

Rudisill Regional Library

a cultural hub and vital community resource



why can't we be friends?

The "Voices of Inspiration" wall in the hallway outside the Jeanne B. Goodwin Storytime Room is Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library President Leslie Wade's favorite place in the Rudisill Regional Library. The framed photos of the brilliant African-American authors who have visited the Rudisill library over the years remind her of all the hard work the library has done to instill the importance of reading and to pay tribute to the African-American culture.

"I think it's urgent that we continue to emphasize reading as a major focal point in our community," said Wade, who has been an active member of the Friends for more than 20 years. "In a community where most residents cannot afford computers and the latest technology, the library still holds a vital place as it offers access to books, movie DVDs, music CDs, computers and the Internet."

The mission of the Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library is to support the library in its efforts to maintain its place in the community.



"We are ambassadors for the Rudisill Regional Library," said Wade. "We help raise funds for materials the library cannot afford; we spread the word about library resources; we volunteer to help with library events; we support staff in continuing education with the Freddie Martin Rudisill Scholarship Award; and we help with the cultural development of north Tulsa and the Rudisill Regional Library."

The Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library meets on the third Tuesday in January, April, July and October at 6 p.m. at the Rudisill Regional Library. The public is invited to attend the meetings and join the Friends. Annual dues are \$5 for an individual, \$50 for an organization and \$100 for a lifetime membership.

"The Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library offers camaraderie for people who like to do for others," said Wade, who has lived in north Tulsa for more than 20 years. "Even after my tenure as president ends this April, I will always be a Friend as I enjoy the company of north Tulsa residents who are concerned about the success of our community, our children and our future."



For 35 years, the Rudisill Regional Library has served as the informational, recreational and cultural hub of north Tulsa.

"In many instances, we are the stores that they don't have in north Tulsa – the DVD/video rental store, the bookstore. We also are the entertainment center," said Keith Jemison, longtime manager of the Rudisill Regional Library. "Anything the community needs we can supply it in terms of information on nearly every subject, books, literacy help, computer classes, free Internet access, African-American cultural events and preschool storytimes to impart a love of reading. We have a Plan4College Center and other resources to help make children academic successes. We also offer a monthly Job Lab and other resources to offset the challenges of the economic downslope, help customers learn new skills and find job opportunities. Our knowledgeable staff is here to guide you."

Located across the street from Carver Middle School on Pine and Hartford, the Rudisill Regional Library is a haven for more than 60 students who go to the library after school each day to work on homework, read, use a computer, or play Wii games, watch movies and enjoy other activities.

Opened in 1976, the Rudisill Regional Library was built by the City of Tulsa as part of a multipurpose Social Services Center. In 1979, it was renamed in memory of longtime librarian Freddie Martin Rudisill. Throughout the years, the Tulsa City-County Library extensively has renovated the library, which now houses the African-American Resource Center and Jeanne B. Goodwin Storytime Room.

"We are thankful that we have a strong Friends of the Library group to assist us with programs, fundraising and spreading the word about all our wonderful resources," said Jemison. "Together, we are here to enrich the lives of north Tulsans and the entire Tulsa County community."

the legacy of Jeanne B. Goodwin

For more than 100 years, Jeanne B. Goodwin touched so many lives as a lifelong educator and champion of children and reading. In 2003 in honor of Goodwin's 100th birthday, the Rudisill Regional Library named its storytime room after the matriarch of Tulsa's prominent Goodwin family.

A beautiful mural of an enchanting undersea world adorns the walls and ceiling of the Jeanne B. Goodwin Storytime Room to stir the imaginations of young children as they learn to read and grow. The room hosts weekly preschool storytimes and other activities for youngsters.

On July 6, the Rudisill Regional Library will offer the Jeanne B. Goodwin Storytelling Festival to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Goodwin and to raise additional funds to keep the room a success. Check with the library for more details.

honoring our past as we embrace our future

In 1998, the Rudisill Regional Library opened the African-American Resource Center, which collects, preserves and provides access to resources honoring and documenting the experiences of people of African descent. The center is devoted to providing the community with current and comprehensive resource materials and professional reference materials on the culture and history of African-Americans.

The center offers presentations by renowned authors, an annual bus tour of Oklahoma's historic all-black towns, a Kwanzaa kickoff, and other cultural and historical events that are extremely popular with the community.

Visit www.tulsalibrary.org/aarc or stop by the Rudisill Regional Library at 1520 N. Hartford or call 918-549-7645 to learn more about the African-American Resource Center.