

## Salado Public Library District President's Annual Report October 22, 2018

Dear Friends and Patrons of the Salado Public Library:

The Salado Public Library (SPL) 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 145 Friends of the SPL. Together this group makes it possible to fulfill the library's mission and serve the community.

Accomplishments during the past fiscal year include the addition of the first full-time librarian aside from the library director, start of a strategic plan, continued efforts in community partnering and author's events, and continued growth of patron and circulation numbers.

- New full-time Children's and Young Adult Librarian Julie Hoy joined the staff in June. The children's librarian position, previously part-time, had been filled by Rachel Gerik. In March, Ms. Gerik took on the new SPL position of part-time adult librarian. The two positions were added and expanded in response to Salado's growth. Ms Hoy recently hired an assistant, April Edmiston.
- The Salado Library District Board and Library Director Jeanie Lively began a strategic planning effort in the spring to anticipate future library needs as our community grows. As internal planning concluded, a library survey started in the fall.
- SPL partnered with several community groups, cementing its role as the hub of the community and extending services beyond the library's walls.
  - In May, SPL and its Friends group partnered with Barrow Brewing Co. to host an outdoor showing of the movie, *Sing*. The event attracted 350 people, and the Friends raised \$1,065 through donations and snack sales, while the library issued cards to new patrons.
  - In June, SPL participated in the community-wide Texas History Days. The Friends provided \$500 for airfare to bring historical author Nancy E. Turner to Salado, where she signed books and led two workshops, read excerpts from her books and discussed her research methods.
  - Other community partners included the Salado Writer's Group, which brought area authors/speakers to the library several times during the year.
- A media drop, funded by the Friends of the Salado Public Library, was installed near the library's front doors to increase patron convenience and accept electronic media (DVD and CD) returns. It augments the outdoor book return.
- The summer reading program attracted 429 attendees. New youth events include Read to Murphy, a trained therapy dog; new Saturday story times; Lego-building, slime making and other teen projects.

- September's Death by Chocolate contest grew from 150 last year to 165 attending this year. Monthly adult crafts programs, sponsored by the Friends of the SPL, continue to be extremely popular.

Some other interesting library statistics for the past fiscal year:

- Total items in the collection – more than 45,000. In FY 2018, 2,799 items were added.
- Total items circulated – 41,965. That is a 5.3% increase over FY2017's 39,851.
- Patron numbers grew with 356 new cards issued and 775 renewals this past year bringing the total to 8,416 cards.
- Budgeted expenses for the last fiscal year were \$296,907, but actual expenses were \$292,528.
- Sales tax revenue was up 12.3% from \$317,616 in fiscal year 2017 to \$356,661 last fiscal year.

Funding for library operations is secure, and we continue to save for the library's future needs. The library district has no debts! Our 2018/2019 expense budget for the fiscal year starting in September is \$355,000, up 19.5% from last year's budget primarily due to staffing additions.

The library's leadership is sound. We are fortunate to have Jeanie Lively continue as Library Director. Bill Kinnison, former Board President continues to serve as Board Vice President. Pat Rehm, Bobbette Bell and Joycelyn Miller have proven to be valuable additions to the board and each have contributed solid work this past year. I am grateful to be working with them to improve the Salado Public Library and our community!

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