



Food bank

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of pallets of food are ready. Lucky's and Safeway give all their day-old and extra food to the food bank Monday through Friday. Palo Alto Aid is a big supplier. Churches, schools, businesses, individuals bring food. Holiday food drives provide turkeys and canned goods. The Alameda County Food Bank provides surplus food from the Department of Agriculture's farm program. The volunteers download the food from trucks and cars and load it into storage bins, refrigerators or freezers, sort it, and then prepare to supply it to the public by placing it in grocery carts or lunch bags.

The volunteers come from all walks of life--high school students, members of churches, retirees. Bevers noted many Ohlone students volunteer. Now the Fremont branch of the Alameda Superior Court is allowing people who must pay for traffic tickets to volunteer instead.

Help needed for tutoring

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which has had a tremendously positive impact on my life."

According to the center's coordinator, Kevin McCue, "Since I've started as a tutor at the BLC in 2005, we have seen a large increase in student volume thanks in large part to the many faculty and staff members who are dedicated to student success here at Ohlone."

"They have really helped me to get the word out about all of the resources available to the students, I wouldn't have been able to raise student awareness this dramatically by myself; however it still surprises me that towards the end of every semester I hear many students say they did not know about the BLC."

There are approximately 24 biology and 14 chemistry courses filled to capacity and all those students have access to this tutorial center.

Although he would always like to see more students utilize the learning center, "That would be a disaster," said McCue.

"The center consists of two adjacent rooms which, when combined, are approximately 10 by 35 feet."

"This then has a negative impact on the students, and our mission as a college in general which is to be a community dedicated to successful student learning," said McCue.

A student in the room referred to it as the quiet room, explaining how she has a hard time focusing when there is more than one other person in the room.

The computer in the tutorial look very outdated, McCue described that they came from grants for the nursing program back in 1997.

McCue explained that "I have worked closely with Zouri Zale, who is Desktop Support Technician with Ohlone's IT department, to salvage and recycle computer parts as a cost effective method of upgrading our aging systems, however, they still are fairly outdated, which makes research more difficult for students."

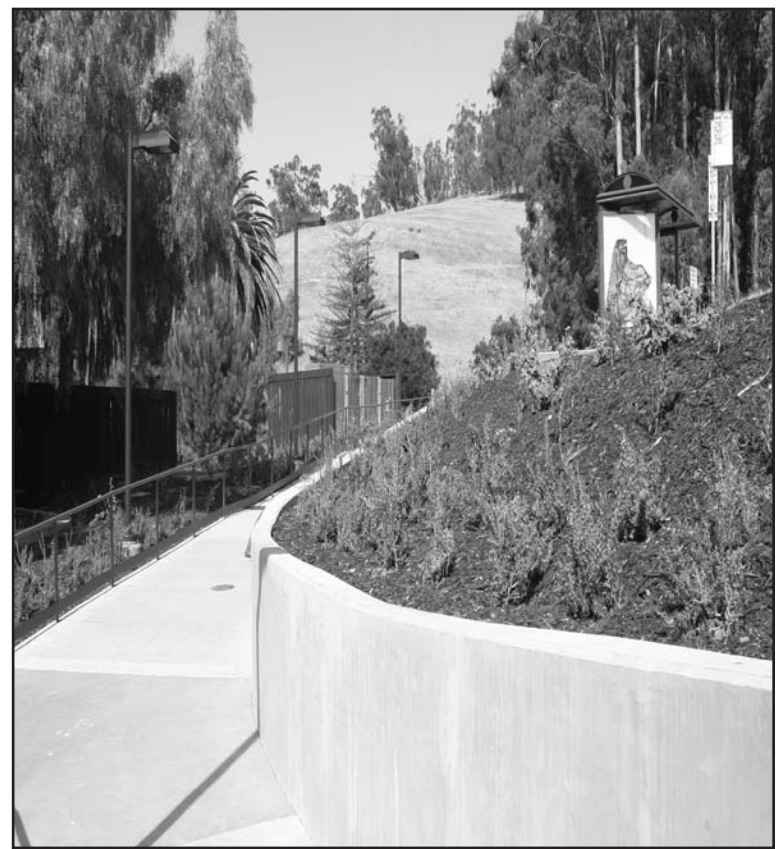


Photo by Jimmy Patten

The new ramp near Building 7 slopes down from the bus stop at the top of the hill.

Bus service delayed to new Building 7

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A motorized wheelchair with good brakes is not required to handle this incline--any wheelchair can make it. Inside, 10 paces away is the elevator on the third floor of Building 7. It holds 20 people. The Student Health Center is across the hall.

