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St. Francis Donates Land for Library

Saint Francis Health System has agreed to donate a 6.5-acre parcel in South Broken Arrow to the Tulsa City-County Library. The land will be the future site of the William K. and Natalie O. Warren Library. The property is located near the intersection of New Orleans Street and Aspen Avenue (101st Street and 145th East Avenue) across Chestnut Street from the current South Broken Arrow Library.

“Our two current libraries in Broken Arrow are two of our busiest locations in Tulsa County. However, the South Broken Arrow Library is the busiest of our 24 locations in terms of visitors and checkouts on a per-square-foot basis,” said Tulsa City-County Library CEO Gary Shaffer, who recently resigned his position. “Until this donation, we simply did not have adequate space to grow the facility.”

In addition to housing an incredible book collection for the avid reading population of south Broken Arrow, the library system hopes to offer access to 21st century learning technology, such as a maker space, digital learning lab and a quiet reading room. A coffee shop also may be incorporated into the space, if demand warrants.

“We are proud to invest in the future of the community through support of the Tulsa City-County Library. It is our hope that the future developments on this gifted land will serve the community for generations to come. Advancing access to libraries and learning opportunities provided by the library system is in the best interest of our children, our region and our future,” said Barry Steichen, chief operating officer of Saint Francis Health System.

In honoring the gift from Saint Francis Health System, the library system also will consider incorporating collections and tools to help library customers make healthy lifestyle choices.

✕ “The Tulsa City-County Library does much more than provide buildings with books. The programs and services offered by the library range from tutoring and college planning to adult literacy programs and services for the homebound. Saint Francis is pleased to be able to support the library as it grows to meet the needs of the community,” said Steichen.

“We are incredibly grateful for this extremely generous gift from Saint Francis Health System, which will allow us to one day expand a library location that has long outgrown its current facility,” said Shaffer.

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