

New SV post office open

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SCOTTS VALLEY — Just in time for Christmas, a new 11,000-square-foot post office on Kings Village Road is now officially open for business.

Scotts Valley Mayor Glennon Culwell, Postmaster Don Cattivera and Station Manager John D'Amelio shared the honors Monday in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the \$3.2 million post office.

"This is the first and only new post office I've ever worked in," said postal clerk Bill Colman, who has been with the Scotts Valley Post Office for four years. "From a shoebox to this, with automatic door openers even!"

The old post office was tucked into Kings Village Shopping Center on Mt. Hermon Road, and was mainly a place to sell stamps and take packages, Cattivera said. He is postmaster for the main branch of the post office as well as the east Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley branches, which are run by station

managers who handle day-to-day operations.

The new building, just across the side street from its former location, opened just in time, according to one postal customer.

"I think it's just wonderful!" said Scotts Valley resident Elizabeth Torchio. "I'm glad it opened when it did, too, it's a nice Christmas present for us, and I don't have to take my life in my hands to get to it, like the old one!"

D'Amelio said the new office is also a relief to about a dozen carriers, who will start working from there Saturday. Scotts Valley postmen have had to drive in to Santa Cruz, pick up their mail and their vehicles, then drive back out to Scotts Valley to deliver, he said.

"It's a big savings for us, just in terms of travel time," D'Amelio said. Now the main branch at Santa Cruz will truck mail to Scotts Valley twice in the morning and once in the afternoon, saving a dozen drivers the trip into Santa Cruz and giving employees at the Santa Cruz

branch "a little more room to breathe," Cattivera said.

"The Scotts Valley carriers are probably going to be the most efficient in the county," he said, "Because they get the largest volume of mail of any section in the county." That comes to approximately 5,138 pieces of mail daily for Scotts Valley residents, he said.

Along with the new office is a new zip code for Scotts Valley. Regular delivery addresses remain at the 95066 zip code, but mail for post office boxes now goes to zip 95067.

The number of post office boxes in the new post office is double that of the old office, Cattivera said, with over 1,000 boxes, many of which are still available. The lobby will remain open 24 hours to give residents access to post office boxes and a stamp machine that features 19 different kinds of stamps, plus envelopes and postcards.

Next on the list for Scotts Valley? Its own postmark, due in about three to six months, according to Cattivera. All Scotts Valley mail is now postmarked San Jose.