

BROKEN ARROW LIBRARY

something to crow about



IMAGINE what your home would look like if you received thousands of visitors each month – many of whom were very active children!

After 10 years of heavy usage, the family-friendly Broken Arrow Library was looking a little tired and worn out. Now, the popular library is rejuvenated once again with new paint, tile and carpet; updated fixtures and furnishings; and completely renovated restrooms. It also features automatic front doors, energy-efficient lighting and windows, plus a reconfigured space to allow for a smoother customer experience.

Broken Arrow Library customers were elated when their library reopened after being closed for more than a month to finish up the final touches to the renovations. The library celebrated the improvements with a Grand Reopening Celebration on July 9; hundreds of people turned out to see the library, enjoy entertainment and refreshments, as well as catch up with old friends.

The Broken Arrow Library is the fourth most-used library in Tulsa City-County Library's 25-branch system. It is one of only two libraries that checks out more children's resources than adult materials; Owasso Library is the other location.

"Broken Arrow is home to lots and lots of young families, and its residents are huge library supporters and users. We have two library locations in Broken Arrow but we're really united as one library as we work together on programming and services," said Broken Arrow Library Manager Ann Gaebe, referring to the South Broken Arrow Library.

Broken Arrow is a magnet for families as it is listed as one of the top 25 safest cities in the nation, top 10 best towns for families, top 100 best places to live and top 25 affordable suburbs in the South. "Even though Broken Arrow boasts about 100,000 residents it still has a small-town feel," said Gaebe.

The public school system is another big draw for families to this suburb. "We're fortunate to have such wonderful schools and excellent teachers," said Gaebe. "The educators personally and professionally support our libraries by encouraging their students to use the library year-round. Numerous students come into the library during the summer months, and that is a direct result of their teachers."



On any given day, you may see a family checking out hundreds of items from the Broken Arrow Library. "It's not unusual for each family member to have 50 items checked out," said Gaebe. "They would check out even more if we would increase the maximum allowed per cardholder!"

In addition to being avid readers, Broken Arrows appreciate the many events the library offers each month. My First Storytime programs for newborns to 2-year-olds are featured every Monday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m., followed by Toddler Time for ages 2-3 and their caregivers at 11 a.m. Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 is held every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

The Broken Arrow Library also has a very active manga/anime club for teens. The Read or Die Manga/Anime Club meets on the first Saturday of each month at 12:30 p.m. The group recently participated in Tulsa City-County Library's Asian-American Festival, held in June at the Martin Regional Library.

The library hosts an adult book discussion group on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. New members always are welcome. If you are interested in joining, pick up the featured book at the front desk.

Broken Arrow has a strong library tradition as the first library was organized in 1906 by a group of 17 young women who formed the Self Culture Club. This literary club operated a library for more than 20 years and then turned over the library to the municipality in 1929. In 1961, the Broken Arrow Library became a part of the Tulsa City-County Library system. The current Broken Arrow Library was built in 1984 and completely renovated in 2000. Led by Gaebe, it has 14 staff members including Marie Welden, youth librarian; Kadry Dale, youth library associate; and library associate Will Thomas, who also is well-known author.

The library is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit the library in person at 300 W. Broadway or online at www.tulsalibrary.org/brokenarrow. You also can become a friend of the Broken Arrow libraries on Facebook at www.facebook.com/brokenarrowlibraries or follow the library on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/batulsalibrary>. For more information about the Broken Arrow Library, call 918-549-7500.

