

# spark

## The Revolution Continues



**ANYTHINK  
HURON  
STREET  
NOW OPEN**

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**ANYTHINK  
HURON  
STREET**

GRAND OPENING  
February 6, 2010  
1 - 6 pm

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Spark is what's created when Anythink customers walk into our libraries – it's a spark of creativity, of imagination and interest. Anythinkers offer the fuel.

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Cover photo is of Kiara Ericka Allsbrow, 3, of Thornton. Photo by Kent Meireis.

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**Find Your Local Anythink**

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303.644.3303

**Anythink Brighton**  
327 E. Bridge Street • Brighton, CO 80601  
303.659.2572

**Anythink Commerce City temporary services:  
Derby Resource Center**  
7270 Monaco Street • Commerce City, CO 80022  
303.287.0063

**Anythink Huron Street**  
9417 Huron Street • Thornton, CO 80260  
303.452.7534

**Anythink Perl Mack**  
7611 Hilltop Circle • Denver, CO 80221  
303.428.3576

**Anythink Thornton**  
8992 Washington Street • Thornton, CO 80229  
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Visit us at [Anythinklibraries.org](http://Anythinklibraries.org)

# A Letter From the Director

*“Good design begins with honesty, asks tough questions, comes from collaboration and from trusting your intuition.” – Freeman Thomas*

Just a few short years ago, the taxpayers supported a mill levy increase for the Rangeview Library District to expand our library services for our community. In 2006, we were the poorest-funded district in Colorado. Rangeview Library District is now the second-lowest funded district, with Aurora Public Library funding at the lowest. To our dismay, the Aurora Library System had to close libraries this year due to lack of funding. This is all too close to home, as it could have been our own library system if our community hadn't supported the increase.

With the opening of the Anythink Huron Street, we now have three beautiful new libraries including the Bennett and Brighton sites. Our grand opening for Wright Farms is scheduled for July 10, 2010. Commerce City is currently closed for renovation, Perl Mack will close for renovation this summer and we are working on the renovation for Thornton. By this time next year, all of our facilities will be finished and open for Adams County residents.

The positive reaction from our com-



*Quinton Feast, 8, in the trees at Anythink Huron Street.*

munity has been heartwarming. At last our library buildings are providing the support that our staff and community deserve. The design of our libraries has come about from a collaboration of our architects, interior designers, project manager and staff design teams. At every decision point, we have opted to provide the highest quality product that our budget would support. The team worked diligently to design and build libraries that people would fall in love with. The results are libraries that are

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# Imagination Station at Niver Creek



*Anythink Huron Street, the district's newest library, opened on Saturday, Feb. 6, to a crowd of over 1,800 visitors. Located at the intersection of Conifer and Huron streets, the new library has over 60,000 materials in the 25,000-square-foot space.*

Anythink Huron Street exemplifies what a library of the future can be. With its quiet hideaways, tree houses, comfortable furniture and outstanding customer service, it is a true testament to what's possible in library service.

Leading up to the opening of the new library, children's guide Sandy Elliot would tell customers, "You're gonna be so proud of the new library." She feels it's a true indication of what the community is worth. On Saturday, Feb. 6, the community got to see for itself the unique new facility. Amidst the laser light show, ice sculptor, gaming and more, over 1,800 people checked out over 2,300 materials in the five-hour period the library was open.

"We try to transfer the excitement we have to the people who walk through the door," says concierge Bill Zorack, a long-time employee with the district. He likes to emphasize to customers that the library is theirs. "Staff's ownership is transferred to customers' library," he says. "Sometimes I tell people, 'These are your bookshelves. You don't have to have bookshelves at home.'"

Hands down, staff agree that the biggest improvement over the previous location is accessibility. There was no elevator at the old location, so people with strollers or in wheelchairs who wanted to find something on the bottom floor had to circle around outside to access the collection or the computers downstairs. With the

sometimes-brutal Colorado weather, this wasn't very customer friendly.

At the new 25,000-square-foot facility, everything is on one level. There are 52 computers, including 18 in the new computer lab, where classes begin this month. The accessibility to computers is a huge asset to the community and directly affects people's lives. One gentleman came into the library to apply for a job. A truck driver who had never used a computer before, the library staff helped him by showing him basic tools so he could apply for the job.

