

CENTRAL LIBRARY

Renovation and Innovation



The Pocahontas Greadington Learning and Creativity Center is a facilitator-led space designed to generate excitement and spark creativity.

At 7:30 p.m. on June 30, 1965, the lights for a state-of-the-art library in downtown Tulsa were flipped on for the first time. To the delight of an enthusiastic crowd, Tulsa's Central Library came to life. "I wanted to create a library where people would want to come and read and learn," said Charles Ward, now 92, who, along with his partner, Joe Koberling, designed the original Central Library. "We wanted it to be as open and inviting as it could be."

The Central Library was "open and inviting," drawing library patrons and visiting dignitaries alike to see its accessible stacks of books, carpeting – unheard of in a library prior to Central, according to Ward – and bubbling entryway fountain.

Fifty years later, it was, as Tulsa City-County Library's CEO Gary Shaffer says, well-loved and well-worn. "When you look at pictures of when the building was brand new, it was beautiful," says Shaffer. "But," he adds, "the first time I saw the building, it looked like every decade had put its imprint on the building. It was just a mishmash."

When the building's old heating and cooling system began to break down, a decision was made to renovate the entire space. "The boilers and chillers were past the end of their useful life; parts had to be fabricated, as they were no longer manufactured," says Shaffer. "I joke that the old boilers were from an old WWII battleship," says Mike Leitch, capital projects manager for Tulsa City-County Library. "Instead of just replacing the heating and cooling system, we took the extra time to really do it right."

"Many people wanted the library to be torn down and rebuilt somewhere else," says Shaffer. "But our downtown is so vibrant now. It is the perfect place for it. Also, it is a reuse of the building. This building is designed to

be a library," says Shaffer, referring to the unique weight load that must be factored in when designing a library. "Reusing the existing building was the best use of the building."

DRAMATIC MAIN ENTRANCE

"The main entrance is evocative of how it originally looked before, with the grand staircase and the quote on the wall," says Shaffer. "Furniture in this area is all movable, so we can set this area up to do an event for 700 to 800 people, which we have done in the past. We can also do a plated dinner for up to 465 people."

When not in use for an event, the spacious entry, possibly to be coined "The Marketplace," will have the newest acquisitions of books on display for patrons to peruse.

LEARNING AND CREATIVITY CENTER

One of the library's donors once asked if the library system could "fix K through 12 education," says Shaffer. That challenge spawned conversation that led to the creation of a space Shaffer considers the most exciting: the Pocahontas Greadington Learning and Creativity Center.

"We will work with students, educators, teachers and principals with something called 'ideation,' or creative problem solving," says Shaffer. "We will host school field trips so kids can come and learn strategies on how to think more creatively. We will also use it for our own creative problem solving and, if time slots are available, open it to area nonprofits."

"Schools get first priority," Shaffer adds. "It is sponsored by the Schusterman Family Foundation and has been named for a notable Tulsa educator." Greadington was the first African-American to assume an administrative role in the Tulsa School System. She was also inducted into the Tulsa Historical Society's Hall of Fame in 1998 for her impact on education and the Tulsa community.

RENOVATION INNOVATIONS

Other exciting innovations that are part of the renovation include:

- ▶ **Coffee Shop:** It's rumored to be a popular nationwide chain.
- ▶ **Maker Lab or Creation Station:** A place where people can exercise their creativity with new technologies and varied equipment, such as 3D printing, sewing machines and a sound recording booth. "Different equipment can come in and rotate through," says Shaffer.
- ▶ **Raised Technology Floor:** "The raised technology floor will allow us to put electrical lines and cabling wherever we need it," says Shaffer. "It makes the space very flexible."

The second floor will include the fiction and nonfiction collections, eight small study rooms, Digital Literacy Lab, Adult Literacy Center, Tablet Lounge and a new staircase connecting it to the third floor.



