Computer Workshops Start in October

With over $1 million in contributions from AT&T, the Public Library Association (PLA) has selected 160 public libraries to host digital literacy workshops across the country. Cross Plains Public Library is proud to be one of seven libraries chosen in Texas to host these workshops. A 2020 PLA survey found that about 88% of public libraries provide some form of digital literacy support, but only 42% offer formal classes. Staffing and funding were the top barriers to providing technology training.

From small towns to big cities, funded libraries' efforts will be specific to each community's unique needs. The workshops leverage online digital literacy courses, created by PLA in collaboration with AT&T, that are available to anyone through DigitalLearn.org and AT&T ScreenReady®. DigitalLearn.org online courses and training materials were developed with and for library staff and their patrons. The site's digital literacy offerings cover everything from technology basics to how to avoid online scams.

Cross Plains will offer workshops in October and November to comply with grant guidelines. Once basic workshops are completed, then more detailed topics can be added to future workshops.

Library Board President Jan Bond said, "We have always wanted to provide computer classes for our patrons, but lacked the knowledge to teach these classes, as well as the computers for the participants. This grant from AT&T/PLA will allow us to purchase laptops and train instructors for the workshops."

Library Grant Administrator Michelle Kaiser explained, "Our first set of workshops will be held on 10/11/22 at 10:00 AM and repeated on 10/13/22 at 6:00 PM. Both workshops last about an hour with time for Q&A. The topics covered will be identical in these two workshops as we want to offer patrons the chance to attend either daytime or evening classes. Classes will be limited to 10 participants, and we will begin enrolling students on September 27th. The curriculum for these first workshops will be available in the coming weeks."

Workshops will cover Computer Basics; Internet Basics; E-mail Basics; Using a PC Windows 10; Navigating a Website; Video Conferencing; Cyber Security & Safe Passwords; Applying for Jobs Online; Conducting on Online Job Search; Using an Android Mobile Device; Creating Resumes, and much more! Surveys are available at the library for patrons to select some of the future courses.