

DAILY NEWS

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An employee of John Ball Zoo shares details about an African tortoise during a Summer Reading Program presentation on Thursday morning at the new Timothy C. Hauenstein Reynolds Township Library program center in Howard City. — DN Photo | Elisabeth Waldon

'An exciting chapter'

Reynolds Township
Library has room
to grow with new
program center

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HOWARD CITY — Presentations involving live animals are always the most popular part of the Summer Reading Program hosted by the Timothy C. Hauenstein Reynolds Township Library.

Thursday morning's program presented by employees of John Ball Zoo was no different, with an estimated 150 children and adults in attendance to learn about an African tortoise, a giant African millipede, an American toad and an Everglades ratsnake (with some brave kids daring to pet the snake).

There was a noticeable difference in the room this summer: Instead of being packed like sardines in standing room only, at-



An employee of John Ball Zoo holds an Everglades ratsnake during a Summer Reading Program presentation on Thursday morning at the new Timothy C. Hauenstein Reynolds Township Library program center in Howard City. — DN Photo | Elisabeth Waldon

tendees reveled in a new, more spacious area.

That's because the library has a new program center across town, a former church building at 121 S. Lincoln St. in Howard City.

"This is great," said excited Library Youth Director Autumn Wood as she handed out stickers to children coming into the build-

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Alice Waldon, age 1, holds the hand of her cousin Anna Kool, 12, both of Winfield Township as they walk out of the new Timothy C. Hauenstein Reynolds Township Library program center after a Summer Reading Program presentation on Thursday morning. The new center at 121 S. Lincoln St. in Howard City will have its official grand opening on July 26. — DN Photo | Elisabeth Waldon

Reynolds Township Library program center

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ing. "In our other room at the library, we used to be just squished in there with people having to go out and stand in the hallway. In here, everyone can spread out and be comfortable."

The new program center has a fresh coat of brick red color on the exterior and is currently undergoing renovations inside in preparation of the facility's grand opening at 10 a.m. on July 26. Community members are invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour the repurposed building.

"This new facility represents an exciting chapter in the library's ongoing commitment to providing expanded educational, cultural and community programming for residents of all ages," Library Director Cheryl Smith said. "The Program Center will serve as a hub for library events, workshops, youth and teen activities and community meetings. We are thrilled to open the doors to our new Program Center. This space will allow us to better serve the growing needs of our community and offer more diverse and engaging programming throughout the year."

The program center's grand opening on July 26 takes place the same day as the library's fourth annual Food Truck Rally and Craft Show, which will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ensley Park, 518 E. Shaw St. The Friends of the Library group will also hold a book



Jesse Waldon, 4, of Winfield Township pets an Everglades ratsnake with the assistance of employees from John Ball Zoo during the presentation. — DN Photo | Elisabeth Waldon

sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day at the new program center.

The fourth annual Howard City Car Show sponsored by Frontline Towing & Recovery and Mooney's Autobody Experts of Howard City will also take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 26 on Shaw Street, featuring tuner class judging, top 40 awards, best in show, cash and prize giveaways and more, with all proceeds benefiting the library.

For more information about the car show, call Frontline at (989) 287-2278.

For more information about Reynolds Township Library, visit www.tchrtl.org or call the library at (231) 937-5575.



Connor Laesser, 8, of Newaygo raises his hand to ask a question next to his great-grandmother, Nancy Scharphorn of Newaygo, and his brother, Hudson Laesser, 5, of Newaygo during the John Ball Zoo presentation. — DN Photo | Elisabeth Waldon