of all ages, remote workers who choose to work away from home. It's open for Zoom meetings and small groups working together. And the dedicated staff is always there to help with various needs. So my fellow Library lovers, we need to be there to make sure the staff has the resources to continue and to grow their services and outreach. I look forward to meeting you at the Celebration and at our to be announced Organizational Meeting for our own Friends of the Fretz Park Library.

From my home to yours, best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026,

Carol Pinker

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