The Library Experience—setting a distinctive tone in promoting and providing lifelong education for our entire community.
This fiscal year has been like no other, with the global COVID-19 pandemic turning the world upside down in March of 2020.

Our year began with some major work at Anderson and Gere Branches as part of an energy efficiency project. Both branches were closed for parts of October and November. We are already seeing savings from those improvements.

The 2019 One Book - One Lincoln Community Reading Program featured the title The Faraway Brothers by Lauren Markham. A visit to Lincoln from the author in November drew large attendance, and deepened readers’ understanding of the book.

Eiseley Branch Library hosted a “Mayor’s Night Out” on February 4, an opportunity for the community to have a one-on-one conversation with the mayor and other City officials. It was a great success, with plans to hold another within a few months. Also early in 2020, Libraries were hosting tax assistance and promoting participation in the 2020 Census.

In March, with the arrival of COVID-19 in our community, the following happened: March 15—all in-person programming and meeting use suspended; some programming moved online March 20—libraries closed to the public, providing only pickup service March 27—suspended all returns of materials, due dates extended to July 1 April—Staff ReOpening committee established June 1—returned materials again accepted at all locations; materials quarantined 72 hours prior to handling June 22—libraries re-open to the public, with one-hour time limit and lowered building capacities.

At the end of the fiscal year, libraries are open regular hours with one-hour time limit and masking requirement. In-person programming remains suspended indefinitely.

Assistant library director Julee Hatton accepted the position of director of the Abilene, Texas, Public Library. Traci Glass was hired as the incoming assistant library director, beginning work on September 24.

During the budget process, libraries proposed closing one day per week to meet potential budget shortfalls. In the course of the budget, funding was made available to avoid such an action. Libraries did lose one staff position.

In the course of the pandemic, it has become clear how important reading is to this community. The staff of Lincoln City Libraries has risen to the occasion, revising work procedures and filling in for colleagues on pandemic-related leave. Our libraries continued to serve the public with pickup service at a time when many public libraries temporarily ceased all service. It has been inspiring to see how those efforts have resulted in continued service to a grateful community.

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