

Salado Public Library District President's Annual Report

November 2020

Dear Friends and Patrons of the Salado Public Library:

The Salado Public Library continued this past year to achieve the goals that support the mission of the library. The library serves as a place where community needs for information, for community connection, and for community interests are nurtured. It is supported by our Library Director, Jeanie Lively, and her staff of five dedicated people, aided by volunteers and Friends of the Library to provide excellent service to the community.

The Long-Range Plan completed last year has supplied us with this blueprint for growth and success. The library is continuing to improve and innovate with the growth of the Salado area and the changes that that will bring.

Some observations from this past year include:

1. Salado Public Library has been extremely resourceful in fulfilling the needs of the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. Having to close the library in Mid-March to May and then opening partially and with specific safety measures in place, the staff has found ways to serve. Since programming was halted, alternative methods were employed including online story times, curbside delivery, home delivery, take-home activity bags, and online searching. Presently, the library has resumed regular hours. We salute the team for the innovative ways they have accomplished their difficult task.
2. Before experiencing the pandemic, the library hosted several successful events. Among those were the traditional Death by Chocolate which is always well attended. The Family Place Grant was beginning with supplies ordered and plans made. It was, however, halted with the close of the library. There were two reading challenges that were also successful. One of the most important addition to teens was the new Teen Advisory Group formation.
3. Salado Public Library continues to partner with several community groups and businesses to promote library services. Several Barrow based events were well attended. The Friends of the Library have been invaluable for the volunteer efforts that they contribute and for the funds to make the Children's shelving moveable with casters.

4. The Library has been able to accommodate the public by supplying technology, expertise, and materials needed by a wide variety of patrons in our serving area. The meeting spaces for library programming and for the public have been unavailable with the pandemic, but they were used consistently before that time. Computer usage by all ages has increased by 85%, with our staff and website enabled to assist many of our citizens with life and career supporting tasks. The website has been improved and more user friendly with our director's leadership.

5. The library is financially sound and audited yearly by an independent auditor.

In conclusion, even though circulation decreased by 44%, we were able to serve patrons with the very best service that we could provide. The staff has made every effort to maximize the areas that they could utilize and to provide a safe place for the staff and the public. The staff includes Jane Hackley, Julie Hoy, Manuela Smith, April Edmiston, and Rachel Gerik. I applaud their efforts.

The library's leadership is sound and composed of the following: Jeanie Lively, our library director, and her able staff have dedicated themselves to serving our community. Those on the board include Bill Kinnison who continues to serve as Board Vice President, Nancy Mills Mackey who continues to serve as Treasurer, Barbara Morris who serves as Secretary and Emmy Alvarez who serves as the At-Large trustee. Each member of the team has given time and energy to better our community through the Salado Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Joycelyn A. Miller

President, Salado Library Board of Trustees