



Book Report

SEPT 2019  VOLUME III

Have a bike? Learn how to fix it. Don't have a bike? Find out how to earn one!

On a crisp fall day, there's nothing more enjoyable and invigorating than a bike ride. You feel a cool breeze, admire the bright red and gold leaves shimmering on the trees and take in the earthy aroma of leaves and soil. What could possibly be better?

But suddenly, your fun ride is over. You happen to hit a sharp rock, and your tire blows. Do you know how to fix it? If not, take your ride to Central Resource Library, to the new Fix-it Stand beside the bike racks. The stand, along with a tire pump and some shiny new bike racks were installed there on June 13.

Nick Ward-Bopp, MakerSpace Facilitator at Central Resource Library, pointed out a full set of repair tools attached to the Fix-it Stand that bike riders can use for free -- and a QR code on the stand that takes you to instructions about how to use them.

The Fix-it Stand is just the most visible part

of a bigger, health-focused collaboration between Johnson County Library, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment and BikeWalkKC. Each organization has a different mission, but they brainstormed and developed some solutions that could address all of their goals.

The Department of Health and Environment noted that nearly 60% of Johnson County adults are overweight or obese -- and 35% of these adults have been diagnosed with high



Nick Ward-Bopp, MakerSpace Facilitator at Central Resource Library, displays a full set of repair tools on the Fix-It Stand.

blood pressure. These are a couple of serious health issues that can be helped by physical activity.

Johnson County Library strongly emphasizes excellent service to patrons. In looking at how to improve it, the Library team observed that more and newer bike racks were needed in front of Central Resource Library to serve bike-riding Library patrons. With funding from a collaborator, the Library could install the Fix-it Stand and new bike racks. The Fix-it Stand would also address another issue: too many broken bikes abandoned on Library property.

BikeWalkKC provides youth and adult education programs about riding safely, bike repair and maintenance and sponsors a Family



BikeWalkKC educators Mark Horn and Mitchell Williams introduce Earn-A-Bike recipients to the parts of a bike.

Earn-a-Bike program for would-be riders in need. BikeWalkKC educators conducted three informative events for the new bike riders in June and July. Riders are also invited to participate in a study on the impacts of Family Earn-a-Bike programs on physical activity and active transportation being conducted by Dr. Amanda Grimes at UMKC School of Nursing & Health Studies, and more programs are in development.

The benefits of this collaborative effort will ripple outward from Johnson County Library: helping bike riders become more confident and comfortable riding, repairing and maintaining their bikes; improving Johnson Countians' health; and better serving the Library's patrons on two wheels.



Zora proudly holding her new bike



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August 2019

BRANCHING OUT

Sarah Aanestad, Leawood Pioneer Library's New Branch Manager

Johnson County Library's newest branch manager, Sarah Aanestad, is no newcomer to the library world. Before coming to Leawood Pioneer Library in early June, she worked full-time and part-time for 12 years at the Kansas City Public Library. There she learned how the library worked by serving in various roles. At the same time, she also worked at a non-profit, where she helped people access information and resources to improve their lives.

While working at the Kansas City Public Library's Northeast branch, she realized her ability to help people would fit well with a library career. "Oh, maybe this is my place," she thought. "This is what I do, what I was doing before, but in a library setting – dealing with homelessness and being sure people have access to information." She began Library Science studies and added a Masters in Library Science to her degrees in Spanish, Anthropology and Museum Studies.



Sarah Aanestad, Leawood Pioneer Library New Branch Manager



TOP 10 HOLDS



AUGUST 2019

1035 **Where the Crawdads Sing**

Delia Owens

454 **Mrs. Everything**

Jennifer Weiner

447 **Educated: A Memoir**

Tara Westover

416 **City of Girls**

Elizabeth Gilbert

387 **Summer of '69**

Elin Hilderbrand

386 **Evvie Drake Starts Over**

Linda Holmes

324 **The Silent Patient**

Alex Michaelides

317 **Ask Again, Yes**

Mary Beth Keane

284 **The New Girl**

Daniel Silva

268 **One Good Deed**

David Baldacci

Now, Aanestad is learning a new library system, with the help of experienced Johnson County Library

interesting conversations and to deepen her relationships with them.

"I wanted to have relationships

"This is what I do, what I was doing before, but in a library setting – dealing with homelessness and being sure people have access to information."

staff. "The other branch managers have been really welcoming and supportive," she says.

She appreciates the quality of the Library staff members she interacts with. "They're really smart people, and people who have a lot of different interests and talents and skills," she says. "It's been really refreshing."

Aanestad finds that reading and sharing books with her nieces and nephews is a good way to spark

with them and play a supportive role," she says, "and I was able to do that through books."

At Leawood Pioneer Library, Aanestad is keeping busy – the branch is one of the most frequented in the system, and recirculates an average of sixty thousand items a month. Aanestad is joined by an experienced team, including Assistant Branch Manager Nancy Birmingham, who has been at JCL for ten years. Next time you're in Leawood, stop by and say hi!