There are more and more instances now where children are showing their ESL parents how to use the computer.

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*Kyla, right, her sister Sage and their grandmother Judy Mares play with the plasma ball on display at the Anythink Huron Street grand opening.*

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Apart from being a musician and working at the library, Zorack loves fixing up cars. He uses the library's auto databases ALLDATA and Chilton frequently. "One shop tip that was so easy saved me over \$1,000 had I taken my car into the shop," says Zorack. A Huron Street customer told him that ALLDATA helps him stay in business because he could never afford the database on his own.

"In many ways, we've had to turn into a survivalist library," says Sandra Sebas, Anythink Huron Street manager. She explained that more and more, the resources provided at the library are helping families survive. Free family programming, computer access, and experiences like Gifts from the Heart, where families can make their own gifts for the holidays, provide necessary resources for families during tough times.

"Libraries are the modern-day dining room table," says Lisa Wilson, communications specialist with the City

of Thornton. "They're a wonderful place to gather, meet people, find new interests, further your education, or find a new job. It doesn't matter who you are or what you're interested in; you can go to the library, pull up a chair and find what you're looking for."

The demographics have shifted along with the library's new location. Just a couple miles north, they served an older, more established community. At the new location, there are many more families in the surrounding neighborhoods. The statistics prove this to be true. Even with the library only being open for three weeks in February, usage among children under 18 doubled last month. Check out of easy readers was up 66 percent over last year. Graphic novels for adults and children are up ten times as much, with teen graphic novels up 500 percent.

Teens, families and older folks can now practically walk right up to the doorstep of the library from the Niver Creek Trail. However, it's more than neighbors who are now accessing the Huron Street library. Usage from Federal Heights cardholders more than doubled in February since the library's opening. Dara Schmidt, teen guide at Anythink Huron Street,

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*Anythinkers from the new Huron Street library, pictured here, were thrilled to show off their new space. Leading up to the opening, children's guide Sandy Elliot often told customers, "You're gonna be so proud of the new library."*

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says that on Saturday, March 6, one month after the library opened, she personally signed up 25 library cards from people in Thornton, Northglenn, Federal Heights and Westminster.

Schmidt leads the library's Creative Writing Group, and at their first meeting at the new library she took them on a tour of the facility. "They knew it would be functional but not this beautiful," she says. In addition to the materials and programs, "The available space at the new library, including meeting rooms and the conference room, provide an invaluable service to the community."

The functional features of the library help make it a vital asset to the community, but it's the whimsy in the place that really sparks the imagination of those who walk through its doors. The 20-foot-tall tree houses at the entrance to the children's area symbolize just how vast one's imagination can be. Using motion-sensors for sound and projection, each tree will contain a different experience – the night sky, a frog pond, and a mountain scene. The children's area itself includes puzzles, toys and pillows so untraditional learners have an opportunity to play and grow.

With an increase of 40 percent for DVD checkouts, and music CDs up 500 percent over last year, it's not just the kids who are having fun. Overall, circulation for February was up 30 percent – even with the library only open three weeks.

The district owes a lot to the people of Adams County who voted for

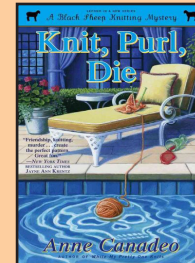
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## New Books: Check 'Em Out

March is National Craft Month. Learn a new craft with these great books available at Anythink.

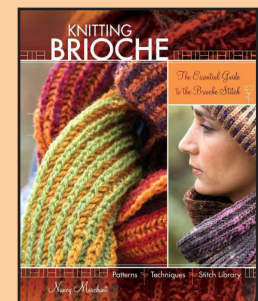
### ADULT

*Knit, Purl, Die*  
by Anne Canadeo



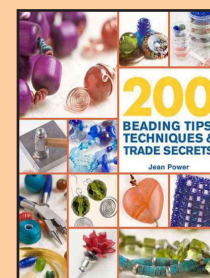
*How to Sew a Button: And Other Nifty Things Your Grandmother Knew*  
by Erin Bried

*Knitting Brioche: The Essential Guide to the Brioche Stitch*  
by Nancy Marchant



