

October 22, 2011

Dear Library Supporters:

We recently closed out the 2010-2011 fiscal year at the Salado Public Library. It has been a very busy and productive year. I want to provide information on four areas of special interest: the space issue, our financial situation, technology and the library and a partial listing of various activities that took place at the library in 2010-2011.

As I mentioned in last year's annual report a committee representative of the Salado community was formed to look for a solution to lack of space at the library. The committee members put in many hours of work and explored a number of options to remedy the shortage of space. The committee also directed the board to solicit input from an architect/planner. Once the report from the architect was received and reviewed by the committee it was turned over to the board for final consideration. After much consideration and thought the board at its August meeting once again reviewed the options available. The final decision of the board was to proceed with the recommendation of the architect to expand at our current site rather than purchase property away from our current location. At this time the board is in the process of meeting with the architect and a contractor to determine the exact scope of the expansion. I hope that we can have the scope of the project and the cost nailed down by the end of November. We will keep you posted as we near construction.

My second topic for this years report is finance. I am pleased to report that your library is in outstanding shape financially. We have lived within our means, which includes operating with unstable sales tax revenue, maintaining services and adding to the building fund. When we paid off the mortgage on library we continued to deposit to the building fund an amount equal to the monthly mortgage payment. Consequently we have a balance of over \$300,000.00 in our building fund. This will provide an outstanding head start as we begin construction on the library expansion.

Third, the library continues to expand our technology efforts. As the use of technology continues to expand we need to adapt to how technology can help us better serve our patrons. Currently the library has expanded the use of technology in several areas. None is more stunning that the BTOP program. The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) began at Salado Public Library in April of this year. The library received federal funds to

purchase eight new laptop computers and to replace four older laptops. Through the Tech-To-Go program the computers are available to patrons for educational or career advancement purposes. They may be used both in the library and at home. Several patrons have checked out the computers to help them in their job search. A few have used the computers to prepare for important exams or tests. To increase the use of the computers the library also began two off-site classes for ESL students – one at First Baptist Church of Salado and one at St. Stephen’s Catholic Church. The classes have been successful in helping students improve their English language skills as well as their computer skills. This year also saw the addition of e-books to our offerings. It is now possible to download an e-book from your home computer. The library continues to strive to provide an electronic as well as physical presence for our community.

I am not sure that anyone knows for sure where libraries are headed when it comes to technology. Part of our job is to stay aware of what is available and use those new technologies as best we can to benefit our patrons. I am convinced that our staff is on top of new technologies that will be best suited for the Salado Public Library.

As mentioned above, it has been a busy year at the library. Below are some statistics and activities from the past year.

Circulation	48,483
Patron Visits	30,401
Interlibrary Loans	216 borrowed, 50 loaned
Books	15,588 volumes
Movies & Audio books	4,432
Computer users	6,199

The value of our collection is \$359,437.57 and the value of the donations that were added to the collection in 2011 was \$3,025.00 (299 items).

In 2011 the library offered more than 25 different computer and technology classes for the community, hosted six presentations in the very popular Texas Master Naturalist series, taught Spanish language classes, challenged the community to read in the July Salado Reading Challenge contest, presented monthly noon book reviews, held card making workshops for Christmas and Valentine’s day and supported community wide events such as the Wine & Chocolate Weekend, Art Fair, Heritage Days and the Christmas Stroll.

It is clear from the above that the past year has been very successful. I want to acknowledge the hard work done by the library staff to make all of this possible. Whenever I enter the library I am greeted with a smile, a warm hello and an attitude that says I am here to help you. We are blessed with a great staff.

We did have a major setback amid our successes. As you know we lost Taylor Willingham this year. Taylor was a member of the board and served as our secretary. We miss her contributions to our meetings and positive attitude and concern that the library be the best that it can be. While she will be missed she will not be forgotten.

I encourage you to contact me if you have questions, concerns or suggestions about our library. Please come and use what I think is the best small community library in Texas.

Sincerely,

Bob Denton

President, Salado Public Library Board of Trustees