

Joyce Winner West Branch

The Jim Winner preview event for the new branch was held on December 18. The following passage is an approximation of the comments I made at the event:

I have often said that the character of a community may be judged by the quality of its library. As we stand here today in the first branch location for Carmel Clay Public Library, we have collectively affirmed again the character of Carmel.

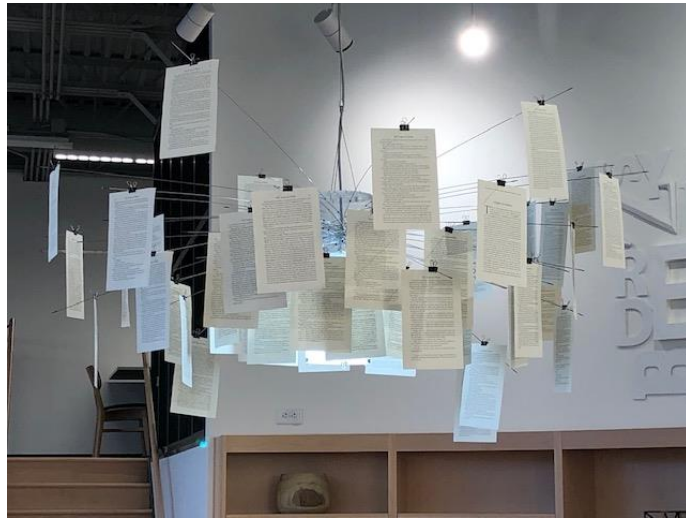


We have affirmed our shared values for education, literacy, lifelong learning, and coming together as a community. Today we are here to honor one person from our community in particular; someone who had a direct hand in shaping this space we stand in. Joyce Winner loved this community and loved our library system. Joyce was with us when the branch location was just the germ of an idea. Joyce's enthusiasm and excitement for this branch was a powerful signal to me that we were on the right track. The Joyce Winner West Branch says a lot in the name. We at the library will always take the name as a reminder of who we are serving: this community that Joyce so loved. Finally, thank you to Jim Winner for his continued support for the library. This kind of support is what

allows the library to continue to forge ahead and provide excellent experiences to patrons, and to be the library system that is worthy of Carmel.

The staff and family met on December 19 for a preview evening. Preview dates were held on December 23 and December 30 for the Village of West Clay and CCPL Foundation Guild respectively. We received numerous positive comments at all of these preview events. We also received a great deal of media attention and social media chatter, again all very positive. The excitement from the community has been palpable.





Our grand opening was held on Monday, January 6, at 10:00 a.m. All involved felt that it was a successful launch for the branch. The excitement of the community was intense. We are now in the business of running our west branch. We recorded nearly 500 visits in the first hour of operation! The branch has been so heavily used in the first week that we have taken steps to pull some of the Mobile Library materials into the branch to supplement the collection. We will be in a learning mode for the foreseeable future.



This photograph was taken in the early morning by Peter Konshak before the grand opening.

Following the first week of operation, it is safe to say the space is a runaway hit. Our first week's main door count was 3,334 and we circulated 3,769 items.

I thanked many people at our grand opening, and it is difficult to impossible to do that without inadvertently leaving someone out. I will attempt to do so again in this report, hopefully more comprehensively but I will probably still forget someone. So, I would first like to thank anyone

who had any hand at all in helping create this space. Further, I would like to thank the following people and acknowledge in particular our new branch staff:

- CCPL staff: I want to thank the entire staff. So many of us had a hand in creating this space, in all kinds of ways. The excitement and enthusiasm was universal, and almost everyone contributed in some way, so thank you CCPL staff! I'd like to thank Peter Konshak, who has been intimately involved since the inception of the project. Indeed, it was Peter who first pointed out to me the availability of the vacant space on the market. Peter served as the point person on the project, standing in for me particularly while I was away or involved with planning the renovation of the main library. I couldn't



Katherine Huddle

have managed without him. Christy Walker has also been involved since the inception of the space, and her guidance and leadership is appreciated. Lisa Dick and her team in Technical Services ensured that we would be well prepared in launching a branch collection, and Lisa continues to put forward creative and constructive ideas on managing the branch collection. Beth Meyer is new but all-in and is committed to supporting the new space. Thank you everyone!

