



NEWS RELEASE

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Grand Opening To Celebrate New Shamblee Branch Library

The public is invited to enjoy music, art and more at the Ella Mae Gratts Shamblee Branch Library grand opening, set for 5:30 to 10 p.m. June 13.

The new branch, at 1062 Evans Ave., replaces the old structure and is named for the city's first African-American librarian. Three times larger than the old library, it's part of the Evans and Rosedale Business and Cultural District Revitalization Project.

Because history is alive in the Central City, the 76-year-old Tommy Tucker Building has been incorporated into the new library. It will provide a place for community meetings and events. The building originally housed Our Lady of Mercy School, attended by dozens of renowned Fort Worth residents. Vacant since 1978, the Tommy Tucker Building was purchased by the City of Fort Worth in 2001. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in August 2006.

The celebration is a joint effort of the Fort Worth Library, Our Mother of Mercy School and the Lenora Rolla Heritage Center and Museum. Entertainers will include the Polytechnic High School Concert Band, the Van Zandt-Guinn Elementary School Choir, saxophonist Jock Lewis, Kumassi African Dance and Drumming and classic rock by the Jessie Vick Band. "Her Story," a series of oral-history performances, will be presented at the Lenora Rolla Heritage Museum, 1016-1020 Humbolt Ave.

Former District 8 City Councilmember Ralph McCloud will serve as master of ceremonies. Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Hicks is among the scheduled speakers.

The new library features:

- 12,590 square feet
- 26 public computers
- free WiFi (wireless) Internet access
- self-service check-out
- community meeting room (seats 100) with catering kitchen
- art gallery
- more than 14,000 new books, CDs, DVDs and audio books
- African-American Heritage Collection
- Spanish-language Collection

- Coretta Scott King Award Book Collection
- stained glass window by local artist Letitia Huckaby entitled *35 City Blocks*, featuring an art-glass window with photographic images and a stone and tile floor mosaic
- reading garden
- *Living Legacy* digital display focusing on the area's history
- historic photograph display featuring the Our Lady of Mercy and Tommy Tucker schoolhouse

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