Leaders break ground

Lafayette City-Parish Councilmen Chris Williams, second from right, and Bruce Conque, right, break ground Friday at the future site of a Carencro branch of the Lafayette Public Library.

Facility will bring in new services.

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CARENCRO — The city took the next step in making its new public library a reality with a groundbreaking ceremony Friday afternoon.

City, parish and library officials kicked off the start of the more than $3.6 million project, expected to open in spring 2007. The North Regional library will be the first new library built in Lafayette Parish in the past 40 years, said Jeanie Kramer, president of the Library Board of Control.

"This groundbreaking marks a milestone for Carencro and celebrates the opening of a regional library that meets the needs of a more sophisticated public," Kramer said.

The current Carencro library is one of the more utilized libraries in the parish, and the little more than 1,200-square-foot building just doesn't meet the needs of a growing community, Carencro Mayor Glenn Brasseaux said.

"The new library will be a 10 times bigger building than what we have now. It gives the kids, the whole community really, space to read, to learn, to get a better education, and that's really one of the bigger purposes here," he said.

The 12,000-square-foot building will house an expanded book and audio-visual collection, as well as a children's storytelling room, 30 public access computers with Internet access, a drive-through pickup-and-return window, group study rooms and a genealogy section for research.

It will sit on four acres of land donated by the city with room for expansion, Brasseaux said.

"This library's impending construction reflects the community's optimistic future," said City-Parish President Joey Durel.

"The new library will add an expanded library that the community has been waiting for," Durel said. "It will be a real asset to the community."

The groundbreaking ceremony at the future site of the Carencro Branch of the Lafayette Public Library.

Carencro Mayor Glenn Brasseaux, right, shovels dirt Friday during the groundbreaking ceremony at the future site of a new Carencro branch of the Lafayette Public Library.

"There are a lot of good things happening in the northern part of the parish right now," he said. "It's time has come and the library will play an important role in the continued growth of the area and the community."

"Everything's kind of falling into place right now," he said. "It's great."