*Sew Liberated: 20 Stylish Projects for the Modern Sewist*  
by Meg McElwee

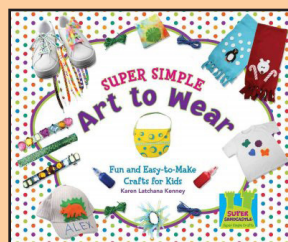
*200 Beading Tips Techniques & Trade Secrets*  
by Jean Power



### CHILDREN/TEEN

*Super Simple Art to Wear: Fun and Easy-to-Make Crafts for Kids*

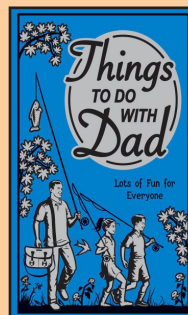
by Karen Latchana Kenney



*Easy Origami*  
by Mary Meinking

*Things to Do with Dad: Lots of Fun for Everyone*

by Chris Stevens; illustrated by A.J. Garces; with additional illustrations by David Woodroffe; edited by Rachel Carter



*Rock Your Room with Crafts*  
by Tracy Nelson Maurer

*Sort-of-Difficult Origami*  
by Chris Alexander



# The Glue That Holds It Together



*Justin Sager, Owner's Representative with Wember, Inc.*

When embarking on the ambitious feat of building four new libraries – plus three renovations – in a two-year span, it's imperative to have someone to hold it all together. That person for Rangeview Library District is Justin Sager, owner's representative with Wember, Inc. He ensures that the library's best interests are considered with every construction decision made. His great sense of humor and sharp mind has made him successful at one of the toughest jobs in the district.

Growing up, Sager lived in a construction household and was always building things. He attended San Diego State for his bachelor's in finance and obtained his graduate degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology. "I spent the better part of my existence in Chicago," he says, but just celebrat-

ed his three-year anniversary here in Colorado.

After graduate school, he worked in real estate and development, then architecture for a few years, before shifting gears. While he was working for a large architectural firm, a friend suggested he try project management work instead. He ended up working with two large libraries in Chicago.

"I found library clients to be more interested and interesting than you find in other project work," says Sager. He likes how they seem to engage good contractors and good designers on their projects, too. Several years ago now, a colleague forwarded one of Paul Wember's ads to him regarding a position opening in Colorado.

"Colorado has many appealing

qualities," and Sager was ready for a change. He jumped at the opportunity and moved here to work on the Rangeview Library District project. At the time, Wember and Sager were a two-man team. Since then, the company has grown to six.

As owner's rep, Sager's responsibilities include handling all matters concerning contracts, finances, and performance of contractors for all aspects of the district's building program.

"The challenge is keeping the entire project within the constraints we have to work with – owner requirements, money and time," says Sager. "The thing I like about my job is that no two days look alike." One day he could be discussing budgets with the finance director while the next he's

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*Above, the interior of the main library at Anythink Wright Farms. The 45,000-square-foot flagship branch is scheduled to open July 2010. This facility, located at 120th Ave. and Holly St. in Thornton, will also house the district's administrative offices.*

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bouncing from the Wright Farms site to Commerce City.

“I’m required to move from big picture to minute details,” and back again, he says. “And I get to interact with a lot of people going from job to job, the architect’s office, meeting with vendors and subcontractors.”

A large part of Sager’s job is risk management. “You have to stay one step ahead and anticipate what could go wrong.

“Finding the right people is more than half the battle,” says Sager. He feels it’s more than a coincidence the district found great contractors like Fransen Pittman or Azar’s Woodcraft, who has custom-built wood shelving for the Brighton and Huron Street libraries. Partners like these have contributed to the success of Anythink libraries and have helped the district achieve its goal of creating warm, welcoming, sustainable spaces for Adams County residents.

Corporate construction projects are quite different than building public facilities, he says. There’s a formula for everything, and “not everything lends itself to one line.” For instance, things like the rotunda at Anythink Brighton or the odd projecting corner like the prow at Anythink Huron Street wouldn’t be accepted as easily on a corporate project, he says. But to Sager, those are the features that make these libraries unique.

