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Local News

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East Palo Alto dedicates its new senior center

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

EAST PALO ALTO — Friday was a day of joy for East Palo Alto, with the dedication of the new Senior Citizens Center.

The joy flowed in like the sunlight from the center's new patio. It grew from the warm hugs and handshakes among the seniors themselves, and from the voice of Issac Stevenson, who sang for the group of more than 100 persons gathered to dedicate the new facility.

It grew from the happy smiles of center director and East Palo Alto mayor Barbara Mouton and from the chairman of the center's board, Dr. Robert Walker.

"The center is a haven of safety for the senior citizens of this community," Mouton said during the ceremony. "It is a bridge linking seniors to seniors ... a safe, caring environment," she said.

Walker praised Mouton for "fighting in the trenches" to see the senior's dream become a reality.

"Without fighters like you, this couldn't have happened," he said of Mouton.

Members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and representatives of the federal Department of Housing and Community Development were on hand to join in the celebration.

The senior center, at 2120 Euclid Ave., is a renovated school building, leased from the Ravenswood City School District. The center features a large, brightly lit kitchen with storage and pantry space, adjoining a multi-purpose room. Across the hall is the office of the center's director and secretary, to be used for information and referral and transportation and outreach services.

The 3,788-square-foot center includes an activities room, a library and three smaller rooms. The multi-purpose room will be used for a popular exercise class, a current events class and the center's daily lunch program. It will also provide space for the Economic Opportunity Commission's Nutrition Program.



Times Tribune photo by Sam Forencich

East Palo Alto Mayor Barbara Mouton called the new Senior Citizens Center a "bridge linking seniors to seniors."