PATRON SPOTLIGHT

Teen Volunteers Balance Hard Work and Fun



L to R: Volunteers Kaitlin Green, Zoe Longwell and Peggy Hendershot, Volunteer Coordinator for Blue Valley's Teen Volunteers

Blue Valley High School students Kaitlin Green, Zoe Longwell and Sarah Gordon are plenty busy with school activities like dance team and marching band, but they make time to process galley books at Blue Valley Library for the Teen Top 10 program.

The program, sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), offers teens the chance to select, read and review Young Adult (YA) books before they're published, then offer comments and recommendations to the publishers.



Green and Longwell sorting books

Peggy Hendershot, Volunteer Coordinator for Blue Valley's Teen Volunteers, officially supervises the teens, but she says, "The volunteers run the program. They're an integral part of keeping it going."

Preparation for Teen Top 10 books starts with the 300 to 500 titles Johnson County Library's YALC (Young Adult Literary Council) receives annually from publishers – five copies of each galley book. They are pre-published books that look like published books, Longwell explains, with a difference: "They have a little label that says 'advance copy.' Some of them say 'not for sale' or 'not finished cover.'"

When the books arrive, Green, Longwell, and Gordon get to work unboxing and sorting them. They document the title, the author and when each book will be published, then apply identifying stickers. Finally, the books go back into boxes for a trip to a local middle school, a high school and Leawood and Monticello Libraries' YALC groups.

The 16 YALSA Teen Top Ten book clubs across the U.S. nominate their favorite books of the year. A list of the 25 most-nominated books is published on the YALSA website. Then, in August, teens nominate their favorites from the top 25, and the 10 most popular books make the Teen Top 10 list.

"Over the course of a year, teens from all across the country will read and review galley books before they come out," says Green, "and they can keep any books they review."



Book choices to be reviewed

While she's sorting books, Longwell likes the variety of genres she sees coming through. "There's romantic and realistic fiction, and biographies and illustrated books and comics. I think everyone can find something they like."

Green adds, "If I open up a couple of boxes, I can see a thriller, or poetry, or a graphic novel or realistic fiction, and it broadens my view of what I can read."

The teen volunteers work hard, but they have fun, too. They join other Johnson County YALC volunteers for cookouts, pizza parties, scavenger hunts and water balloon fights.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ryan Dolan, IT Analyst II, CX-IT Team

We've all seen how the stereotypical "IT guy" is portrayed in the movies: Usually, it's a bespectacled, pocket protector-wearing introvert who is good at technology but hopeless at understanding humans.

But IT Analyst Ryan Dolan and other members of Johnson County Library's CX-IT Team are very good at understanding humans, and specifically, how patrons use the Library's technology. Their mission is to make it as user-friendly as it can be.

The "CX" part of the team's name stands for "customer experience." Point to anything in a Library that has a screen or connects with WiFi or a database, and the CX-IT Team is responsible for the patrons' experience with it. The CX team also includes communications and web personnel, as well as IT specialists.

Dolan explains that in every stage of a project – working with vendors, evaluating technology, testing, acquisition and internal training – the goal is always to help patrons access the Library's resources. The team asks a lot of questions: Can this technology be more intuitive? Easier to understand? Placed in a more convenient location?

"I think we have as an IT team really opened up to be not only the people with the tech knowledge to get people's issues resolved," Dolan says, "but also treating people like we would want to be treated and being nice. Providing really solid customer service. It's been a big, big push."

One recent project was to make the catalog-only screens more fully ADA-accessible. The team noticed some of the screens weren't at accessible height and worked on standardizing them. The team also considered what type of touchscreen would be best for patrons.

"Prior to Monticello Library opening, we tested different types of touchscreens," Dolan says. "We had to decide what kind



Ryan Dolan, IT Analyst for the Johnson County Library System

to use – iPads or the larger screens that we actually settled on."



Finally, the team made the catalog-only setups more aesthetically pleasing. Now, says Dolan, "You're not just seeing a computer on a desk – it's more like a kiosk."

The team has many projects going at any given time, most recently:

- Upgrading all public computers from Windows 7 to Windows 10.
- Installing public laptop lending machines at Monticello and Lenexa Libraries.

- Wireless connection to study room screens at Monticello and Lenexa Libraries.
- New scheduling screens for study and meeting rooms.

Dolan didn't start out as an "IT guy." After graduation from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, with a major in communications and graphic design and a minor in design, Dolan worked at the Art Institute of Chicago International. His job was managing 3,000 computers and 40 computer labs. Stints at AI International in Kansas City and IT work at another company followed, and he came to Johnson County Library about three years ago.