Geothermal heating and cooling at the Bennett and Brighton libraries is one of the great sustainable features Sager feels people should know about. Because the systems are hidden beneath the parking lots, most

people don’t know about them, but they’re important to the buildings’ sustainability. There are high costs up front for these kinds of systems, he says. “It takes a leap of faith.”

The Rangeview capitol construction project has been different from other projects he’s worked on, but “the main difference isn’t the building or the design process; it’s the philosophy of the administrative team.” He describes them as thoughtful, intelligent, involved and fun. “It’s a cliché in the architectural world, but great clients make great projects. I like working for great clients.

“If I was rich I’d do this job for nothing,” he says. “That’s how much I like it.”



Facilities Manager Doug Squires, left, and Justin Sager discuss operations at Anythink Huron Street.

## FYI:

### New Online Features

Anythinklibraries.org continues to grow and offer new and creative services to help customers experience something different at Anythink online. Check out these new features.

### Get a Card

Don’t have an Anythink card yet? Go to the Get a Card link on the home page to sign up. Immediately, customers can access online databases and e-books/audiobooks offerings with a temporary barcode number. After filling out the form, bring a photo ID to the service desk at your local Anythink or Anythink in Motion to pick from several fun designs and colors.

### What is Anythink Worth to You?

With thousands of books, movies, music, online offerings and unique programming, Anythink has something for everyone. Now there’s a way to calculate just how much a person spends out of pocket for these services. Visit the Anythink calculator on the Catalog page to see how much you save each visit.

### Donate to the Friends Foundation

From a link on our home page, supporters can now submit contributions to the Rangeview Library Friends Foundation online. Donations help make Anythink libraries even better by funding exceptional programs, public art and the purchase of quality materials.

# Events Not to Miss

## TCM: Federal Heights - Your Tri-Cities Moment

On the last weekday of the month one of our Tri-City partners, Federal Heights, Northglenn or Thornton, will join us to share important information about our city services and citizen responsibilities. We might demonstrate a radon detector, hand out maps to snow plow routes, or discuss an upcoming issue affecting our daily lives as north suburban residents. This month, Robert Smith, Federal Heights Economic Development Officer, leads the discussion.

*Anythink Huron Street*  
Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 10 am  
9417 Huron Street  
Thornton, CO 80260



## RSS Feeds

Set up automatic notifications from websites to have updates on job postings, news, or book reviews sent directly to you.

*Anythink Brighton*  
Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 7 pm  
327 E. Bridge St.  
Brighton, CO 80601

## Fancy Nancy Tea Party

Come to the library dressed to the nines for a fun tea party afternoon. Geared to children ages 5-10. Space is limited; registration required. Please ask at the service desk.

*Anythink Bennett*  
Saturday, April 17, 2 pm  
495 Seventh St.  
Bennett, CO 80102



*For a complete listing of Anythink events, visit [anythinklibraries.org](http://anythinklibraries.org)*

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filled with light, color, comfortable furniture, new technology and spaces for people to enjoy.

We believe that our citizens deserve the best libraries to support their desire for education, ideas, research and lifelong learning. As one customer walking into the Anythink Huron Street noted: "I can't believe how drop-dead gorgeous this is!" Gorgeous is just the beginning. Wait until you discover the brand new books, movies, music, programs, science exhibits and tree sculptures. This is just the beginning for our new libraries. We hope you love them.

*Pam Sandlian Smith*

### Huron Street from page 5

the funding that made Anythink Huron Street possible – creating a new regional gathering place that honors both the beauty and power of the imagination. The new library can now give back to all those who supported the district. "We're keeping our promise – more than keeping our promise," says Zorack. If the thousands of people walking through the library's doors each week are any indication, it's true – and they're worth it.

When you're done reading SPARK, share with a friend, give back to your librarian or recycle.



Helping to bring sparks to your Anythink is the Rangeview Library District Board of Trustees:

**Kay Riddle, President**  
**Dot Lindsey, Vice President**  
**Ray Coffey, Treasurer**  
**Debra Neiswonger, Secretary**  
**Linda Wisniewski**

The board meets monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 5 pm. Locations vary and are published at [anythinklibraries.org](http://anythinklibraries.org). Meetings are open to the public.