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A Dream Fulfilled



East Palo Alto City Council member Ruben Abrica speaks at the opening festivities

The grand opening of the East Palo Alto Family YMCA was truly a gala event. It attracted city officials and city residents along with many of this area's rich and powerful. The opening festivities as well as the building itself were a testimonial to how much can be accomplished when area residents collaborate by putting their hearts and their resources into a worthwhile project.

“What an exciting day,” said East Palo Alto Palo Alto City Council member Pat Foster during the opening festivities. “It’s been a long, long time coming. We will celebrate today and keep celebrating,” she said.

The newly opened 32,280 square foot facility on Bell Street is located behind the East Palo Alto Senior Center. The groundwork for the building started seven years ago with a joint agreement between the City of East Palo Alto and the YMCA. In their agreement the city gave the YMCA a 55 year lease for its current site.

Mark Johnsen, the Major Gifts Chair for the Capital Campaign, told the events’ overflow crowd that the creation of the East Palo Alto Family YMCA was the result of 700 donors who contributed 17 million dollars.

In his opening remarks, city council member Ruben Abrica said, “I will do everything that I can in my power to keep working with the East Palo Alto Family YMCA to make it an even better place.”

For more on the East Palo Alto Family YMCA’s grand opening, see the upcoming edition of East Palo Alto Today.