

# **SALADO PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

**OCTOBER, 2021**

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 four 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 met and resolved:

1. Faced with continuing pandemic conditions, the staff reacted positively to serving our patrons. Alternative interactions with the public included kits provided to children, increased publicity of activities, and more precaution implemented. As the pandemic situation improved, more programming was possible, the meeting room was made available, and the book clubs were initiated. At this point, the library is operating with full library hours with a full calendar of events to engage all population groups. Demand for our limited meeting area has become greater than our ability to supply space.
2. The staff was realigned to meet the needs of the patrons. When our adult librarian retired, Julie Hoy, our previous very effective Children's Librarian, moved to the Adult Librarian position with April Gatliff, her assistant, taking the Children's position. Mrs. Gatliff added hours and is serving under Mrs. Hoy's supervision. Manuela Smith continued to serve proficiently at the front desk being promoted to Special Assistant for Patron Services. Jane Hackley continued to serve as our very capable Library Assistant. Jeanie Lively, our director, has creatively led the staff serving in challenging situations. Further staff additions are being considered as needed.
3. The plant has undergone some needed changes to help the staff serve better. The small meeting area behind the desk was made into staff offices making the staff more able to react to patron needs. A large window was added to the area to help in visual response. The children's library office added a window as well for the needed visual response. The desk was reconfigured to allow two staff members to help with circulation during busier times and was moved back for more area in front of the desk. The changes were completed this spring. More safety improvements including lighting and handrails for the sidewalk are underway.

4. The search for areas to expand the library were explored beginning with the land north of the library. When that did not seem a possibility, the library board inquired of the owners of the land to our east. When the property was found to be near placement for sale, we approached the owner for purchase. That purchase of the land and the duplex was considered and approved by the Library Board and is underway and should be complete in November. Application to the Planning and Zoning Commission to rezone the property from Residential to Public Use is currently pursued.
5. 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. 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 community events including having a booth in the Farmer's Market. We are looking forward to more community engagement. The Friends of the Library have been very responsive to our needs and have provided additional funds for needs. We so appreciative of their dedication to the library and it's served population.
6. The library is financially sound and audited by a professional auditor annually.
7. 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 increasing as the community opens more doors and opportunities for us to serve.

The Library Board consisting of President, Joycelyn Miller, Vice President, Bill Kinnison, Secretary, Barbara Morris, Treasurer, Nancy Mackey, and Emmy Alvarez, Trustee At-Large 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