

BOOK LOVERS, REJOICE



STAFF PHOTO BY BETH BLACK

The Miramar Branch Library housed in the Miramar Town Center complex recently celebrated its grand opening. Some of the library's offerings include books, research computers, DVDs, Japanese manga comics and video games for the PlayStation 2 and Wii.

New library opens at Miramar Town Center

By Chris Guanche
STAFF WRITER

Bright lights and spotless new books are waiting for visitors at the new Miramar Branch Library and Education Center.

The Sept. 25 opening of the library, at 2050 Civic Center Place, marked the comple-

tion of another project in the Miramar Town Center complex, which also includes a city hall, performing arts center and retail shopping. The first-floor library is one part of a 70,000-square-foot, three-story building that also houses campuses for Broward College and Nova Southeastern University.

The college campuses had already opened for the fall semester, making the library's opening the final piece of the puzzle.

Because of budgetary constraints, the county staffed the library with employees from other libraries instead of hiring new staff.

The library was packed

with city officials and curious residents at its opening ceremony.

"I can't tell you how excited I am about this library," said Commissioner Troy Samuels. "I love books and education. It opens the door to greater knowledge to all of us."

Commissioner Carl Lanke recalled the time he spent in libraries as a child and said

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he'd be making full use of a library close to his home.

"I have a high-schooler, middle-schooler and elementary-schooler that will all be using this [library]," he said.

The college campuses will also benefit the city, said Broward College President J. David Armstrong. One of the programs the college is offering at its campus will train new air traffic controllers. Armstrong said more than 600 students had al-

ready registered for courses at the campus, making it the most successful first semester for a new Broward College campus.

"We wanted to put a distinctive mark on this program," Armstrong said.

For residents, the library offers everything one would expect — books, research computers and DVDs.

For children, the library also offers a large selection of Japanese

manga comics and video games for the PlayStation 2 and Wii.

Resident Beatrice Carlo was impressed by what she'd seen so far as she browsed the library's DVD selection. Before the opening, Carlo used the libraries in Pembroke Pines.

"It's nice to have a library in your own community," she said.

With a library so close to home, Carlo said she'd be spending a lot of time there, both as a visitor

and a volunteer.

Browsing a rack of books for sale, Latanya Allick-Fields echoed the sentiment. Before, Allick-Fields said she would visit libraries in Pembroke Pines and Weston, but that's going to change.

"Wherever I am, I usually stop in to a library," she said.

For more information, visit www.broward.org/library.

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