

# Library Offerings Remain Current, Diverse

The winter is always when I want to curl up with a project, be that reading a good book, knitting a scarf or learning a new hobby entirely; the hibernation months of winter provide no better time.

If I'm ever in need of fresh ideas, though, I have only recently discovered that there is no better place to look than the library, with its free and wide-ranging program offerings.

There is literally something going on every day at one, if not more, of the 24 branches of the Tulsa City-County Library system for various age groups.

There is the book discussion program Novel Talk, which is designed to use books to start cultural and social conversations, says Cindy Hulsey, adult programming services coordinator.

On Dec. 3, Novel Talks highlighted author Ann Patchett, who recently received the Tulsa Library Trust's 2014 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award.

The free event, called Music,

the Universal Language, explored Patchett's novel "Bel Canto" with the help of a panel made up of opera singers Linda Roark and Keith Jemison and teacher, writer and actor Sloan Davis.

"They discussed the book's themes and how music can bridge gaps and bring people together under difficult circumstances," says Hulsey.

Library officials endeavor to remain in touch with the needs of the community and offer subsequent classes or programs, such as eReader educational classes in response to the rise in eReader popularity.

On the other hand, sometimes a new offering is brought about by outside efforts, such as the nonprofit group Tulsa SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives), which, after the entrepreneurial-focused group began holding meetings at the library, became a partner with the library.

Now, Tulsa SCORE uses vari-

ous library branches to conduct workshops. The national organization is a Small Business Association Resource Partner and offers small business mentoring services.

One popular service that came out of a recognized need is Your Next Great Read, an online service that began in March 2012. Library patrons fill out an online survey that is used to create personalized suggested reading lists, the service being prompted by library employees' desire to connect patrons with the right books.

"We feel like one of our most important roles is to help people find good books to read," says Hulsey. "But to do this in a library setting can be difficult with so much going on."

"The online survey allows individuals to share what they're looking for and the experts to then take some time to create suggestions."

The library's annual adult creative writing contest is in its 38th year, with entries due Jan. 31.

Also for adults, the adult summer reading program had its inaugural season in summer 2014. While it was previously a reading program conducted during the winter months, the library moved it to the summer to coincide with the children's summer reading program, a long-time success with more than 40,000 children participating, notes Hulsey.

## Out & About in Greater Tulsa



By EMILY RAMSEY  
Managing Editor



Courtesy Tulsa City-County Library

**EDUCATIONAL STORYTIME:** In spring 2014, children participated in a seed-planting storytime, held at Zarrow Regional Library. The event featured storytime books about plants and allowed children to plant an herb garden at the library.

The adult reading program is part of the library's community-wide reading initiative, One Book, One Tulsa, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust and the Woody Guthrie Center.

Other services one can find at the library include the Genealogy Center, which offers one of the largest genealogy collections in the state, with books, microfilm, maps and online databases, in addition to print and electronic resources on military, immigration and family records.

Those holding a free library

card also have access to Mango Languages, an online language learning service, general information such as regarding tax information and instruction on the Affordable Care Act, and for students grades three through eighth, after-school homework help.

And the list goes on, with every program being linked directly back to the library's mission, says Hulsey, "to change lives, where we envision a Tulsa County that works together, where citizens are knowledgeable and reaching their potential."



# First National Bank President to Retire

John L. Herndon brought a 42-year banking career to a close on Dec. 29 when he officially retired as president and chief executive officer of the First National Bank & Trust Co. of Broken Arrow.

To commemorate the event, the bank hosted a come-and-go reception that day in the main bank lobby at 121 S. Main St. A brief presentation was made at 4 p.m.

Board Chairman Greg Graham says he and his family are especially appreciative of the long and distinguished service Herndon has provided to both the bank and the community.

"My father, Scott Graham, worked with John Herndon for 37 years and viewed him as his business partner and trusted confidant. Mr. Herndon has been a mentor to me, whom I hold in the highest possible regard. His example of service, leadership

and commitment to this community and this bank is worthy of emulation. He is one of the hardest working, most ethical and humble men you could ever meet."

A native of Duncan, Herndon earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Tulsa in 1971. During his college days, he was a member of the men's varsity basketball team.

Following graduation, he joined the Oklahoma National Guard and served until 1977. He launched his banking career in 1972 as a bookkeeper at Guaranty Bank. He advanced to teller and teller supervisor and was added to the bank's management development program before joining First of Broken Arrow in 1976 as vice president-cashier.

He was named President in 1990 and later became the CEO upon Scott Graham's retirement.

During his time at First of Broken Arrow, Herndon helped lead a charge that has seen the institution grow from one downtown facility to four full-service locations; assets increase from \$20 million to \$190 million; and its staff advance in size from 20 employees to more than 55 today.

Outside the bank, Herndon is an active Rotarian and a board member of both the Broken Arrow Community Foundation and the Broken Arrow Public Schools Foundation. He is also a member of Arrow Heights Baptist Church.

His commitment to education is reflected in the bank's long-standing participation in the Broken Arrow Public Schools' Partners in Education program, and the bank's First Achievement Award that has presented more than \$300,000 in scholarships since it began in 1989.

Dr. Clarence G. Oliver, Jr.,

retired superintendent of Broken Arrow Public Schools and professor emeritus and former dean of the Oral Roberts University College of Education, calls Herndon "a warm, honest, caring man of vision and commitment."

Oliver says, "John is a person with a unique ability to guide others by being a good listener and always asking just the right question at just the right time to help others carefully reflect on options and consequences."

The oldest home-owned bank originated in Tulsa County, First National opened its doors five years before statehood in 1902 in what is now downtown Broken Arrow. Only four chairmen have headed the institution - and Herndon notes that he has worked with two of them.

He said his retirement plans call for taking up fishing and spending more time with his family.



**BELOVED BANKER:** After 42 years in banking, John L. Herndon, president and CEO of First National Bank & Trust Co. of Broken Arrow, will retire on Dec. 29.

# Library Receives Award, Unveils New Service Model

The Tulsa City-County Library was awarded the 2014 Oklahoma Quality Award for Pursuit of Excellence from the Oklahoma Quality Foundation at a presentation in Oklahoma City featuring Gov. Mary Fallin.

The library is one of five recipients for 2014 and is the first library system in the state to win an Oklahoma Quality Award. The award recognizes Oklahoma businesses and organizations for their achievement in quality, business performance and best practices.

The Oklahoma Quality Award performance excellence criteria are a framework that any organization can use to improve overall performance. Seven categories make up the award criteria: Leadership, Strategic Planning, Customer Focus, Workforce Focus, Process Management, Results, and Measurement, Analysis and Knowledge Management.

The program helps both for-profit businesses and not-for-profit

organizations identify strengths and opportunities for improvements, and helps them consider processes that will increase efficiency, engage employees, examine strategic goals and improve customer relationships.

Oklahoma businesses along with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce established the award program in 1993. The Oklahoma Quality Foundation focuses on organizational self-assessment and self-improvement, designed to make companies and organizations more competitive in the marketplace.

The Oklahoma Quality Foundation is the only official program in Oklahoma that works to determine the level of an organization's performance and in turn, provide public recognition to award recipients based on their level of accomplishment. It is patterned after the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce and enables all Oklahoma companies and organizations access to apply for the national award via a local, versus out-of-state sponsorship entity.

The library system is also embarking on the first stage of the facilities master plan by updating libraries to better serve customers. After closing for improvements, the Hardesty Regional Library recently unveiled its new service model. Enhancements include a digital lounge, collaborative spaces, and self-check-out and automated book drops.

New York Times best-selling author Sharon Draper is the win-



**LITERARY ACHIEVEMENT:** Mayor Dewey Bartlett stands with Gary Shaffer, Tulsa City-County Library CEO, when the Tulsa City-County Library was recently awarded the 2014 Oklahoma Quality Award for Pursuit of Excellence from the Oklahoma Quality Foundation. The library is the first library system in the state to win an Oklahoma Quality Award.



**NEW OFFERINGS:** Library patrons visit the Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., after it reopened in October and unveiled its new service model and enhancements including a digital lounge, collaborative spaces, and self-check-out and automated book drops.



**ACCLAIMED AUTHOR:** New York Times best-selling author Sharon Draper is the winner of the Tulsa Library Trust's 2015 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature. She will be accepting the award at a public presentation at Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St., in August 2015.

ner of the Tulsa Library Trust's 2015 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature. She will be accepting the award at a public presentation at Hardesty Regional Library's Connor's Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St., in August 2015. She also will present awards to winners of the 2015 Young People's Creative Writing Contest awards at the ceremony. Her visit culminates the 2015 children's and teen summer reading programs.

Tulsa County teachers have an opportunity to sign up for the Mr. Henry's Books teacher workshop, scheduled for Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-Noon, at the Hardesty Regional Library. The workshop is recommended for fourth- through eighth-grade teachers. Registration is \$10. Participants will receive a continental breakfast plus 50 classroom copies of Draper's novel "Out of My Mind." Lesson plans on how to use Draper's books for a variety of school subjects will be

available. One participant will win a classroom visit from Draper.

Draper is being recognized for writing more than 30 books for children and teenagers. Before establishing her career as a writer, Draper taught for more than 25 years in Cincinnati public schools as a language-arts teacher. She was selected as Ohio's Outstanding High School Language Arts Educator, Ohio Teacher of the Year and National Teacher of the Year in 1997.

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