- ▶ **Updated Children's Area:** "The children's area will have one of the largest collections of children's books in the state of Oklahoma," says Shaffer. The books will be displayed in such a way that children can flip through them and see the cover art, much like perusing record albums in bygone days. He added that the furniture in the children's area will be large, geo-shaped pieces with "learning implements" inside. Children will be able to climb into the pieces and explore. "It will be a great date for a grandparent and grandchild," says Shaffer.
- ▶ **Hold Lockers:** After requesting a book or other material to be put on hold at the Central Library, it will be placed in a hold locker. To retrieve your items, you simply scan your library card and a locker door pops open with your material already checked out.
- ▶ **More Wireless Hotspots:** "There will be more computers in the building, as there were never enough," says Shaffer. "But the trend we are seeing is that wireless usage is spiking because so many people already have a device [e.g., cell phone, iPad, etc.]" The library will be a place where people can come in, browse the internet and download content to their device.
- ▶ **Higher-end Software:** Library patrons will have free access to subscription-based, higher-end software, such as Adobe Creative Suite and Lynda.com.
- ▶ **Meeting Rooms:** Whether your group is as small as three or as large as 50, there will be a meeting room to accommodate you. The most unique are the private floor-to-ceiling glass study/meeting rooms that offer an unobstructed view of downtown Tulsa.
- ▶ **Fifth Street Extension:** "In a sense [opening up 5th Street] has nothing to do with our project and everything to do with it," says Shaffer. "You will be able to drop someone off at the front door and drive around to the parking lot or circle back around. It seems counter-intuitive, but adding a street [to the plaza] will make it more pedestrian friendly."
- ▶ **Greening of the Library:** "We are shooting for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) designation," says Leitch. The innovations include such things as a solar installation on the roof, efficient hot water boilers and even huge rainwater storage tanks to be used for lawn irrigation. Additionally, Leitch says that they are applying for a grant to get electrical charging stations for electricity-powered cars in the garage parking lot.

A PLACE TO READ AND LEARN

Charles Ward's plan of creating an open and inviting library that encouraged reading and learning is being carried into the 21st century with the renovation. "It's going to be a very light, bright and active space," says Shaffer. "Even in its previous shape, 1,100 people a day were coming through its doors. We are now planning for 2,200 or 2,500 people a day. I get very excited about the fact that Central Library will be a vibrant space for Tulsa."

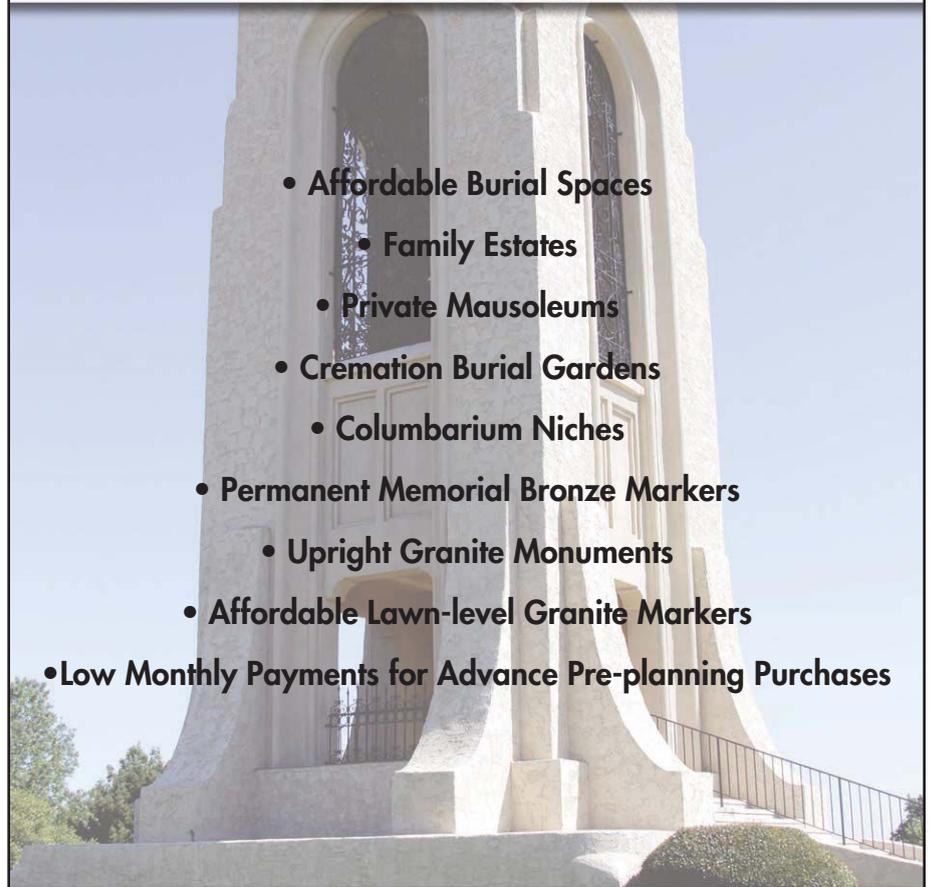
The coffee shop will open mid-September, and the library is slated to open Saturday, Oct. 1.

