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The Signal
Letters to the Editor

Editor:

A new library in downtown Newhall will bring a number of benefits to our community. As the superintendent of schools in a district that includes the redevelopment area I was pleased to serve on the City's Newhall Library Committee because I knew a modern library would be a valuable asset for the Newhall area. I also write this letter as a parent of children who used the Newhall branch library and someone who was involved in bringing a small theatre to Old Town Newhall as part of the effort to draw people to the area.

Libraries have changed immensely since the Newhall library was built. A new library in downtown Newhall can serve not only as a resource for students and adults but also as a repository of the community's artifacts, a connection to cyberspace - and the wealth of resource that implies - and a community gathering place. As superintendent I envision a safe place where students can go after school hours for research, assistance, motivation, and guidance. I see a place that can establish beneficial partnerships with our elementary schools. As a parent I know that a pleasant and welcoming space with an up-to-date and expansive collection will further encourage community literacy. As a resident I know that the library will anchor a neighborhood revitalization that is sorely needed. A new library capping off Main Street will be a terrific municipal "bookend" to the City's Community Center at the middle of Old Town Newhall.

Anyone who has used the current Newhall branch library knows that, while doing the best with what they have, the facility is woefully undersized and antiquated. Libraries are resources that promote and enhance literacy and they communicate our community's values. It's time for an expansion and enhancement of the library that serves this part of town not only as a resource but as a statement of the community's priorities.

One of the things I asked at the first meeting of the library committee was whether funds are available to insure the project's construction. I was assured that funds were available and the City was committed. The community advisory group has provided its input. The sooner this project is realized, the sooner the community will benefit. Let's move!



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