



RED OAK, TEXAS

RED OAK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2020-2021



www.redoaktx.org/Library

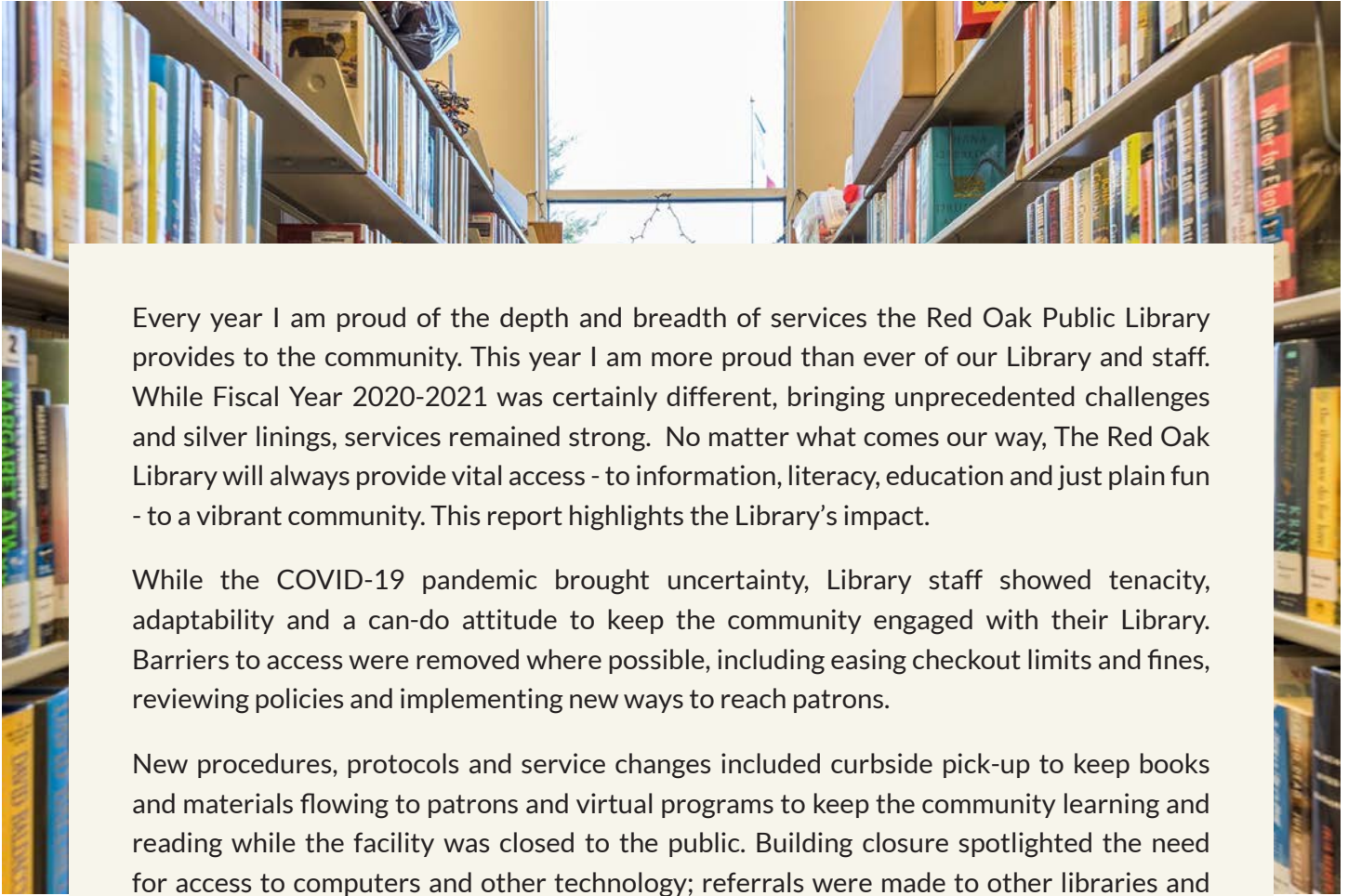
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LETTER FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR



Every year I am proud of the depth and breadth of services the Red Oak Public Library provides to the community. This year I am more proud than ever of our Library and staff. While Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was certainly different, bringing unprecedented challenges and silver linings, services remained strong. No matter what comes our way, The Red Oak Library will always provide vital access - to information, literacy, education and just plain fun - to a vibrant community. This report highlights the Library's impact.

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought uncertainty, Library staff showed tenacity, adaptability and a can-do attitude to keep the community engaged with their Library. Barriers to access were removed where possible, including easing checkout limits and fines, reviewing policies and implementing new ways to reach patrons.

New procedures, protocols and service changes included curbside pick-up to keep books and materials flowing to patrons and virtual programs to keep the community learning and reading while the facility was closed to the public. Building closure spotlighted the need for access to computers and other technology; referrals were made to other libraries and businesses in Red Oak.

Core services ranging from print materials, DVDS, eBooks and databases, audiobooks and, Summer Reading Club programs to the Red Oak Library Book club, readers' advisory and everything in between provided something for everyone, both in person and online.

Thank you for making this a year to remember. The Red Oak Public Library staff are grateful for the commitment and support of the City of Red Oak, the Library Advisory Board, The Friends of the Red Oak Library, Library Systems & Services and the many local partnerships that make our Library an essential resource and the heart of the Red Oak community.

