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Contractor selected for Vogelsson renovations

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The Camden County Library System has selected a South Jersey contractor to build a specially-dedicated

teen space within the M. Allan Vogelsson Regional Branch Library in Voorhees.

Pantarelli Homes, Inc. of Pilesgrove, was selected as the qualified low bidder for the contract at \$102,500. Work started this past week with anticipated completion by mid-November. The plan involves remodeling a 1,245 square foot area on the first floor of the Voorhees library.

The contractor's selection marks the next step in the project that originated with a successful proposal that won a grant from the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative and the New Jersey State Library to design and build a space dedicated to teen customers.

"We are excited to have Pantarelli Homes working with us on this project. They have embraced the enthusiasm we share for this creative space and have already demonstrated diligence in making this envisioned space a reality," commented Vogelsson Regional Library Branch Manager William Brahms.

"When completed, this will provide a powerful draw to the library for our teens to experience educational and recreational offerings that are not available to them elsewhere," Brahms emphasized.

Among the features designed to attract young people to the proposed space is a stage area where poetry slams, musical performances or displays of student artwork can take place. It will also have a multimedia center with flat panel screen and gaming equipment. A graffiti wall is built into the space's design that fits its "urban" feel and name – The Corner.

The Corner will include some diner-style booths and more casual seating such as beanbags, floor rockers and wedges that many teens tend to like along with display racks and shelving for teen oriented books, graphic novels and magazines.

Maybe one of the most appealing features to teens visiting The Corner will be access to Ready Animator – a software product used for the creation of short movies and cartoons. Six computers with high speed Internet access will also be available. All of this will be housed in an area clearly defined and reserved for teens and teen activities.

The M. Allan Vogelsson Branch has a very active youth services department that provided over 90 teen programs in 2008 ranging from a murder mystery party, a hip-hop dance presentation, special book clubs, anime clubs and gaming clubs all geared toward teens.

The Teen Space Project is made possible with funding from the Camden County Library System, the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative and the New Jersey State Library, which is responsible for the coordination, promotion and funding of the New Jersey Library Network.

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