



News from Us Winging Its Way to You

December 2020

With this issue we begin our newest way to connect with our library community - an El Rito Library Newsletter. This first issue will have a limited layout and format, but it will have a different look after the first of the year as we upgrade our website and internet capacities. Be assured that the library continues serving our community and continues to need your financial support and participation in our programs.

*If you have items you'd like to see included in the next issue in January 2021, submit to:
elritopubliclibrary@yahoo.com.*

End-of-Year Fundraising Campaign

The library has continued through this tumultuous year with all of our staff but a reduced public presence, quietly working behind the scenes to improve our services and programs. Unfortunately, our bills and expenses continue. We've been able to receive some Federal relief money, an unexpected Legacy Gift and foundation help but without our normal fundraising events our general operating income doesn't meet our needs. We've set a modest goal of \$5,000 for this End-of-The-Year campaign.

Why should you support our library? For the past 35 years this community has affirmed its value with attendance at poetry readings, stimulating lectures, book talks and signings, music events, memorial gatherings, writing workshops, STEM youth programs, Summer Reading classes, and a host of lively fundraising gatherings. Besides all that, we are an accredited library with a remarkably rich collection of paper and audio books and DVD movies and documentaries.

During this pandemic year we've offered our parking lot for wi-fi hotspot reception, curbside delivery of our books and requested books from other libraries. We've reimagined our Summer Reading and were delighted in August to have a visit from Joe Hayes telling Southwestern Tales in our new outdoor space backyard. Our pre-literacy toddler class is redesigned as STEM-At-Home, with learning materials delivered "curbside" on our blue picnic table or to the homes. Thanks to Mary Shoemaker and Tina Sanchez this effort has now enlisted 20 families in the program.

Other programs are in the works for early 2020. Of note is our planned series of Zoom sessions for a *Community Forum For Our Future*. What can we create for a better world here by facing problems, offering fresh ideas, pulling together?

Infrastructure work has added two new gates, plexi protection at the front desk, faster and better internet for all computers and much more. We're preparing for the day we can finally welcome our public back inside.

If you can donate any amount this holiday season click the **Donate** button on our website home page: www.elritopubliclibrary.org or send a check paid to El Rito Library at P.O. Box 5, El Rito, NM 87530.

We miss you all very much!

Check our FaceBook page for added public information details: <https://www.facebook.com/The-El-Rito-Library-476930615200/>

Happy Holidays from staff and our Board of Directors.
Be safe, be well, be kind.

Support for the library comes in part from: United Way of Northern New Mexico, The Santa Fe Community Foundation, Los Alamos National Lab Foundation, the New Mexico Foundation, The New Mexico Children's Foundation, the New Mexico Humanities Council, the New Mexico Grants-In-Aid and the State Library, Rio Arriba County and individual donors.

Alexandra Prado building a bubble caterpillar with STEM-at-Home supplies



