



A SPECIAL NOTICE FROM **FRIENDS OF THE OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**
AND THE EDITORS OF **OFF THE SHELF**

FALL 2009

Lifelong Learning Is Coming to East Oakland!



EAST OAKLAND COMMUNITY LIBRARY AT 81ST AVENUE
[GROUP 4 ARCHITECTURE, RESEARCH AND PLANNING]

A new public library, serving also as a school library for two public elementary schools, will bring important new informational and community-building resources to East Oakland.

Article by
Tracy Baxter

In 2010, local families will have a new, state-of-the-art library in which to explore new ideas, find literacy and informational assistance, and come together for fun community activities in a safe, supportive environment.

Urban libraries bring enormous benefits to the communities they serve. The East Oakland Community Library at 81st Avenue, which at 21,000 sq. ft. will be the largest branch library in the Oakland library system, will offer programs and services essential to the continued growth and well-being of this rapidly changing neighborhood.

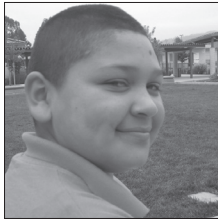
A joint partnership of the Oakland Unified School District and the Oakland Public Library, the East Oakland Community Library at 81st Avenue will meet the needs of the young and old alike, with class visits and after-school programming for the students of ACORN Woodland Elementary School, EnCompass Academy (located on the same site), and 11 other neighboring schools; and print material, a computer lab, an Internet cafe, and access to other information technologies for the general public.



What Will They Check Out First?

Kids and Parents Can't Wait for the Grand Opening

JOSE

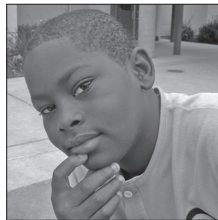


FAVORITE READ: **THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK**

WHY: **ANNE FRANK LIVED A VERY HARD LIFE. I WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HER.**

Article and photos by Tracy Baxter

KALEN



FAVORITE READ: **I LIKE THE HARRY POTTER BOOKS THE MOST.**

WHY: **I LIKE THAT HE HELPS PEOPLE, AND TEACHES KIDS NOT TO BE MEAN AND NOT TO FIGHT AT SCHOOL.**

NATALIE



FAVORITE READ: **I DON'T HAVE ANY FAVORITES. I LIKE THEM ALL!**

As opening day for the East Oakland Community Library at 81st Avenue approaches, local school children look ever more longingly at the construction site imagining the day they'll walk through the library's doors. Three passionate readers from EnCompass Academy, Kalen, Natalie, and Jose, are especially eager to put their library cards to use.

What will they check out first? Jose is big on bugs. "I want to do research on a project about larvae to see how they become ladybugs. I want to study about larvae *and* worms."

Lately, Kalen has been inspired by

tales of the past. "We have an after-school program that teaches history," he says, "so I want to learn about ancient Africa, ancient Greece and Native Americans."

Natalie files summaries on every book she reads. She's made the leap to books with multiple chapters and is fast depleting the selection on the shelves of her current school library. "I can't wait for the new library to open so I can get to work."

Getting to work won't be as difficult for Natalie and other students at ACORN Woodland and EnCompass Academy as it has been in the past. Built on the same campus as their schools, the library and its many resources will be mere steps away on school days, and just a few blocks' walk or bike ride from their homes on weekends.

And kids aren't the only ones

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What Will They Check Out First?

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ESPERANZA



WHY THE LIBRARY MATTERS TO HER: IT'LL HELP OUR KIDS SO THEY'RE PREPARED WHEN THEY'RE OUT IN THE WORLD.

WHY THE LIBRARY MATTERS TO HER: EVERYBODY IN THE COMMUNITY CAN KEEP LEARNING.



ANA

excited by the possibilities. Ana, a parent who volunteers at the school, relishes the idea of stacks of books, plus computers, reading rooms, and even a café being available to her when her busy schedule allows. "I want to take advantage of the library

as often as possible to learn more about what's going on in the world," she says. "It'll be great to see people actively using the library and getting involved, not only in their kids' education but also for personal growth."

Esperanza, another volunteer mom at the school, agrees. She says, "The library gives the whole community a way to learn and grow. The more we come and visit, the better it will be for all of us. It's a big help that it'll be so close to our homes and our schools."



Article by Tracy Baxter
Photo by Elaine Joe

A Bewy of Programs and Services

Is any public institution a more welcome presence than a library?

Because of their broad appeal, libraries contribute enormously to human and economic development in transitioning communities.

The assortment of programs and services planned for the 81st Avenue branch will give residents of all ages, abilities, and interests critical resources to find jobs or new businesses opportunities, further their education, share community concerns, and tap the informational streams of the digital age.

Here's just a sampling of offerings for 81st Avenue branch visitors to use and enjoy.

- Books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, kits, and electronic collections for all ages and reading levels for enjoyment, learning, and enrichment
- Spanish-language collections for children and adults
- Learning support for 11 neighborhood schools, including class visits, after-school study and activities, and homework assistance
- Public Internet access and computer training classes
- Resources and services for visitors with physical challenges
- Resources and services for monolingual-Spanish speakers and those with limited literacy skills
- Programming for seniors
- Tutoring, mentoring and study support for teens
- Pre-school and family activities and events
- Streamlined, more convenient library operations, including self-check



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{ Great news about the state-of-the-art 81st Avenue branch library inside! }

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