

SALADO PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

November 2023

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 six dedicated people, aided by volunteers and Friends of the Library to provide excellent service to the community.

The Library Board and Staff have had several challenges that have been or are being met and resolved:

1. The staff was realigned and augmented to meet the needs of the patrons. Julie Hoy, the Adult Librarian, has served by offering more programming for adults and improving our community by meeting needs that she has detected. April Gatliff moved to Young Adult Librarian and is filling a need for more teen, student, and young adult activities so needed in our service area. Mia Wilson, our new Children's Librarian, has seen growth in both programming and in use of the library. She successfully worked with the other librarians to promote and produce the best attended Summer Reading Program we have experienced. Manuela Smith, Special Assistant for Patron Services, continued to serve proficiently at the front desk with the addition of a new part-time patron services assistant, Sarah Engleking. Jane Hackley continued to serve part time as our very capable Library Assistant both at the desk and as needed in programming. Jeanie Lively, our director, has creatively led the staff through training, innovation, and expansion possibilities of the library. We, on the Board of Trustees, applaud the dedication to excellence that these staff members give to our community.
2. The plant has been met by some space challenges for our patrons and staff. After the physical changes of 2021, plans were made to begin the expansion of the library to include a Children's Library, a Craft/Make-It Room, and an adequate meeting space for children, young adults and adults both in the library and in the community. The Library Board of Trustees gave the Expansion Committee the task of researching and exploring ways that the library could build on to the present building on the lots that were purchased in November of 2020. The Board was also interested in ways the existing library facilities could be remodeled for better use by adults and young adults. The committee arranged for ten area library visits for staff, board members, and Friends of the Library members to assess those facilities and prioritize desired attributes and design that we might consider for our expanded facility. Workshops have begun

compiling these. The Committee has begun vetting project managers for a building addition. Staff, board members, and Friends executives have submitted nominees for an Expansion Task Force of community members to facilitate the library's capabilities in specialty areas during our building process.

3. The library is reaching more people daily as the population rapidly grows in our serving area. Many new patrons are using the library, accessing our online services, enjoying our programming through our new website completed this year. As our library has found new ways to serve, we have reached a wider range of potential library users. We have integrated our library into the community through events including having a booth in the Farmer's Market. We are looking forward to more community engagement in the new Senior Center where we have computer classes, book clubs, and other involvement at the center. The Friends of the Library have been very responsive to our needs and have provided additional funds for equipment and projects. They successfully sponsored Edgar Allen Poe Night in October as a fundraiser with over one hundred attendees and volunteers. The Salado Library Board is appreciative of their dedication to the library and it's served population.
4. A very special event was sponsored by the Board to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the library. Previous librarians and board members, village dignitaries, and Friends of the Library members were recognized in the celebration open to the public. About one hundred people attended and celebrated with us in May.
5. The library is financially sound and audited by a professional auditor annually.
6. The goals set forth in the Five-Year Plan are being pursued by both the staff and the board. Goals relating to growth, availability, response, and relevance are all being addressed and fulfilled. The circulation and usage figures are rapidly increasing as the community opens more doors and opportunities for us to serve. Those numbers are evident in the Annual Report of the Director. The Board is preparing to begin a Master Plan for the growth of the library in preparation for our expansion.

The Library Board, consisting of President, Joycelyn Miller; Vice President, Emmy Alvarez; Secretary, Barbara Morris; Treasurer, Nancy Mackey and Trustee At-Large, Susan Starnes, continue to attempt to be responsive to the community and the staff needs and to be helpful in making the library run efficiently. I applaud their eagerness to be responsive to the library needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Joycelyn A. Miller, President, Salado Library Board of Trustees