by Cindy Webb



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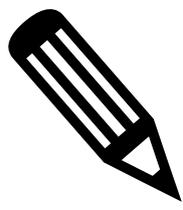
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Noteworthy

EVENTS TO INSPIRE, EDUCATE AND MOTIVATE!

DANCE TO THE DRUMS AT THE 39TH ANNUAL POW WOW OF CHAMPIONS



The Mabee Center will come alive in a colorful expression of dance, drum music and songs as Native American tribal members throughout the nation gather to strengthen and preserve the Native American culture, as well as honor veterans.

Each day of the three-day celebration will feature drums and century old songs, including the Gourd Dance, which honors past and present veterans, as well as pow wow sessions. Visitors are sure to notice the graceful steps of the dancers, the beat to which they move and the beauty of the clothes that symbolize tribal affiliation and ancestry of dancers.

Visitors can also shop at the Native American market where some of North America's best Native artists and craftspeople will be showcasing their impressive work, including traditional crafts, contemporary jewelry, bead work, paintings, cedar work, handcrafted items and other Native American artwork.

Shopping and moving with the rhythm and energy of the drums can certainly ignite an appetite. Fry bread, corn soup and Indian tacos will be available, along with many other tempting and tasty food items for pow wow attendees to enjoy.

Admission is \$8 per person, while children age 5 and under are free. Discounted tickets for seniors (age 55 and older) are \$7 or \$5 each for groups of 10 or more. The event is scheduled for **Friday, Aug. 12 through Sunday, Aug. 14** with doors opening at **5 p.m.** on Friday and **11 a.m.** on Saturday and Sunday at **Oral Roberts University Mabee Center, 7777 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa.** The Pow Wow of Champions is a family event and free parking with easy access to the Mabee Center will be available. For more information, contact Lynnetta Seward at (918) 378-4494.

SET YOUR EYES TO THE SKY AT THE WILL ROGERS & WILEY POST FLY-IN



According to his wife, Will Rogers never made plans. Betty Rogers wrote in her book *Will Rogers* that, "He knew life was uncertain, and when he wanted anything he wanted it right away." He touted flying as the fastest way to get anyplace. In 1935, Rogers joined his friend, aviator and fellow Oklahoman Wiley Post for a flight that would ultimately lead to their deaths. The two were in search of a mail and passenger air route from the West Coast to Russia. On Aug. 15, Post's plane crashed into a lagoon near Point Barrow, Alaska, killing both men instantly.

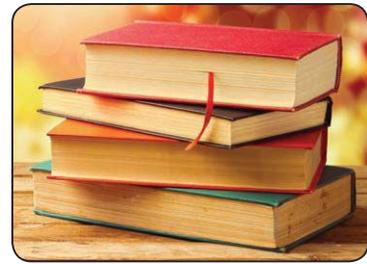
For the past three decades, small plane pilots, family and friends have marked the anniversary of the deaths at the Will Rogers & Wiley Post Fly-In on the 2,000-foot grass strip on the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch near Oologah.

