

## Plan set for Boys and Girls Club ed center

Some say the Boys, Girls Club facility will be finest in country

By Andrew Tuttle  
Brea Progress

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The Boys and Girls Clubs of La Habra/Brea is planning to open The Robert E. Fulton Education Center in the fall, offering between 20 and 40 computers, three closed classrooms and one open classroom.

A renovated 6,500-square-foot area at the Boys and Girls Club at 1211 Fahringer Way in La Habra, will house the center, including a computer training lab, a research library, a study/conference center, teen-parenting service and an audio-visual training program.

The current learning/education center and its programs will

be incorporated into the new site. Cost for the project is estimated at \$508,000 and the club plans to increase its operating costs for the center from \$44,000 to \$210,000 annually to pay for the added programs and equipment.

"This is a major expansion for us," said Dan Casey, executive director.

He noted that the new center is increasing in size from approximately 1,000 square feet. The club's Hobbies and Activities Center is moving into a smaller room at the club to accommodate the expanded education program.

The Boy's and Girl's Club has received a \$74,000 renovation grant from the City's Community Development Block Grant fund. That will help pay for carpeting, new paint and windows and a new electrical system, among other things.

"The room will look nothing like it does right now," Casey said.

The education center was envisioned in June 1996 when club directors approached Sulie Fulton,

the widow of the late Robert E. Fulton, with an idea to expand the education center and name it in memory of her husband.

Robert Fulton, who owned a highway construction company, was a major supporter and board member of the club who funded the initial education center in 1991.

He had a simple philosophy, "If you give a child the necessary resources to succeed in life, then it's a slam dunk for them to succeed."

Fulton died of cancer in 1995, but had continued to support the club through his illness.

Club administrators told Sulie Fulton they wanted to have the best education center of the 16 clubs in Orange County and she said to take it a step further and make it the best in the country.

Casey feels it will meet that standard because the center will provide state-of-the-art technology in both quantity and quality and will be patterned after Fulton's philosophy.

The original education center was finished in April 1993 and re-

ceived the Disneyland Community Services Award for Best Education Program.

"With this new one, we feel we can do even better," Casey said.

Casey expects an increase in membership once the center opens. Although he could not estimate how much of an increase, he did say daily membership would probably grow more than annual memberships and that growth could be attributed to the new education center. Current annual membership is 2,100, daily membership is 400.

Renovation should begin within a few weeks and the goal is for a Fall 1998 opening. Theme of the new education center will be, "Shaping Our Children's Future".

The club has recently received grants from the Weingart Foundation and the Fulton Foundation totaling \$135,000 in support of the new center.

"(That) increases the total amount raised to \$417,300, or 82 percent of our funding goal," Casey said.

# Brea leases facility to Boys and Girls Club

By Kelly Barron  
DSP Staff Writer

BREA — The City Council and the La Habra/Brea Boys and Girls Club hammered out the details of a lease agreement Wednesday that will enable the club to move to a temporary location on a portion of the Brea Golf Course.

The lease provides for the club's use of a 7,800-square-foot parcel of land on the golf course south of the Senior Citizen Cen-

ter which the city will rent to the club for \$1 a year for three years. The club plans to put a modular unit on the site and has agreed to build public improvements such as netting on the south side of the building, a chainlink fence on the east side and erect a telephone pole for the club's use.

Before the lease agreement is finalized, however, the city will have to work out an agreement with Dick Sader, the city's lessee

for the Brea Golf Course, to amend the course's operating agreement. At yesterday's meeting Sader said he did not anticipate any problems with the proposed site.

The Council also made suggestions and alterations to other lease items at Wednesday's meeting and directed City Manager Frank Benest to complete the agreement.

Councilman Ron Isles suggested the city obtain a rider on

its insurance policy for the Senior Center parking lot, which will serve the clubhouse, to protect the city from the possibility of being sued by parents or other club users who are injured because of the lot's poor condition.

Maintenance Service Director Pat McCarron reported in a letter to the council that southern portions of the lot are nothing more than rock because the pavement has deteriorated over the years. The city has not made

lot improvements because construction on Phase II of Arovista Park, which will include repavement, will be underway as soon as a consultant is chosen for the project.

The council also waived the need for city approval of a contractor for site improvements and decided to issue a \$500 performance bond with the club to insure that the improvements are complete.

Since early May, city and club officials have discussed finding a new location for the club which currently operates out of Laurel Elementary School. With the coming of the new school year and the school district's desire for additional classroom space at Laurel, the need for a decision on a new location became pressing. School officials tentatively have set a deadline for the club to be moved out of the Laurel school classrooms by the end of the

week. The club plans to enter joint-use discussions with the Brea-Olinda Unified School District within the next few weeks about the possibility of building a permanent clubhouse at Brea Junior High School. Dick Guthrie, director of the Boys and Girls Club, said that the club's consultant completed feasibility studies on the junior high site in June and says that a joint-use agreement could provide the best of both worlds for the school and the club.

"The junior high would gain a gym as well as meeting rooms,

craft and game rooms," said Guthrie. "The club would be getting access to land which otherwise it couldn't afford."

