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Artist's rendering of the Hampton Park branch library.

Forsyth's Hampton Park Library to open early in 2010

The Forsyth County Public Library will open its new Hampton Park branch on Settingdown Road in early February of 2010. The library is just off Highway 400 near the Hampton subdivision in the north part of Forsyth County.

The new \$6.6 million building will open with 23,500 square feet of space and a collection of 60,000 items for adults, teens and children. The collection is planned to eventually reach 96,000 items. The structure is built with funds from a special local option sales tax (SPLOST V), impact fees and a state construction grant. Architect for the project is Pope/Partners Inc., and the general contractor is Hogan Construction Group, LLC. Harris Interior Design planned the furnishings and décor, with Source Interiors providing the furniture and shelving.

The new building incorporates a number of sustainable and environmentally friendly features. Wide roof overhangs shade windows from heat and ultraviolet sun rays, and energy-efficient T-5 lighting fixtures are installed over adult

shelving. Carpets are woven from recycled fibers, and the linoleum in entryways is a pressed wood product. Native water plants in the retention pond filter runoff from the parking lot. Programmable thermostats provide control of heating and cooling.

Inside, the library has the comfortable feel of a mountain lodge, with wooden accents and warm, autumn colors. A Quiet Room provides a haven to read newspapers and magazines or plug in a laptop. This room is marked with a sophisticated air of deep red walls, solid wood shelving and comfortable seating around a beautiful area rug.

Library users will be able to park and enter at either the front or the back of the building. Convenient drive-up book drops will allow patrons to return items without leaving the car.

Hampton Park will be open seven days a week and will house fiction,

nonfiction and large-print books; children's and adult educational DVDs; music CDs; multimedia programs; recorded books; and periodicals. It will offer 38 computer stations and will support wireless Internet connections throughout the building.

For children, a full slate of story programs will be presented, including Lapsit, Storytime, Summer Reading Fun and seasonal family programs.

Child-friendly computer stations will provide educational games for the youngest library patrons.

Hampton Park Library will join two other branches — the Cumming Library near central Forsyth and the Sharon Forks Library on Old Atlanta Road in southern Forsyth County. Construction funds and a library site are available for a fourth branch on Post Road in west Forsyth County, with a projected opening in 2013. ►►

Spotlight On CONSTRUCTION