



Library proposes Oak View branch

Officials say school could benefit from Huntington annex

By Scott Thomsen

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HUNTINGTON BEACH — William Shakespeare and Dr. Seuss could move in next to Oak View School as part of a city library annex proposed for next year.

The library wants to open a 5,000-book annex on the Oak View campus next to Oak View Community Center and police substation. Un-

der the library's proposal, the Ocean View School District would rent the land to the city for \$1 a year and the city would provide the building, books and staff.

A library in the Oak View neighborhood would help children who lack transportation, said Sheila Marcus, a member of the district board of trustees, which heard a proposal from the city Tuesday night.

"We'll be able to instill the love of books and reading a lot easier if it's accessible," Marcus said. "It's been needed for a long time."

The board is scheduled to decide Dec. 10 on whether to lease the property. Approval also is needed

from the City Council for construction, staff and operating costs.

Huntington Beach's central library at 7111 Talbert Ave. has 320,000 books, 700 magazines and 30 newspapers, plus compact discs, audio tapes and videotapes. The city also operates three branch libraries at 9281 Banning Ave., 15882 Graham St. and 525 Main St.

A branch library in the Oak View neighborhood, one of the city's poorest, might help Vietnamese and Hispanic families learn English, Library Director Ron Hayden said.

The proposed library would be built from five refurbished mobile

homes the city purchased from the Driftwood Mobile Home Park as part of a redevelopment-project buyout. Huntington Beach bought 39 of the homes for about \$65,000 each, said Carol Runzel, an administrative aide for the city Redevelopment Agency.

Moving a mobile home and renovating it for use as a library could cost \$15,000-\$30,000, Hayden said.

Access to homework assistance, reference materials, computers, parenting information in Spanish, and other programs will add to the educational program at Oak View School, Principal Joan Buffehr said.