

# CHARLES PAGE LIBRARY

## *an essential community helper*

Nestled in the woods on a hilltop overlooking the city of Sand Springs, the Charles Page Library stands sentinel over this friendly community in west Tulsa County. Befittingly named in honor of the city's founder, it is one of two Tulsa City-County Library branches that serve Sand Springs.

"Like its founding father, Sand Springs residents are known for helping each other," said Mark Carlson, Charles Page Library manager. "It's important for the Charles Page Library to live up to this legacy of helping each other by striving every day to provide a welcoming, safe and fun environment for the community. We are here to help children, seniors and all ages in between with their informational, educational and recreational needs. Whether it's offering resources for job seekers, storytimes for little ones or fun electronic gaming for teens, the Charles Page Library strives to be an essential community helper!"

Carlson said he thinks the best way for the library to help the community is to reach out to the youth. "The children of Sand Springs are our No. 1 asset and future leaders. We offer storytimes for preschoolers to show that reading is fun. We go out to area organizations to read to kids and talk with their parents. We have thousands of juvenile materials, and a bunch of nice people ready to lead children to new and interesting things. We also work closely with the Sand Springs Public Schools to supplement the students' education."

Community usage of the Charles Page Library is at an all-time high, due partially to a poor economy. Sand Springs was hit particularly hard when a major industry left the area a couple of years ago. However, this resilient community is rebounding wonderfully as new families are relocating here and new industry is moving into the area, said Carlson. The library has experienced a 50-percent increase in circulation over the past three years. The library's traffic count also has gone up and computer usage is on the rise. The library

**I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD**  
Symbolic of the history of Sand Springs and the contributions of Charles Page, the library's exterior features a 6-by-24 metal sculpture of a train created by local artist Lisa Regan of Garden Deva Sculpture.



**STROLLING ALONG**  
Charles Page Library Associate Richard Why sports a Viking helmet in hopes of winning The Great Sand Springs Downhill Soap Box Derby. The Charles Page Library has participated in the race for the past two years. The library's car was created by George Baird, husband of library staffer Vicki Baird.



Mark Carlson, branch manager

**TEEN NIGHT**  
Every Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. the library offers a chance for teens to unwind after school with fun electronic games, work on homework or just meet up with friends. Jason Patteson, library associate, coordinates the teen activities.



Judi, library volunteer



Miriam and Abigail, library users

now has three laptops for customers to use in the library in addition to the nine public PCs that are available.

Tulsa City-County Library opened the Charles Page Library in 2001, replacing the Page Memorial Library, which now is a local history museum. Located at 551 E. Fourth Street right across the street from the Charles Page High School, the three-sectional library features a children's area with a stage for storytime overlooking a wooded setting, a community meeting room, space for customers to sit and read in a pastoral setting, tall windows and other amenities. To learn more about the library, visit its Web page at [TulsaLibrary.org/charlespage](http://TulsaLibrary.org/charlespage), follow it on Facebook at [facebook.com/charlespagelibrary](http://facebook.com/charlespagelibrary), or stop by and take a tour. One of its friendly staff members will be happy to show you around.

**REIGNING SUMMER READING PROGRAM VICTOR**  
In 2008, Sand Springs Mayor Bob Walker issued a challenge to other Tulsa County community mayors to compete to

see which community would have the most kids participate and complete the library's summer reading program. Sand Springs won the coveted Summer Reading Program Mayor's Challenge prize that first year and again in 2010. The Charles Page Library plans to do its part this summer to see that Sand Springs keeps its title.

"The summer reading program is a really big deal in Sand Springs," said Carlson. "The summer is a time of fun and frolic, but if the kids are not reading they are going to be behind when school starts in the fall. We want to attract kids to the library all year but especially in the summer. While the children who participate in the summer reading program will receive a medal and other rewards, they more importantly will receive words of encouragement, praise and even high fives from the Charles Page Library staff. These kids know that praise comes from the heart and end up reading well beyond the program requirements."