

CONSTRUCTION

Groundbreaking held for Yolo Branch Library

By Robyn Dobson

rdobson@dailydemocrat.com

In December 1910, the Yolo Branch Library was established as just a small reading room.

The dilapidated state of the reading room led to the construction of the official Yolo Branch Library just eight years later after community members banded together to secure \$300 to buy the land. For over 100 years, that library served the rural communities of Yolo, Zamora and Dunnigan providing library services, education opportunities and programs aligned with the needs of the community.

In 2018, the building of the library was condemned due to structural and other concerns, so Yolo County began plans for the construction of a whole new library. In the meantime, they operated out of a temporary modular building at the site.

On Tuesday morning, Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza led the presentation on the official groundbreaking of the new Yolo Branch Library.

"The new library is intended to have the look and feel of the existing Yolo County branch building but in a much better way and able to serve people in a much better way," Provenza said.

The new 4,000-square-foot facility, which is located at 37750 Sacramento Street in Yolo, will be committed to literacy, education and lifetime learning,



WMB ARCHITECTS — COURTESY

An exterior rendering of the new Yolo Branch Library.

Provenza explained.

The building will host welcoming spaces for children, teens and adults, a large community room, quiet spaces and study rooms, free Wi-Fi, public use computers, and a network copier and printer. In addition, there will be an updated collection of library materials in both English and Spanish, ADA accessible buildings and a covered outdoor area.

"We could have easily moved the library, moved onto another project and looked at different ways to service the Yolo residents," said Supervisor Angel Barajas. "But, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors along with staff and the commu-

nity members decided to reinvest in this community, reinvest in a library to provide educational services to all of the residents here in Yolo but also in the region such as Dunnigan, Zamora and the students in Cache Creek here and that is monumental."

"It's all about rebuilding the community to ensure that these services don't just last another decade or two but for centuries to come," Barajas continued.

The design for the library relied heavily on extensive community discussion and involvement to ensure the services of the library reflected the vision created by residents. Designers were commit-

ted to keeping the traditional feel of the library, which is often referred to as the "living room of the community" by community members, while also including innovative ideas to offer library services in a whole new way, according to County Librarian Mark Fink.

"There will be plenty of space for folks to socialize, learn something new, enjoy a quiet moment reading their favorite book either in print or on their device or use VR technology that we will be making available in our facility," Fink said.

The grand opening of the new library is set to take place next year.