This path through Building 7 is a breeze as the elevator descends to the second floor corridor which leads past the Financial Aid Office to the Quad, with easy access to Buildings 1 through 8.

At present, the three AC Transit buses stop at the lower loop in front of the Building 9, which houses the Epler Gymnasium.

After a bus lets a person off at this stop, there is a walk for about 100 paces up a slightly inclined sidewalk until a long series of ramps begins. It takes about 80 paces to use these ramps to reach the elevator at Building 9. At various points the ramps have a fairly steep incline and people zig zag their wheelchairs up the ramps trying to get momentum, sweating and pushing the wheels hard to try to make it. Others shuffle, stumble and grimace as they try to get up the ramps. The ramps end at the Building 9 elevator which is one of the two main arteries of Ohlone accessibility. It holds nine people and goes up three stories along the

side of the gymnasium building. When a person exits the Building 9 elevator, a ramp about 40 paces long leads to Building 8's elevator, the other main artery which soars six floors up to the Quad.

Thousands of people, able bodied and disabled, use these two elevators constantly all day.

The huge stress on the current accessibility system was revealed last Friday, when the elevator to building 9 stopped at about 9:40 a.m. and was not fixed for hours. This breakdown shows how painful it is to disabled people that the buses are not being routed to the loop behind Building 7 where accessibility is extremely easy in comparison.

At about 9:40 a.m. on Friday, a call was made to the Facilities Department about the elevator not working -- the doors would not open. According to Lofton miscommunication occurred. An employee in Facilities understood that the complaint was that the elevator to Building 8 was not working and employees immediately checked it and it worked. In fact, however, Building 9's elevator was the broken one. At about 2:40 p.m., after another complaint was made, this time specifying Building 9 exactly, the order went out to ThyssenKrupp, the company which Ohlone uses for

elevator repair.

In the meantime, students using wheelchairs who got off the bus could not get to class unless they had a motorized wheelchair or some access to a car to take them up to Building 7.

Kevin Kirk, the alternate media specialist at Ohlone, said that late last week the elevator in Building 9 was not working and he got off the bus and used his motorized wheelchair to drive up the campus to his office.

Others were not as capable. Facing the broken elevator, one student with a mobility problem was seen turning away and leaving the campus. At least two students with mobility problems walked slowly and painfully up the stairs.

It is unknown how many students were affected. Building 9's elevator began working at about 7:30 p.m. when a temporary repair to a broken door was made. On Monday morning final repairs were made.

Lofton said he is considering putting signs on all of Ohlone's 11 elevators which would provide his department's telephone number and that of the Campus Police. This would help people report an elevator problem or security issue.

Meanwhile, Lofton described a series of projects in the works to improve accessibility at Ohlone.

Ohlone, perched on a hill, was built at a time when access was not necessarily a component of architectural planning and civil engineering. Now, however, in accordance with state and federal law, every project at the college must have adequate accessibility. All such projects must be approved by the California Division of State Architecture (DSA) Accessibility is one of three components it oversees, along with fire prevention and structural soundness.

Ohlone is waiting for a June 30, 2010 deadline when the DSA and a series of agencies may approve Ohlone's "Below Grade Water Intrusion Project." This \$10 million project would address water damage and water flow at the college which is a complex problem. The Hetch Hetchy water line from Yosemite to San Francisco runs under Ohlone, as do various warm springs. There is natural water flow down the mountain. Beside the investment into controlling the impact of water to the campus, \$1 million of the project's funding will be allotted to improving accessibility at Ohlone.

Lofton said if this project is approved, there will be a "new elevator and accessible ramp on the south side of Building 9 to improve access to the campus from parking

Lot M". In this project, there are plans for "a new plaza and ramp system to connect the Pond above Building 5 with the main Quad which is the next level down. There is also a new ramp system to connect the upper bus loop with Building 6. Additionally there will be a renovation of the Building 5 bathrooms to full ADA compliance." Lofton said, "the project is in the last stage of development and may be approved by the end of the year. Then construction could begin in the next fiscal year.

A second Ohlone project to modernize Buildings 3 and 6 has not yet been submitted to the DSA. Lofton said Ohlone plans to replace the elevator in Building 6 and add a completely new elevator at Building 3. This elevator will be located on the outside of Building 3 and it will connect the two levels of Building 3 as well as the upper and lower north Quad. The project will also renovate the bathrooms of Building 3.

Meanwhile, until the signs go up in the elevators, students may make a note that the Facilities Department can be reached at 659-6105 and security can be reached at 659-6111.

The facilities program review can be found at: <http://www.ohlone.edu/org/programreview/20082009/20082009progrev-facilities.pdf>

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