

Library Status Report for September 2021

Books & Materials: We began to do a physical inventory of the collection to follow up on all the cleanup work we have done within the computer Card Catalog over these past three years. Background: We currently use KOHA, a cloud based software system, that we acquired during the summer of 2017. Upon my arrival in December of 2017 DeeDee tasked me with fixing it as she was not as familiar with computers. Throughout 2018 and 2019 I plugged away, with the help of volunteers, at fixing the book and materials then in 2020 and 2021 I tackled the patron files. Now that we have the computer end of things cleaned up we are doing the inventory to verify that the physical items are correct. During this process I realized that we have had at least 3 independent computer software card catalog programs and each time “bad data” was transferred forward to the next program. Once completed we can delete the remaining “bad data”. On the patron side of things our old patron cards began with a leading zero that did not carry forward to KOHA. When we ordered our new cards I made sure that they did not begin with a zero and, thinking ahead to a potential future collaborative effort with MOBAC, began the new cards with our zip code followed by our “birthdate” (March 22, 1905). The first card issued was 95045032205 and we have issued over 100 cards since receiving them to both new and returning patrons needing a new card. Our new cards feature artwork by Hal Bohn who I contacted last summer for his permission. A volunteer has “weeded” outdated patron cards and we have deleted all patrons that have not checked out anything since December 2014 as they are unlikely to return. The library, in general, must be in a constant rotation of books, materials and data to stay current with the times. We routinely weed the books and dvds to keep our collection fresh. We do make exceptions for items of local interest (notably a VHS copy of an El Teatro production) and items of historical significance.

Outreach: Our “Candyland” themed Halloween décor is coming along nicely. We will be putting it up on October 29th and leaving it up through the morning of November 1. They Boy Scouts Girls Troop has reached out to assist. Native Daughters have already contributed and we will be reaching out to merchants as soon as my schedule allows. The Library Auxiliary will also be co-sponsoring an event at the Cemetery District for Dia de los Muertos. This is a new event that the Library is assisting with promoting however we are not directly involved in managing (similar to the Halloween festivities which are not City sponsored and are 100% a volunteer effort by numerous organizations which the City coordinates).

MOBAC/PLP: With the passing of Pat Hathaway MOBAC has the opportunity to acquire his extensive collection of locally themed photographs. I contacted the SJB Historical Society and have been working with their President, Wanda Guibert, to participate in the initial study of whether or now MOBAC does indeed wish to invest in this huge project. Thus far we do not see it as a significant resource relating to the History of San Juan Bautista.

Accounts Payable Report: The end is near! Veronica has been hired and I am helping to train her.

Parks Status Report: The City Council passed the Luck Park Master Plan Alternate B.