

Senior center opens in Magna

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MAGNA — Senior citizens in Magna have been telling Salt Lake County officials they want a new senior center for decades.

"When I first got into office, I heard right off the bat that the people of Magna wanted a new senior center," said Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon.

On Tuesday, as Corroon and other county officials unveiled the new 20,000-square-foot Magna Kennecott Senior Center at 9228 W. 2700 South, Magna seniors got their wish.

"This represents the future of Magna and a reinvestment in Magna that's been a long time coming," Corroon said.

David Turner, program manager of Salt Lake County Aging Services, said the center is a response to the rapidly growing senior population and the county's west-side growth. According to Corroon, Salt Lake County's 60-plus population will surpass the school-age population by 2033.

"This is a senior center, not a nursing home," Turner said. "It's a place for active adults to come and explore."

The building is one of Magna's and the county's most state-of-the art in terms of sustainable energy. The floors are made of bamboo, a plant that's easier to grow quickly and replace than trees. Every wall is covered in windows, minimizing the need for electrical lighting. The building is heated and cooled with 30 natural geothermal wells reaching 300 feet into the ground. And all the walls are wired to help hearing aids pick up the center's microphones without any additional hearing devices.

The modern facility hosts traditional senior activities, plus some new ones. Arts and crafts classes will meet in rooms near poetry and poetry groups, while another room is saved for Wii bowling and tennis and computer training classes. Behind the building is an outdoor walking track, along with horseshoe pits and shuffleboard areas.

"This center becomes a focal point for getting access to information ... and getting access to community," Turner said. The new building replaces Magna's 34-year-old senior center. It's the first senior center to have been built by the county in eight years.

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