

## A PART OF THE COMMUNITY



The Corrales Community Library is adjacent to La Entrada Park.

DEAN HANSON/JOURNAL

# Library Turns 50

■ *Depending heavily on volunteers, this Corrales institution truly does belong to the whole town*

BY ELAINE D. BRISEÑO  
*Journal Staff Writer*

**C**orrales Community Library has come a long way since its start in two small rooms at the local elementary school in the 1950s.

A half-century later, the library occupies its own space in a building constructed in several phases to keep up with its growing number of patrons and collection.

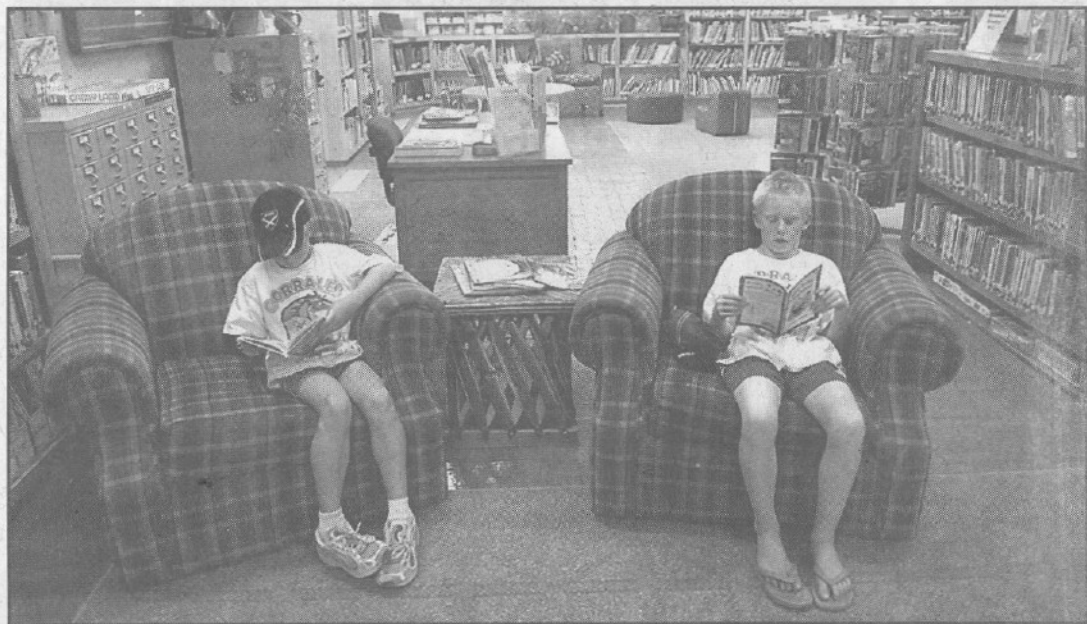
Despite the growth, it still has the cozy feel of a small-town library. But there is nothing quaint about its technology. The entire library is wireless and has seven Internet-ready computers for its patrons. The library began to electronically catalog its books in the mid-'90s and introduced its first Internet capable computer shortly after.

The library, an adobe structure, sits next to La Entrada Park and is flanked by grass and cottonwood trees. Patrons are greeted by a pond, with a rocky waterfall and fish, as they walk in the single wooden door. Sitting behind the small pond is the front desk. To the right, to the left and behind the desk are three separate rooms, giving the library the feeling of a home instead of a commercial building.

In the back are the reference, children's and teen rooms, all added in later phases. The teen room was the most recent phase and sits in the southeast corner of library. Windows in the room allow patrons to look out at La Entrada Park. The flooring of the entire library is made of bricks and the adobe walls are topped by



Hannah Stone, 2, visits with the koi in the fish pond in the entryway of the Corrales Community Library.



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Connor Cole, 8, left, and Eamonn Cole, 9, read books in the children's room of the Corrales Community Library.

# Library Still Growing

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vigas, also giving the building the feeling of a home.

Corrales resident Evelyn Losack said she started collecting books in 1951 in hopes of starting a library. The library eventually moved into two rooms at Corrales Elementary. Since then, Losack said countless people have volunteered countless hours to make the library what it is today.

It officially became the Corrales Community Library on St. Patrick's Day in 1957. It moved to its current home in October 1979.

Library director Carla Spencer said it was people willing to volunteer their time and money that made the library a reality. She said that is what makes it, in the truest sense, a community library.

"This library was the effort

## Library Hours

Monday — 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesday — 1-9 p.m.

Wednesday — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

Thursday — 1-9 p.m.

Friday — 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday — 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Phone: (505) 897-0733

Address: 84 West La Entrada

[corraleslibrary.org](http://corraleslibrary.org)

of many residents who still live here today," Spencer said. "They will come in and say 'I laid those bricks. I peeled those vigas.' It's their library."

Volunteers are still a big part of the library. It has only four

paid staff members, Spencer said, including herself. It also has about 70 volunteers who run the front desk, process new books and shelve incoming books. Teens help with the summer reading program.

The library, Spencer said, has appeal not only to Corrales residents but those from other communities. As of June 2006 — the most recent available statistics — the library had 5,632 borrowers during the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Of those, Spencer said 78 percent came from Corrales. The rest are from Albuquerque and Sandoval County. The library circulated 39,703 books during that same time period and had 34,830 visitors.

The library will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a puppet show in La Entrada Park on Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.