Logan Ragsdale | Library Director



PROGRAMMING & OUTREACH

The Red Oak Public Library is a pillar of the community, a place for all ages to learn and grow together.

While the pandemic limited Library services, staff worked creatively and tirelessly and continued offering programs to enhance the lives of community members.

During the Spring of 2020 the library reached out to the community with 4 virtual programs, 2 toddler Story times, an Adult book chat program and a Topical Thursday virtual program. Each program kept customers up to date on new books and services provided by the library.

Red Oak's youngest residents learned the crucial early literacy skills that lead to success throughout their school years through programs including:

Read with Me Storytime

A weekly virtual storytime introduced in March 2020. This program for toddlers and preschoolers is specially designed so children can better see the book and presenter and follow along more easily. Following the printed words as a story is read aloud is an important pre-reading skill.

Red Oak Book Club

Every third Monday the Book Club met virtually with the Library Director leading a lively and engaging discussion. Book Club members were updated with information about the latest best sellers. All Book Club books were available for curbside pickup.

SUMMER READING

A virtual Summer Reading Program brought learning and fun during Summer of 2021 and helped prevent "summer slide" in learning loss. Patrons of all ages participated enthusiastically. Reading times and titles were recorded online, while readers entered raffles for prizes.



SPRING 2020

4

WEEKLY VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

2

TODDLER STORY TIMES

1

ADULT BOOK CHAT

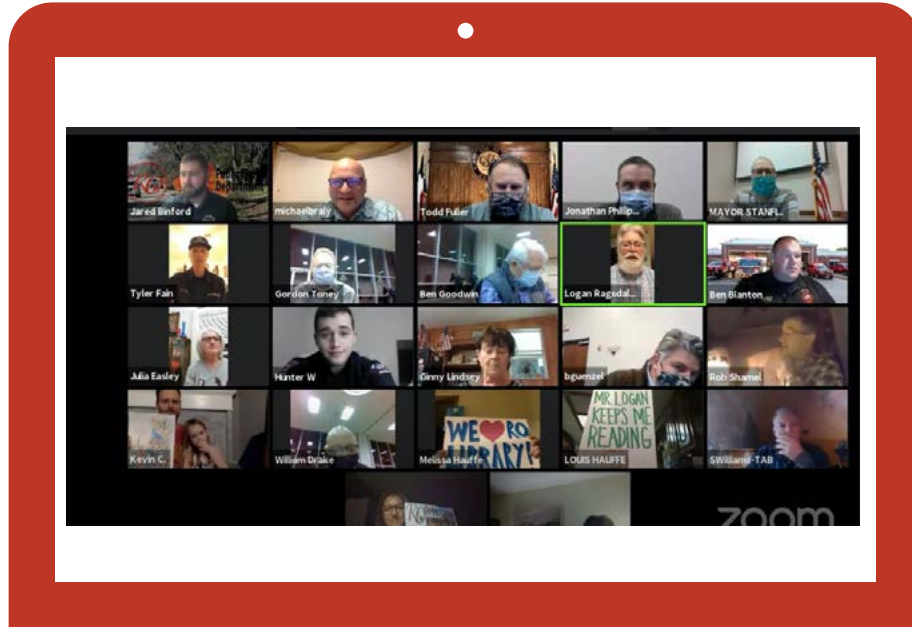
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TOPICAL THURSDAY

E-RESOURCES EXPANDED

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 brought enhancement of electronic resources, a category growing in demand even before the pandemic. During building closure, patrons' ability to check out, download and read or listen to eBooks and eAudiobooks was more important than ever. While the Library building was closed, staff worked to expand access to online electronic resources in the following:

- Expanded the Libby/Overdrive service to include more than 3,000 full text magazine titles. Increased simultaneous checkout of materials by multiple users. The Library purchased Overdrive Unlimited to expand the electronic collection
- Made all online resources free and easily accessible to all residents who registered online for an eLibrary Card. Expanded participation in SimplyE, an app that combines titles from multiple eBook and eAudiobook providers into a single, easy-to-use list for patrons Expanded partnership with the Red Oak Independent School District and Life Charter School to allow students to search and check out electronic materials from their school and the Red Oak Public Library seamlessly
- Supported Red Oak Mayor Mark Stanfill as he proclaimed February 2021 “Love Your Library Month.” The Friends of the Library and the Advisory Board sponsored an online virtual “Rally” to support the Library at a virtual City Council meeting.



RETURN OF IN-PERSON SERVICES



As vaccinations became available and the COVID-19 infection rate began to subside, the Library building reopened to patrons. When the building first re-opened in June 2021, patrons expressed their gratitude and happiness to return to their library. Re-opening began with appointments for short visits by one family at a time. By July in-person programming had returned with Tuesday Morning Story Times held outdoors behind City Hall.



In September, the Library was invited to participate in the annual Chamber of Commerce Founder's Day celebration. Library staff and Advisory Board members marched in the parade and provided an information/craft booth at the Festival in Watkins Park. Library Director Logan Ragsdale was honored to be nominated as a Hometown Hero by Mayor Pro Tem Michael Braly.

FY2021 STATISTICS



11,994
TOTAL
CIRCULATION



4,752
ELECTRONIC
CIRCULATION



68
LIBRARY
PROGRAMS



398
PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE