

Book Report

A Team of Teams Built the New Lenexa City Center Library

Any complex project is carried out by teams, and the newly opened Lenexa City Center Library was no exception.



Scott Sime, project coordinator for the new Lenexa City Center Library

County Facilities staff on the Core Team brought architecture and construction expertise to the Library. Georgia Sizemore led the architecture team, Juan Lopez-Tamez led the construction team, and Abby Giersch led the interiors team which all together make up the building project.

Also joining the Core Team were JCL's Scott Sime, project coordinator; Leslie Nord, Lackman's branch manager (retired in 2018 and replaced by Lenexa branch manager Ken Werne) and Mike Heffernan; JCL Facilities Manager.

Each project team handled a different job: moving materials from Lackman library to the new library; communicating to the public as the project progressed; supporting an extended hours holds pickup lobby; operations and training; and selecting, configuring, and installing the technology.

During construction, several Library move-in teams were created to ready the building for library services. Sime led the move-in teams, which was made up of the team chairs.

The discussion of a new library in Lenexa began in 2008, when the city of Lenexa approached Johnson County Library about the prospect of being part of its City Center project. By 2016, the city had offered land for the Library, and planning discussions for the new Library were underway.

Sime says, "We wanted to make sure it would work on the site. Lackman had a drive-thru book return and we needed a drive-thru for holds too. We got to a



Members of the core team and architecture team

solution everybody agreed on, which was to put it in the garage."

When the Library was ready for its public debut, there was a soft opening on May 30, so the staff could get used to the new systems before the official opening.

Former Lackman patrons and the staff of the Lenexa civic campus were invited to have a sneak peek. Sime estimates about 1,000 people toured the building that day, and about the same number on Friday. On Saturday, some shoppers came over from the farmer's market to take a first look.

Sime says, "We got a lot of shares on social media saying, 'We love the library, and we got to come early.'"

Opening day welcomed thousands more, with remarks from local officials, Library board members, and a poem read by Kansas poet laureate emerita Wyatt Townley. Nestled into an exciting location with businesses, apartments, condos and villas, as well as a recreation center and public market within walking distance, Lenexa City Center Library is off to a flying start. It's sure to be a popular location for meetings, events and learning for decades to come.

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April 2019

BRANCHING OUT

Cedar Roe Throws a Golden Anniversary Party

On June 6, 2019, friends, patrons and former staff of Cedar Roe Library gathered to celebrate its 50th anniversary. During the evening event, guests enjoyed sparkling cider and cake while taking a trip through time via a slide show, '60s rock posters, a timeline and news stories tracing the Library's 50-year



history. A collection of schoolchildren's letters from 1999, titled "A Day in My Community" described what life in Roeland Park was like 20 years ago.

Cedar Roe's history began in 1966. At the time, JCL Libraries were being "loved to death" -- stretched to their limits by hordes of baby boomer students packed in after school. JCL saw that to meet the community's needs, the system needed to grow. Leaders formulated a plan for expansion, and in February of 1967, a bond issue for the \$1.5 million plan appeared on the ballot. It passed by 60 percent of the total vote.

Design and construction processes kicked off, and on June 2, 1969, the library opened. The name "Cedar Roe" was the winner in a naming contest, a combination that incorporated its Cedar Street address and its Roeland Park neighborhood.

The dedication took place on November 16, 1969, and the following year, the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture awarded the Library the Excellence in Design Medal.

The new library joined four others in the JCL system at the time: Antioch (then-headquarters), Corinth, Mission, Lenexa and Gardner. In 2009, it served nearly 134,000 visitors and had more than 265,000 materials in circulation.

Today, the compact building -- 17,157 square feet -- offers books, resources and events geared to



children and adults with wide-ranging interests. Over the past half-century, Cedar Roe Library has become the community's meeting place, study place and event space, and a well-loved Roeland Park neighbor.

These are exciting times for Johnson County Library. As the Comprehensive Library Master Plan rolls out, more new libraries are on the horizon. The newest, Lenexa City Center Library, opened on June 2, and a new Antioch library is planned on the horizon. As the system grows, Cedar Roe Library will continue to serve the needs of its community, as it has for the past 50 years. Here's to another 50!



TOP 10 HOLDS

JUNE 2019

- 969 Where the Crawdads Sing**
Delia Owens
- 503 Educated: A Memoir**
Tara Westover
- 322 The Silent Patient**
Alex Michaelides
- 300 Mrs. Everything**
Jennifer Weiner
- 264 City of Girls**
Elizabeth Gilbert
- 253 Normal People**
Sally Rooney
- 244 Redemption**
David Baldacci
- 220 The Guest Book**
Sarah Blake
- 212 Daisy Jones & the Six**
Taylor Jenkins Reid
- 209 Lost Roses**
Martha Hall Kelley

PATRON SPOTLIGHT

A Transatlantic Love Story

If Sheila and Roger Kelly's story were a romantic movie, it would go something like this: One day, Roger, an American Air Force officer stationed in Banbury, England, went to a local church. There he met a sweet English girl named Sheila.

As the two spent time together and talked, Sheila appreciated Roger's openness and honesty. In a short time, they began talking about getting married.

Every love story has complications. Sheila's mother had forbidden her to marry until she was 21. At 18, the wait must have seemed interminable to both of them.

As these stories go, it worked out well in the end. The two continued to spend time together, and she says, "Eventually, my parents decided they liked him." They were married in 1965, when Sheila was 19.

Roll the credits. Now for the "happily ever after" story.

The couple moved to the U.S. in 1964 and lived in Denver, Colorado. They had two children and later adopted three more from Mexico, India and the Philippines.

The Kellys moved to Olathe, and when Sheila began having trouble with steps, they moved to a single-level home in Gardner. She likes Gardner's small-town feel -- the same kind of feeling as the small English town where she grew up. Between going to three different churches with Roger and spending time at the library, she knows a lot of people in town.

You can find Roger and Sheila at Gardner Library nearly every morning. Sheila reads Amish historical fiction while Roger works on the computers. The more outgoing of the two, Sheila often strikes up conversations with other patrons. She asks what they like to read and suggests books they might like. And when moms bring their kids, she lets them know that they can get free children's books as part of the summer reading program.



Roger (not pictured) and Sheila Kelly, above, are Gardner Library super-patrons

Besides being a big fan of the Library, Sheila is also a kind of goodwill ambassador.

"She does a wonderful job promoting the goings-on in Gardner Library," says John Keogh, Gardner Library's branch manager, "talking to other patrons and encouraging folks to come to our events."

Sheila has gotten acquainted with many

regular patrons of the Gardner branch, as well as Library staff. Keogh says, "Sheila and Roger are a delight! They come in every day, they know all our staff, and we're a central part of their lives."



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ken Werne

Since he came to Johnson County Library in 1993, Ken Werne has managed nine of the 14 libraries in the system -- most recently, the new Lenexa City Center Library.

“Johnson County has been just large enough that every three to six years I’ve had the opportunity to move to a new situation,” Werne says. “After three or four years, I look for new challenges.”

He says with a smile, “I like to think the organization has been moving me around because they like me, and not because they’re trying to move a problem guy.”

He considers opening Lenexa City Center Library a good professional opportunity because he enjoys learning and figuring out new things.

“I enjoy those kinds of challenges,” he says. “Once we have it all figured out, I’ll start getting bored.”

With the new Library open, he’s ready to take a break in July to go hiking in the Canadian Rockies with his wife, Mary Burnett.

“Last year we went to Rocky Mountain National Park. The year before, we went to the Utah national parks,” he says. “Our



Ken Werne, Lenexa City Center Library Manager

getting out in nature, exercising, relaxing and spending time with each other.

to their families in Indiana.

They chose some spots halfway between Colorado and Indiana and decided they would move to the city where one of them got a job first. Werne got one first in Johnson County.

The couple has enjoyed living in Lenexa for 19 years. Over that time, they’ve seen the cul-de-sac change. Families with young kids who grew up moved away, and now new young families have arrived. Of course, one of the many changes to the neighborhood is the new nearby library.

“It’s a great neighborhood with great neighbors,” says Werne. “And the city provides great services. We love living in Lenexa.”

“I like to think the organization has been moving me around because they like me, and not because they’re trying to move a problem guy.”

goal is to hit as many national parks as we can before the knees wear out. We hope to keep checking off those 60 parks the National Park Service has. We’ll never get all 60, but it’s a nice goal.”

For Werne and Burnett, it’s all about

The two met working at the downtown Colorado Springs Library. They got to know each other playing tennis. Their careers took them to California, where Burnett had a one-hour commute on good days, and after a few years, they wanted to get closer

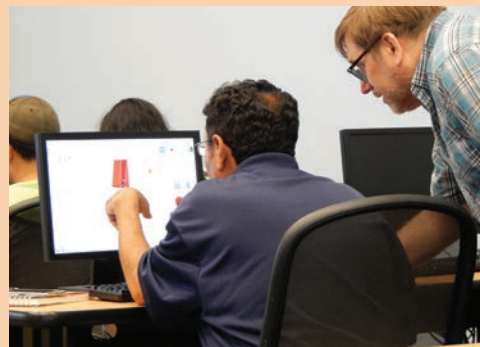
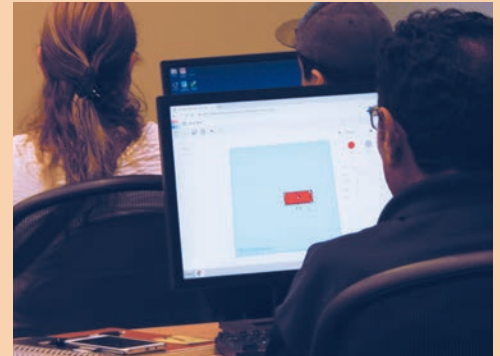
EVENT SPOTLIGHT

3D Learning at 3D Thursdays

Anyone who's curious about using Central Resource Library's MakerSpace should know about the monthly 3D Thursdays program. Held in the Learning Lab, the library offers a two-hour class to help people learn how to design their own 3D digital models.

Jeff Newhook, former Johnson County Library Maker-in-Residence at the MakerSpace, teaches people of all ages how to do 3D design and 3D printing. In the hands-on class, students work through the process of designing and printing a key tag to take home.

Using a free cloud-based design software called Tinkercad, Newhook shares his design process while leading the class in doing the project. By the end of the class, students have learned the basics of CAD (Computer Aided Design) and are inspired to use MakerSpace resources to create even more.



Blast Off Through the Solar System with JoHo

At Antioch Library on June 6, it was standing-room only for "Blast Off Through the Solar System with JoHo." About 50 kids from toddler to middle school age and their parents attended the event. JoHo, an actor and storyteller, always packs them in for her

wildly imaginative audience participation stories.

On this morning, kids became astronauts on a mission of space discovery. They put on their space helmets and space suits. Then they shook in their seats during lift-off and



took off for the nether reaches of our solar system. During the journey, JoHo selected a child to play each of the nine planets. JoHo chose a baby to play Pluto, because it's been demoted to a dwarf planet.

As the kids played games, they learned about each planet – how big, how hot, how far away.

Judging by the kids' enthusiasm, the event was a Jupiter-sized success.

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

Social Media Highlights

Lenexa City Center Library Opening



Corinth's Read with Pride Display



We received
➔ **300+** ⬅
responses
on our
“What are you
reading this
weekend?” post!



Month in Review June 2019

Summer reading kicked off across all locations!



Kids can stop by while supplies last to get a free book to kick off Summer reading!!

Stay at Home and Read a Book Ball

STAY HOME & READ A BOOK BALL
The "non-event" for libraries and literacy benefiting the Johnson County Library Foundation
Saturday JUNE 8TH

- 1 Choose a book
- 2 Get comfortable at home
- 3 Share your reading-selfies [#jacobookball](#)
- 4 Make a donation jocolibraryfoundation.org/donate



Many Library fans posted their reading selfies for the Stay at Home and Read a Book Ball, a fundraising "non-event" by the Foundation that happened on June 8.

Lenexa City Center Library welcomed thousands of patrons during its opening weeks!



June is Audio Book Month! We have thousands of eAudiobook titles to celebrate!



NEXT ISSUE

Cover Story: Community Garden

Top 10 Holds: July 2019

Friends Spotlight: Shanta Dickerson

Event: Mr. Stinky Feet

eLibrary Resources

JOHNSON COUNTY
KANSAS

Library

BOOK REPORT

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