He and his wife, Katharine, have two sons, Theodore (Teddy), age three, and Tobias (Toby), age one. They enjoy going to the zoo, Union Station, Science City, and Wonderscope, the children's museum. They also have a six-year-old golden retriever named Odo, who enjoys his brothers and Frisbee time.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Astronaut Mike Massimino touches down for a visit

"Space Man" speaks at Central Resource Library

An overflow audience packed Central Resource Library on August 1 to hear a talk by retired NASA astronaut Mike Massimino, a veteran of two spacewalks – both to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.

Massimino said that while his fellow astronauts read books during their free time in space, he preferred to look out

the window at the stars. Out there, he said, they don't twinkle because Earth's atmosphere doesn't interfere with their steady glow.



At the Astro Kids Breakfast

His slides and videos showed takeoffs, landings, and close-ups of the Hubble crew making repairs. He told of his NASA training and spacewalks, and after the talk, he answered questions



Astronaut Mike Massimino

and signed copies of his best-selling book, "Space Man."

An engaging and popular speaker, Massimino is now Senior Space Advisor to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum and a professor in Columbia University's engineering school, The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science.



Mike Massimino drew a large crowd

Monticello Library Celebrates its First Anniversary

On August 6, Monticello Library celebrated its one-year anniversary with a time capsule ceremony. The capsule, containing a variety of 2018 materials, will be unearthed on the Library's 25th anniversary. The materials inside will give future generations an idea of what life in Johnson County was like 24 years ago.

Before the ceremony, attendees enjoyed singer

and guitar player Lily B. Moonflower's music. Then Monticello Branch Manager Christian Madrigal and Johnson County Librarian Sean Casserley made opening remarks. Casserley, Deputy Johnson County Librarian

Tricia Suellentrop and Shawnee Mayor Michelle Distler shoveled dirt to begin the burial of the time capsule.

Glenn North performed his poem, "A Psalm for the Word Warrior," which the Library commissioned for Monticello

Library's opening. A steel plate engraved with the poem was unveiled and will be permanently displayed inside.

Following the ceremony, attendees moved inside the Library to enjoy music and refreshments.



Time capsule contents



Time capsule burial



Lily B. Moonflower



"A Psalm for the Word Warrior" engraved steel plate

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

Social Media Highlights

Johnson Co. Library
@jocolibrary

Follow

Our Lenexa City Center Library Bear and this little one were meant to be besties. This baby is obviously a fan of bears - just check out the shirt! - and cuddled right up to "Bear."
#librarylove



8:00 AM - 23 Jul 2019

Lenexa City Center Library's bear gained a new young fan.



Johnson County Library (KS)

August 1 at 5:54 PM · 🌐

Look at what one of our younger Gardner patrons left for us. We love our patrons!

Dear Librarians,
Thank you for being
a Helper to the
community. In my
opinion you are one
of the closest
things to a superhero
in the real world

—thankful patron

👍❤️👍 265

2 Comments 25 Shares

Love from a Gardner patron...

Johnson Co. Library
@jocolibrary

Follow

Today is the last day of our Summer Reading Program & our last #WackyWednesday at Lenexa City Center Library. We're sad that it's over for now, but it's time for a long nap to rest up for the next bout of fun.
#Lenexcellence



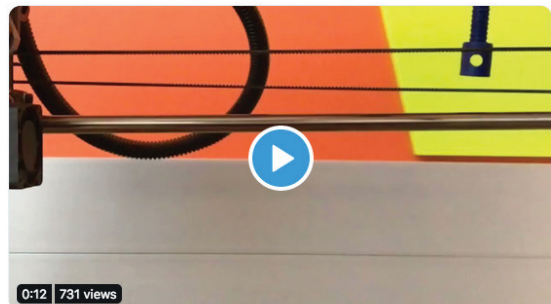
2:25 PM - 31 Jul 2019

Lenexa City Center Library hosted their final Wacky Wednesday of the summer. One patron said Wacky Wednesdays got them and their family out of the house and to the Library each week!

Johnson Co. Library
@jocolibrary

Follow

Our Makers' take on the #bottlecapchallenge - using one of the rubber belts on a #3dprinter in the @Black_Veach #MakerSpace. #jocomakes @lawrencelibrary @KCLibrary



10:28 AM - 17 Jul 2019

Makers took on the #bottlecapchallenge – an internet sensation – using the rubber belts on a 3D printer!



Month in Review August 2019



The **MakerSpace Passport Program** had a successful final landing as participants wrapped up the summer learning to solder their own spaceships!



On August 14, the band **Harry and the Potters'** high energy live show came to Monticello Library!



Back to School meant the end of Summer Reading, with more than **20,000 participants** in this year's program!



NEXT ISSUE

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-  **Branching Out:** DeSoto Library
-  **Staff Spotlight:** Lisa Allen
-  **Event:** Unlocking Empawthy; Aromatherapy Pladough
-  **eLibrary Resources**

JOHNSON COUNTY
KANSAS

Library

BOOK REPORT

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