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Spotlight on Construction: Hall County Prepares for Opening of Spout Springs Branch

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Residents welcome Henry County's new Fairview branch



From left: Stamey, Baker, Harper and Basler

Hundreds of area residents joined Henry County Public Library System employees, board members and numerous local officials on Oct. 21 to celebrate the grand opening of the system's new Fairview branch.

Dr. Gordon Baker, chairman of the library board, welcomed the crowd and thanked everyone who played a role in making the newest branch a reality. Commissioners Johnny Basler, Jason Harper and Randy Stamey joined Baker in the ribbon-cutting ceremony and in unveiling a commemorative bronze plaque by the entrance.

The 15,000-square-foot facility, which officially opened to the public Dec. 1, includes more than 20,000 books and magazines, and features sections for children, teens and adults. It is the system's fifth branch and is the first library the county has built outside of an incorporated area.

"This is an area that has never had a library facility," said Carolyn Fuller, system director, "and this was a community-driven project – one that would not have come to fruition without the diligent work of many community members." ►►

Hall County prepares for opening of Spout Springs branch

The Spout Springs Branch of the Hall County Library System is tentatively scheduled to open in late spring 2008. The budget for the project will total approximately \$6 million, the bulk of which will come from local SPLOST funds supplemented by a \$2 million state construction grant.

The facility will be located in Flowery Branch at the corner of Spout Springs Road and Lake Sterling Boulevard. The architectural firm for the project is Pope Partners of Roswell, and construction has been managed by Scroggs and Grizzel Contracting, Inc. of Gainesville.

The Spout Springs Branch is situated on five acres and is approximately 22,400 square feet, the second largest branch in the library system. It is anticipated the opening day collection will contain more than 40,000 items.

Some special highlights of the facility include a large computer lab, a dedicated storytime room, the Friends of the Library gift shop and coffeehouse, a lactation center for nursing mothers, a dividable meeting room, self check-out using RFID technology and a screened back porch.

Another exciting development is that the landscaping irrigation for the project will be gray water provided from a nearby county treatment plant. ►►



Above: In this November photo, workers have framed in the library's main entrance. Below: The Friends of the Library Coffeehouse and Cafe begins to take shape.