This year's Will Rogers & Wiley Post Fly-In is slated for Saturday, Aug. 13. Pilots start dropping down shortly after daybreak and spend the morning visiting with fellow pilots and showcasing their antique and classic planes. Spectators are encouraged to walk among the planes, visit with pilots and let their grandkids peek into the cockpits.

The "2016 National Day of Remembrance" will be celebrated for the second year to honor pilots and passengers who have died in small plane crashes. A lapel pin, with a picture of Rogers and a quote that reads, "She's a beautiful day and we are flying high," has been designed to pay tribute to those flyers. Pins will be presented to a family member of a deceased pilot or passenger. Additional pins are \$5 each. Names of deceased pilots or passengers will be honored at www.willrogers.com if requested.

The Will Rogers & Wiley Post Fly-In is free to attend and scheduled for **Saturday, Aug. 13, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.,** at the **Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch, 9501 E. 380 Road, Oologah.** For more information, contact Pat Reeder at (918) 343-8129.

HEAR FROM LITERARY LEGENDS AT "CHAPTERS: A CASUAL EVENING OF BOOKS, BARDS AND BITES"



Come and spend a relaxed, enjoyable evening in the library with three fan-favorite authors while

also helping raise money and awareness for Tulsa City-County Library's Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service.

Attendees will get to sample food and wine from some of the area's favorite restaurants while listening to authors Rosanne Bittner, Alton Carter and Alison Gaylin.

Bittner is the author of 60 novels, which she has written over a span of 35 years. Her stories are generally set in the American West in the 1800s and feature widely described, historically accurate settings spanning the United States. Her latest romance novel is *Do Not Forsake Me*.

Carter is the director of youth ministries for First United Methodist Church in Stillwater. His debut book *The Boy Who Carried Bricks* was published in April 2015 and won the 2016 Oklahoma Book Award earlier this year. The book is a true recount of Carter's hard-scrabble life growing up on the plains and in the small towns of Oklahoma.

Gaylin's critically acclaimed suspense novels have been published around the world and have been on the best-seller lists in the U.S. and Germany. Gaylin's newest title *What Remains of Me* is a spellbinding novel of psychological suspense, set in the glamorous and wealthy world of Hollywood.

The authors' books will be available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the literacy service.

"Chapters" is scheduled for **Thursday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., Tulsa.** The cost is \$50 per person. Deadline for reservations is Sept. 1. For more information, contact Louan Torres at (918) 549-7494.

by Landry Harlan



Although this group of men from LIFE's Adult Day Health in Broken Arrow likes to goof around, they take the care of their blossoming tomato plants very seriously.



Gail Lowe and Liz Carnett had fun participating in Brookhollow Landing's Red Nose Day, which raises awareness and money for children living in poverty.



Mary Craig shows off a Mavis Pearl bulldog from Joy In The Cause. Mary and her friends make tutus every week to support this worthy organization.



Millie Duhart from Leisure Village Health Care Center competed in this year's Ms. Senior Oklahoma pageant.



Mandy and Blake Atkins, patron chairs; John Brooks Walton, Pioneer Spirit Award Recipient; George and Phyllis Dotson, event chairs; and Reverend Dr. Edward J. Koniczny, honorary chair; at the Saint Simeon's Western Days 2016 Kickoff Party on April 27.



Rik Helmerich, Tulsa Library Trust chairman; Robert J. LaFortune, 2016 Marcus R. Tower Service Award recipient; and Gary Shaffer, Tulsa City-County Library chief executive officer. LaFortune was honored for his decades of services to libraries and literacy.



The Assistance League of Tulsa recently donated three video cameras – one for each of LIFE's Adult Day Health centers. The centers are looking forward to capturing all the fun moments!



Over 25 representatives from nine Oklahoma MGM Healthcare properties traveled to the State Capitol to speak with legislators concerning the proposed Medicaid reform bill.



The Town Village dancers kicked up their heels and swung their skirts at the Cinco de Mayo party.

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Whether it is your traveling group, tennis buddies or a night on the town, we want your pictures! Submit high-resolution photos to editor@LIFEseniorservices.org by the 1st of every month.