- CCPL Branch staff: Katherine

Huddle has the distinction of being our first Branch Manager, both of this space and the first Branch manager in our library's history. Katherine's energy and enthusiasm is the perfect match to meet the challenge of the new space. I have been impressed and gratified to see that attitude carry across our entire branch staff, which has been a mix of staff who have migrated from the main library and who have joined us specifically to work in this new space. Here is a listing of the branch staff:

- Amber Antony. Amber transferred from the Circulation Department to work at our new space. Her experience in circulation will be valuable.
- Julie Dannis: Julie joined the team specifically to work



Elissa Dee

at the branch. She is currently working on her Master's Degree in Information Sciences.

- Elissa Dee: Elissa also joined the team to work at the new branch. She has previously taught second and third grade in Bloomington.



Amber Antony



Julie Dannis

- Barb Maraknek: Barb transferred from the Reference Department, where she was experienced in working the Reader's Advisory Desk.



Kim Rohan

- Kim Rohan: Kim joined the team to work at the branch and has worked as a Kindergarten instructional assistant at Carmel Elementary School for the last nine years.

- Susan Woodhouse: Susan joined us to work at the branch and is a former practicing attorney who I'm told always had the library bug.

- Thank also to Bob Spong, our new courier driver, our new pages working the space, and again, to everyone has helped and continues to make the space work.



Barb Maraknek



Susan Woodhouse

I would also like to thank the following:

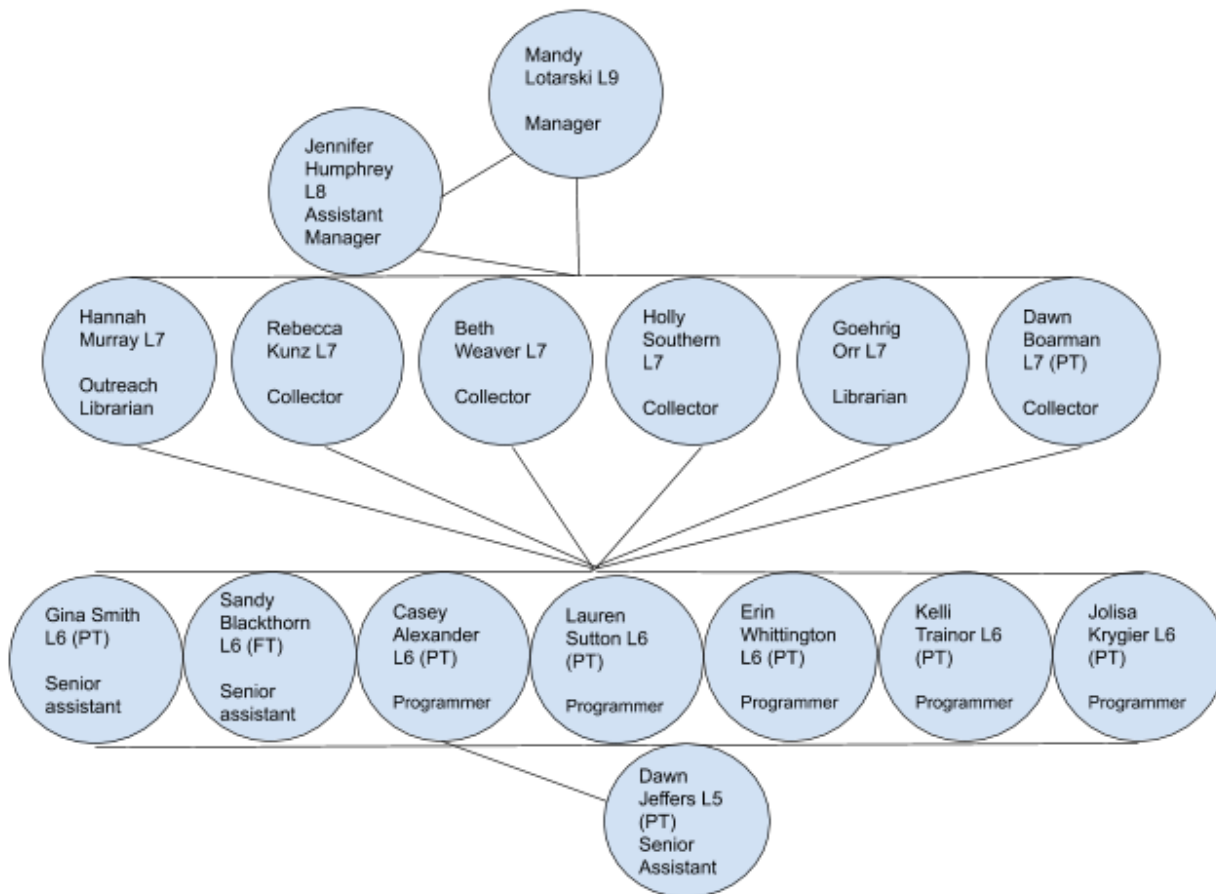
- Rowland Design: our principle architects, Bob and Sara Schwartzkopf, and designer Paul Sinclair. They collectively helped us expand our thinking and expectations of what the space could be and ultimately became.
- CTI Construction: Dave Ford and Tony McClurg. They ensured a smooth process in building the space and quickly developed a good rapport with our staff, Rowland Design, and later with Stenz Construction.
- Stenz Construction: Leo Stenz, for running a great company and for personally being with us from the beginning to finish of the project, and to our Project Manager, Cameron Norris, who not only efficiently oversaw construction, but at times served as our ambassador to curious residents as they walked by as the space was being developed.
- The Village of West Clay: Jeff Terp and his team have been enormously helpful and welcoming during our process of creating the new library.
- The City of Carmel: Mayor Brainard, Jeff Worrell, Ron Carter, and the entire City Council have been supportive and enthusiastic about our new branch.
- Clay Township: thank you in particular to Matt Snyder and Mary Eckhart for their support and input.
- The Carmel Clay Public Library Foundation: thank you to Elizabeth Hamilton, the entire foundation board, and all of the foundation supporters who make it possible for our great library to continue to reach for the stars.
- The Carmel Clay Public Library Board of Directors: thank you for your vision and leadership.

