

Salado Public Library District President's Annual Report October 23, 2017

Dear Friends and Patrons of the Salado Public Library:

The Salado Public Library (SPL) is the heart of the Salado community and continued this past year to achieve goals that support its mission "to encourage a love of reading and promote lifelong learning opportunities." The library serves as a community meeting place, and it is connecting our community across ages, genders, races and interests. It is supported by a dedicated Library Director and staff, a Library District Board, committed volunteers and 139 Friends of the SPL. Together this vibrant group makes it possible to fulfill the library's mission and serve the community.

Accomplishments during the past fiscal year include growth of circulation and patron numbers, completion of the library's \$84,500 renovation project, growth of summer reading and community programs, more authors' events, and more community partnering.

- Circulation numbers were up 3% over the last fiscal year, from 38,717 to 39,851. Patron numbers grew with 454 new cards issued and 698 renewals this past year bringing the total to 8,164 cards. Since September 2016, 2,395 items have been added to the library collection.
- The library's renovation provided a Quiet Reading Room (formerly a back patio), added an office for the Young Adult Librarian and expanded storage and work space for processing books and other tasks. The front porch became a more appealing outdoor space when the back patio furniture was moved there. A new book/media drop was funded by the Friends of the SPL and will be added soon.
- The summer reading program attracted 612 attendees up from 470 last year, and September's Death by Chocolate Contest grew from 91 last year to 150 attending this year. Monthly adult crafts programs, sponsored by the Friends of the SPL, continue to be extremely popular. An eclipse party in August drew 65 to hear Dr. Bill Tanner of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor talk about the eclipse and safe viewing; free glasses were given out. Salado Rocks in August brought in 67 people to decorate and hide rocks.
- The library partnered with Texas Writes to bring Texas authors Stephen Harrigan and Elizabeth Crook last November, partnered with the Salado Museum to bring Texas author Susan Wittig Albert in March, and hosted a local authors reception in May.
- A VIP Coffee for community leaders in September brought in community leaders to see what the library has to offer.

With the completion of the I-35 construction and expansion, sales tax revenue in Salado increased 8.37% over the last fiscal year. Funding for library operations is secure, and we continue to save for the library's future growth. The library has no debts! Our 2017/2018 expense budget for the fiscal year starting in September is \$296,907.

The library's leadership is sound. We are fortunate to have Jeanie Lively continue as Library Director. Bill Kinnison, on the District Board since 2010 and Board President for the past three years, is now serving as Board Vice President. I'm grateful that we can continue to rely on his experience. I'd also like to thank longstanding Library District Board members Sara Pettijohn, Maurine Nathanson and Diane Hodyniak for their exemplary service. They retired this year and have been replaced by three new Board Members: Pat Rehm, Bobbette Bell and Joycelyn Miller. I am excited about working with all of you for the betterment of the Salado Public Library and our community!

Nancy Mills Mackey, President
Salado Public Library District Board of Trustees