



**SACRAMENTO HOUSING
& REDEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**



**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
MUNICIPAL SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PARKS,
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE**

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Old Florin Town Revitalization Celebrated
*Restaurateur, philanthropist Eppie G. Johnson recognized
for contribution to the disabled*

Sacramento, Calif. – One of Sacramento’s leading champions for the disabled was recognized today at an event geared to celebrate the new home of the Sacramento County Therapeutic Recreation Service and the County’s commitment to revitalization of historic Old Florin Town.

The mid-morning event was held at Florin East Grammar School, a ceramic block-walled building originally built in 1916 and currently undergoing a foundation to roof-top renovation as part of the Old Florin Town Revitalization Project, an effort lead by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), in partnership with the Sacramento County Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space (DPROS). County officials, area residents and business leaders and former Florin East Grammar School students attended the event.



Last used as a school in 1952, the building will be the home of DPROS’ Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) and will be called the “Eppie G. Johnson Therapeutic Recreation Center at Florin East Grammar School.” Johnson, a local restaurateur and philanthropist, is a major TRS benefactor through funds raised by his annual athletic event: “The Great Race: The World’s Oldest Triathlon.

“Today we celebrate a new beginning for the Florin East Grammar School, the revitalization of the Old Florin Town district and to thank the region’s champion for physically disabled people. Thank you, Eppie,” Supervisor Don Notolli said.

“This is a wonderful moment and a way to say thank you to Eppie for making TRS the charity The Great Race supports,” Parks Director Ron Suter added. “TRS’ program survival relies on the donation of proceeds from the yearly event.”

The renovation of the Florin East Grammar School is the centerpiece of the Old Florin Town Revitalization Project, Supervisor Illa Collin said.

“Florin East Grammar School has been the anchor of this community since 1916,” Collin said. “By renovating this structure with the help and expertise of the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, this area will take its first step towards regaining its glory days.”

Estimated at \$1.6 million, the school house renovation is funded, in part, through a \$698,640 Jobs Housing Balance Incentive Grant by the State of California to the Department of Planning and Community Development. SHRA provided \$800,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG). Other funds come from the County Parks Transient Occupancy Tax, and County General Services.

The scope of project consists of a full seismic upgrade to the main building and an interior upgrade which includes major wall resurfacing, insulation, new doors, windows, flooring, carpet, interior furnishings and interior cabinets, re-modeled bathrooms, new shower, added fire protection sprinklers, new hot water system, new HVAC system, upgraded electrical and new fire alarm system. The exterior of the main building will remain largely intact.

In addition to this renovation project, SHRA also contributed \$25,000 to the area’s Streetscape Master Plan that is currently underway. The Agency has also designated a large portion of the Old Florintown area as eligible for deferred loans up to \$50,000 under the Agency’s Façade Loan Program.

“SHRA is especially proud to be involved in this project as part of our revitalization effort in the Florin community. We’ve been able to use Community Development Block Grant funds to help breath new life into communities by creating projects like this one, which would otherwise not take place,” SHRA Executive Director Anne Moore said.

Therapeutic Recreation Services provides services to about 15,000 people annually with mental, physical, developmental, sensory and emotional impairments or special needs since 1975. The goal of the program is for each individual to attain his or her highest level of leisure independence.

SHRA is a Joint Powers Authority created in 1973 by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. SHRA oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 10 redevelopment areas throughout the city and county, and is the region's leading public developer of affordable housing. The Agency provides a variety of programs for first-time homebuyers and offers several loan programs and other assistance to the business community. SHRA has a FY 2004 budget of \$196 million and approximately 328 employees who work in the Agency's Housing Authority, City and County Community Development, Program Operations, Development Services and Administration Departments. SHRA owns 3,600 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers about 11,000 rental assistance vouchers per month.