

For Immediate Release  
**Saturday, August 9, 2008**

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## **South San Jose Community Celebrates Opening of New, Expanded Pearl Avenue Branch Library** *New Branch is Nearly Double the Size of the Original*

SAN JOSE, Calif. — San Jose residents gathered Saturday to celebrate the opening of a 14,000 sq. ft. community library at 4270 Pearl Ave., that virtually doubles the size of the original library occupying the site from 1971 to 2006. Following the dedication ceremony that included remarks from city and library officials, residents were able to explore the library and enjoy free entertainment and activities for kids.

“Thanks to our residents’ support, San Jose has been able to build new branch libraries throughout the city,” said Mayor Chuck Reed. “I am delighted that the new Pearl Branch Library will be providing an important community gathering place for residents of all ages.”

The expanded Pearl Avenue Branch Library will feature an Internet café; living room with a fireplace; technology center; teen room; group and quiet study areas; a community room that will accommodate 50 persons; and ample space for more seating, collections, and computers. On-site parking will accommodate 55 vehicles, in addition to nearby street parking.

### **AT A GLANCE**

- Building Size: 14,000 sq. ft.
- Computers: 24
- Seats: 84
- Group Study Area: 6 persons
- Quiet Study Area: 6 persons
- Storytelling Area: 25 persons
- Community Room: 50 persons
- Parking: 55 spaces (3 ADA)

“The Pearl Avenue Library is a wonderful place for all ages to enjoy,” said District 9 Councilmember Judy Chirco. “I want to thank everyone who helped make this great community asset so beautiful.”

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The library is sited to preserve many of the larger perimeter trees opening up the library to a viewing garden. This creates a visual connection to nature that is reinforced by the interior finish patterns and colors. The project design by Anderson Brulé Architects, Inc. is based upon green building principles outlined by the U.S. Green Building Council's "LEED" rating system, exemplified by the following aspects:

- Infiltration basins in the parking lot swale in the rear garden to treat the site water and roof run-off, which reduce storm water and pollutants entering the Bay Area water system
- Low-E glazing, wall insulation and roof insulation, plus vertical fins deflecting low afternoon sun all contribute to temperature maintenance and energy conservation
- Use of green materials in construction (e.g., Forest Stewardship Council certified (FSC) wood, recycled content)
- Sealants, paints, carpeting and cabinetry substrates selected specifically to reduce the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the building
- Recycling of the majority of waste from the project

Public art by Lynn Goodpasture fuses elements of ancient civilization and green technology. The artwork includes four colorful art glass windows located in the Library Children's area, each with imagery drawn from ancient alphabets, and a suspended glass lamp near the Library entrance. Photovoltaic cells on the exterior of the four panes collect solar energy which provides the power that illuminates the lamp.

The \$9.3 million facility, completed by Bogard Construction, Inc., is the twelfth library to be completed using funds from local bond measures approved in 2000 by San Jose voters. The project was completed **\$1 million under budget**. Generous contributions from the local community helped to furnish the interior, providing furniture and equipment. Like Edenvale and Joyce Ellington before it, the Pearl Avenue project is the recipient of a \$50,000 grant from AT&T, part of an overall pledge of \$200,000 to the San José Public Library Foundation branch fundraising campaign ([www.sjplf.org/campaign.html](http://www.sjplf.org/campaign.html)) and the single largest corporate donation to date.

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The Branch Library Bond Measure provides \$212 million over 10 years dedicated to the construction of six new and 14 expanded libraries in San Jose. At this stage, the Branch Bond Development Program is well advanced with 12 projects completed, and seven others in various phases of design and construction. The expanded Willow Glen branch library is also expected to open later this month on August 23.

Pearl Avenue Branch Library is located at 4270 Pearl Avenue in San Jose. Library hours are: Monday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Library services are available online 24 hours a day, everyday, at **[www.sjlibrary.org](http://www.sjlibrary.org)**. For more information, call (408) 808-3053.

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