- Jim and Joyce Winner: may this branch honor the memory of Joyce Winner for years to come.

Youth Services

In this year of change, we are re-evaluating many assumptions. We anticipate our Reference Department and Audiovisual Department to merge following renovations and become the Adult Services Department. Before that however, our Children & Youth Services Department has conducted an internal review and we have decided on a name change. Because we are preparing to launch a new web site, we believe that the timing is good. Very shortly, the department will be renamed: Youth Services.

Here is a current org chart for the department:





Here are some other happenings from the Youth Services department:

We think the new display by the front desk has been very successful. Books are flying off the shelf here!



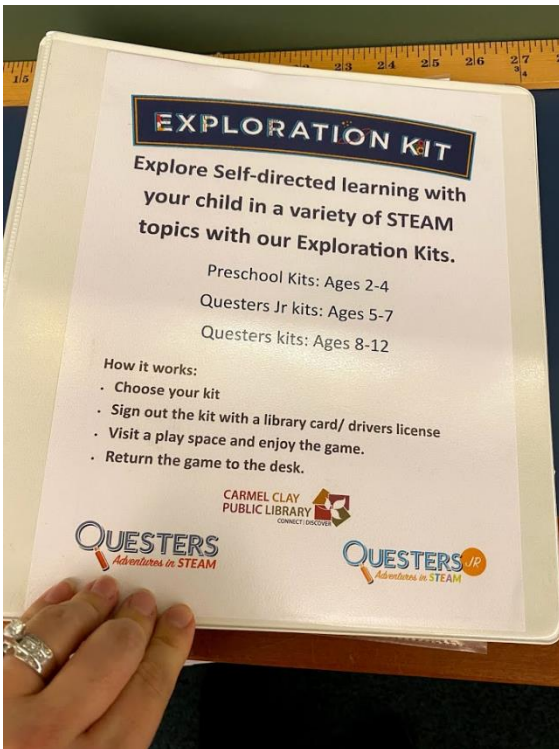
We also have a new Chapter Book display, located near Bob the dog. Patrons are also reportedly loving grabbing books from this display.

In fact, our staff are constantly developing interesting displays and themes. A forthcoming display will be in collaboration with the Eva Kor day declared by Governor Holcomb on January 27.



We have created exploration kits (geared toward preschool, school age, and 8-12 -Questers-aged children) as an on-your-own activity. YS Manager Mandy Lotarski explains "we thought this would be a wonderful thing to introduce now, as it may be something that will help us as we transition into a new, temporary space. They have been very well received so far!"





Thanks to all of our Youth Services staff for the wonderful work they do every day at our library!



Pictured left: a Paws to Read program in November, 2019.

Project Update

Kevin Huse and Antone Sgro from RATIO will present an updated version of our project at our meeting. We will see new design elements that emphasize the corner of Fourth and Main. I have viewed this as a significant improvement from earlier drafts, both in terms of design aesthetics and functionally.

We continue to explore options for a temporary location with the Veridus Group. We will report on our progress at our Monday meeting.