



**Oikos University** Now offering courses in Asian Medicine  
 Click here for more info Visit our open house for more details  
 Enroll Today August 03, 2009 6:00 pm  
 7850 Edgewater Dr. Oakland Ca 94621

Home Delivery | Mobile | Mobile Alerts | RSS

Home News MyTown Sports Living Entertainment Business Opinion Publications Help Shopping | Classifieds | Homes | Jobs | Cars | Post Ad

SEARCH Site Web Search by YAHOO! Oakland, CA Now:60°F High:72°F Low:54°F city or zip

- News
- My Town
- Bay Area
- California
- Obituaries
- Traffic
- Crime
- Education
- Weird
- Earthquake Center
- AP Headlines

BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize

### Oakland rec centers get technology upgrade

By Kelly Rayburn  
Oakland Tribune  
Posted: 07/14/2009 05:59:10 PM PDT  
Updated: 07/15/2009 07:02:51 AM PDT

OAKLAND — Recreation centers throughout Oakland will come equipped with new computer labs and high-speed Internet connections, the result of a partnership between computer-refurbishing organization Oakland Technology Exchange-West and the city's Parks and Recreation department.

Bruce Buckelew, director of Oakland Technology Exchange-West, or OTX-West, joined Mayor Ron Dellums Tuesday at deFremery Park Recreation Center in West Oakland to highlight the effort, as children worked in a 10-computer lab inside.

"Our dedication is to end the digital divide in Oakland," said Buckelew, who founded OTX-West 15 years ago and said the group has refurbished more than 30,000 computers for Oakland families, schools and nonprofit groups since the founding.

In all, more than 200 computers donated by the Port of Oakland have been installed in 20 recreation centers across Oakland, after OTX-West refurbished them, Buckelew said. When the project is finished, every Oakland recreation center will have computers with Internet connections, officials said.

And these aren't low-quality machines: Buckelew said they're Pentium 4 Dell computers, with Windows XP Pro and Google Earth, among other applications.

"I'm working on a PowerPoint about skateboarding," said Melaak Feleke, 10, a student at KIPP Bridge Charter School, who was at the deFremery Park center Tuesday. "I've been working on it for three or four days now," he added, showing off the pictures of Tony Hawk he'd included in the presentation.

Advertisement

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO School of Business and Management  
 APPLY NOW FOR THE FALL COHORT! FINAL DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1  
**The USF MBA for Executives Program**  
 Join motivated, experienced managers on their way to top leadership roles.  
 Full accreditation from AACSB & WASC  
 Three Saturdays per month; some weekdays  
 GMAT not required  
 FOR MORE INFO: mbae@usfca.edu or 415-422-5284  
 LEARN MORE: www.usfca.edu/mbae  
 Educating Minds and Hearts to Change The World

Dellums said the idea to place Internet in rec centers came out of one of the education task forces organized after he was elected mayor. Buckelew was among those who participated on the task force.

"People did come up with great ideas, and one of them was Internet access and computer capability and bringing equity across this entire community," Dellums said. "That was one of their recommendations, and here we are implementing it."

It won't cost the city much. The effort got moving when Buckelew met with Mark Oliver Hall of the city's Parks and Recreation department.

Hall said the city had about \$70,000 available for computers from an old state grant. Buckelew said that money would be enough to refurbish computers for the rec centers.

The port donated hundreds of surplus computers, rather than selling them off or discarding them. And HandsOn

Bay Area arranged for volunteers from Google, Kaiser, Gap and other corporate groups to help upgrade the computer labs.

"It's a completely different world," Hall said. "A lot of the centers didn't have computer labs, and the ones that did have labs — after a while, (the computers) were just going so slow people didn't even want to use them."

Reach Kelly Rayburn at 510-208-6435.

BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize Return to Top

### Comments

Please keep your comments respectful of others by avoiding name-calling and other inappropriate remarks.

FAQ: Article commenting how-tos and tips

Recent Comments

Be the first to post a comment.



Advertisement

To FIND local Diamond Certified companies rated "Highest in Quality" Go to the HOME PAGE of our newspaper.

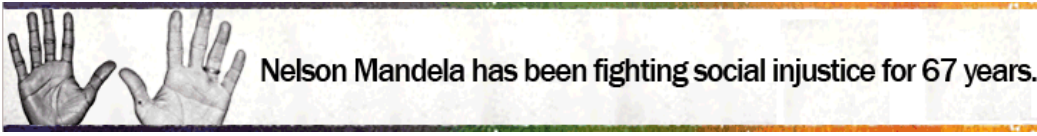




Top Listings  
 CARS RENTALS JOBS HOMES

DOUBLE WIDE INFINITY 3 Bed&#... (Homes)  
 Click for Details  
 \$1,138,000 2819  
 M... (Homes)  
 Click for Details  
 ALL LISTINGS

Post Your Comment

[Log in to forums](#) to post a comment.



[Home](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Place An Ad](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS](#)  

©2009 Bay Area News Group | [Terms of Use/Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Help](#) | [About Bay Area News Group](#)

