A Passport to Adventure at the Library

Children and their parents learned this week that a library is much more than just a building filled with books.

“We’re a cultural center too,” said Nanci Williams, children’s services coordinator at the city’s Central Library.

To motivate youngsters to read during the summer and use the library all year long, Friends of the Children’s Library sponsored “Carnival of Folk Tales” Tuesday, drawing about 2,000 children and their parents.

The youngsters attended storytelling sessions about different cultures, heard folk tales from places such as India and Africa, and were entertained by folk dancers from Spain and musicians who played Calypso music.

The festival also included games and crafts from around the world.

Sharon Seier of Buena Park brought her 2-year-old son, Bradley, to see the puppet shows and participate in the story times.

“It’s a way for him to learn and for me to be with him and to teach him some educational activities,” Seier said.

Melissa Bernardin of Huntington Beach brought sons Zackary, 3, and Tyler, 9 months, with hopes that “they’ll grow up to love reading. I want them to read a lot.”

The festival was the kickoff for the library’s summer reading program, “Passport to Adventure: Read Around The World.”

Jim Cogan’s enthusiastic, animated storytelling captures the attention of Lindsay Bramel, 2½, below left, and Samantha Bramel, 5.

instrumental in negotiating with the county to put the property up for sale.

About 98% of the library’s patrons live at Leisure World, Brown said. Many of the retirement community’s 8,700 residents would be unable to travel greater distances for library services

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Opponents say the project will generate unacceptable levels of traffic on already congested streets. They also say some of the planned homes will be too close to the runway at the Los Alamitos Armed Forces Reserve Center and could be subject to flooding problems.

A contingent of residents from the nearby unincorporated community of Rossmoor also expressed concerns about traffic and safety issues at the Wednesday night meeting.

“In my discussions with neighbors, I feel you do not realize the depth of opposition to the Bixby project,” said Rossmoor resident Glenn Cook.

Representatives from Bixby Ranch Co. have said the city will take in approximately $800,000 a year in net revenue generated by the project. And Bixby has pledged to spend $1 million in traffic improvements, which company representatives say will prevent additional traffic problems.

—RUSS LOAR