

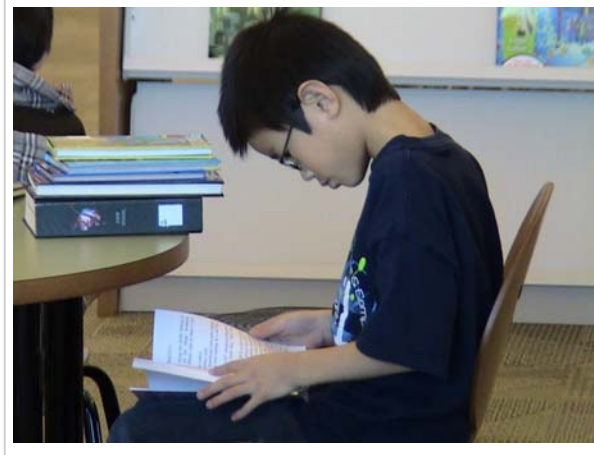
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City officials commemorate opening of new library

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Thursday saw the grand opening of the John and Judy Gay Library, McKinney's second public library facility. A morning ceremony included speeches from Mayor Brian Loughmiller, City Manager Frank Ragan and the library's namesake couple before patrons filed in to enjoy an expansive collection of books and DVDs.



The library had a soft opening previously, and already its shelves are seeing plenty of activity. Among the most popular items is the kids series *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, of which the library has multiple copies, and a collection of movies that Library Manager Lisa Bailey expects to empty soon despite its thousand plus count. Many of these items may end up in McKinney's other public library, as the John and Judy Gay Library will share material with the Roy and Helen Hall Memorial Library

The city's new library was built in an environmentally conscience fashion with such features as insulated glass to reduce heating and cooling loads, sensor controlled valves on sinks and toilets in the restrooms, sensor controlled lighting in offices and conference rooms, and recycled materials in furniture and fixtures.

Bailey said visitors to the John and Judy Gay library have given plenty of positive feedback.

"They're full of nice things to say, because they've been watching it being built," she said. "People in this area are very excited that we've opened. The kids in the area are starting to come over after school, the ones who go to Evans [Middle School] right across the street, and also families with their kids after school."

Among the unique aspects of the library are a section devoted entirely to teenagers, a quiet room where visitors can work silently or pick from a selection of magazines and newspapers housed inside, and a self-service internet station that requires only a library card for use. The replacement of a library card earned the facility its first dollar, which staff members joked about framing before ultimately placing in the register.

Among the libraries other features is a family talk and play room where parents can read to their children or hold conversations as their children play. The room was originally planned for story-time events that cannot take place because of limited staff.