Guthrie estimated it would cost the club \$1 million to build a 1600 to 1800 square foot permanent facility.

In the meantime, club members will move their wares to the golf course and put up the modular unit to house the 275 youths that participate in club activities daily.

"We're trying to get things rolling as quickly as possible so we'll be at the new site in the fall," said Guthrie.

# BOYS GIRLS CLUB

NOV. 23, 89



(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)  
MOVING MORE THAN DIRT — The Brea/La Habra Boys and Girls Club is preparing to move into its new digs near the Senior Center on Sievers Avenue. In late August, the city and the club arranged to lease property on a portion of the Brea Golf Course for the club's use. Pictured above is Harry Walters moving the earth to create a driveway to the clubhouse, pictured in the background.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

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## Santa presents Brea with new Boys Club

By Todd Jarrett  
DSP Staff Writer

BREA — The children of Brea got an early Christmas gift Monday with the opening of a permanent Boys and Girls Club next to the Senior Center on Sievers Street.

The club, located at 502 S. Sievers, has been nearly five

years in the making, said Greg Marine, director of the facility, who was also director of the club at its former temporary site in classrooms at Laurel School. The club was moved to allow for renovations at the school.

The facility is not fully equipped as yet, Marine said, adding that he expects it to be fully

functional sometime within the next month. He stipulated, however, that "we'll have plenty for the kids to do in the meantime."

Initially Marine said he expects to have 40-50 kids per day using the center, which is comprised of a trailer with kitchen facilities and spacious room for various activities or functions. Also a basketball and perhaps a tetherball court will be installed, he added.

Marine said an extensive recruitment program will be started soon to get all the local kids to participate in the club. Schools to be targeted include Laurel and Arovista.

Ties with the adjacent Senior Center are going to be strong, Marine said. He suggested that many joint activities might take place between the organizations, including pool tournaments and other events.

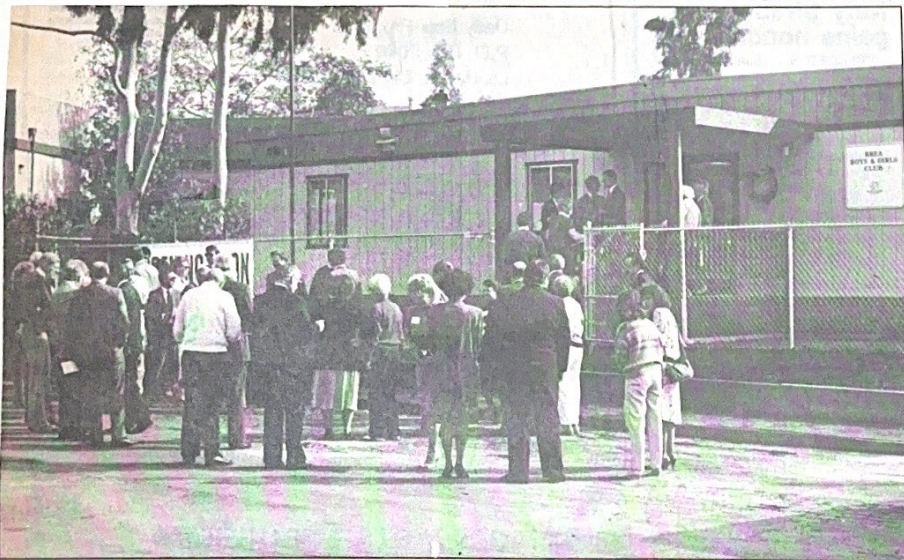
Executive Director Dick Guthrie said the board of directors recently approved a \$1,000,000 grant to build a permanent facility for the club, which he eventually expects to service between 1,200 to 1,500 children.

Many local dignitaries were in attendance at the opening ceremony of the club, including the Brea board of directors of the La Habra/Brea Boys and Girls Clubs.

Incoming Board President Matt Page honored the sponsors of the new facility. Among the sponsors are Founders National Bank, Soroptimist International of Brea, and the Brea Foundation.

Representatives from State Assemblyman Ross Johnson and U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer were on hand to lend support to the fledging club.

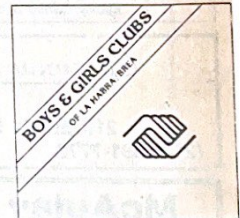
A national representative for Boys Clubs, Ronnie Hewitt, praised the efforts of the community and the board of directors in establishing the center. "This organization is truly dedicated to this facility and the kids who will use it," he said.



**CROWD ASSEMBLES** — A crowd of nearly 50 people gather Monday outside the new BreaBoys Club for the dedication

ceremony. Several members from the adjacent Senior Center were on hand to help with the celebration.

(Star-Progress photo by Todd Jarrett)



Brea Youth of the Year Adrian Jurado led the flag-raising ceremony, with a little help from Page and 1990 president-elect John Sutton.

In what was called by Guthrie as "a symbolic gesture," Jurado and Senior Center President Odie Gaston performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Boys Club is situated just north of the Municipal Golf Course off of Imperial Highway and just to the east of the flood control channel.