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## Former downtown Tulsa grocery store will feed readers as temporary library branch

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Posted: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 12:00 am | Updated: 9:15 pm, Tue Sep 24, 2013.

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Jeff Norton wires electrical boxes at the Librarium on Tuesday in downtown Tulsa. The building will act as a temporary branch library while the Central Library undergoes a two-year renovation. MATT BARNARD / Tulsa World



DAVID HARPER World Staff Writer |  0 comments

For many years, downtown Tulsa residents and visitors could drop by the big building on the southwest corner of 11th Street and Denver Avenue to pick up some groceries to satisfy their hunger.

Starting Sept. 3, they will be able to stop by the same place to quench their thirst for knowledge.


The Librarium will offer library services in downtown Tulsa while the Central Library is undergoing a two-year renovation.

On Tuesday, Tulsa City-County Library officials and others involved in the effort showed the local media the progress that is being made at the site.

Library CEO Gary Shaffer said Tuesday that it is "vitaly important" that the library system continues to offer services downtown while updates are made to the Central Library.

Shaffer said accessibility and parking

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availability were among the chief reasons for choosing the Denver Avenue site, which is about a half-mile south of the Central Library.

It's been more than 10 years since the location was a Homeland grocery store. Kevin Saley, a senior project manager for Flintco, said Tuesday that crews found a leftover "meat

and eggs" sign a couple of months ago when work began in earnest on the building's interior.

The Librarium will not be populated with leftovers, however. Organizers are promising that patrons will enjoy an "all-new" collection of materials, including thousands of popular books for adults, teenagers and children.

Also featured will be items such as eBooks, CDs, DVDs and BluRay discs.

Additional services will include a technology discovery table that will boast tablets, iPads, Nooks and Kindles, and a self-service business center with printing, scanning, copying and faxing capabilities. The 22,000-square-foot building will also contain 40 public computers and free Wi-Fi.

Construction costs are estimated to be \$815,702 for the temporary facility, which will be leased for about \$22,000 a month.

Chief Financial Officer Gail Morris said a month-to-month lease option would be available if the Librarium was needed for longer than anticipated.

The furnishings purchased for the building will be used in the renovated Central Library, which Shaffer estimated will open in the fall of 2015.

The Central Library will close for renovations Aug. 30. Patrons will be able to request Central Library items that will be warehoused during the renovation, he said.

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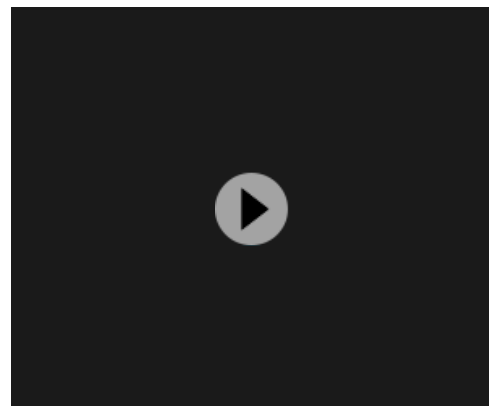
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## New DOC boss faces tough job

Clashed prisons, reoffender funding and safety initiatives are among the issues to contend with.

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**NEW DOC BOSS**  
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The program allows for temporary employment of unauthorized immigrants.

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A jury selection starts Monday for a man accused of rickshaws and killings in young couple.

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 A jury selection starts Monday for a man accused of rickshaws and killings in young couple. A jury selection starts Monday for a man accused of rickshaws and killings in young couple.

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Some bills seek to restrict access to certain services.

**BY CARL BRUNDEL**  
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