

Felton Faire, followed by the loan department. "If you had any business besides a withdrawal or deposit, you had to go to Felton Faire," he says.

to the shopping center. Merchants who say they'll pull their accounts also are speculating that another banking establishment

nials want an opportunity to discuss the matter with Felton merchants. "I sincerely hope they take us up on that," she says.

Ben Lomond residents to reopen town library

By Richard Palmer

First the bad news: the Ben Lomond library closed its doors last Friday and it's doubtful if the Santa Cruz City-County library system will ever reopen them.

Now the good news: the library—to be rechristened the Ben Lomond Community Library—will reopen Monday, March 3, under the direction of the newly formed Friends of the Ben Lomond Library, backed by the San Lorenzo Valley Youth Council.

The fate of the library, once deemed the least cost-effective in the system and facing closure due to Prop. 13 budget cuts, will now rest squarely in the hands of Valley residents.

Under an agreement worked out between community members and county officials, the building will remain the county's responsibility though library supporters will have to donate labor to maintain it.

The contents of the library, including books, magazines, shelves, furniture and one ancient typewriter, will be turned over to the community.

"We can do anything we want now," says Faye Ellis, chairperson of the new Friends group. "We can accept book donations, arrange trades with residents, and push for more

paperbacks and children's books. Anything to make the library better."

In the past, a major bone of contention had been library system's policy discouraging book donations and barring volunteers from working in libraries. That policy had soured the town's attitude towards the library, says Paul Ellis, chairman of the Ben Lomond Town Association.

Now that residents have declared the library's independence from the city-county system, only one obstacle stands in their way—money.

"We have no money, none," says Mrs. Ellis. "Our volunteers have been paying for supplies we need right now out of their own pocket. It's almost like starting from scratch."

To raise funds, library patrons will pay for the privilege of using the library—\$2 per family per year, \$1 for seniors. Membership will be open to anyone, a change from an earlier proposal to limit library use to those within the Ben Lomond zip code area.

Since the Friends group will operate under the umbrella of the non-profit Youth Council, all memberships and donations will be tax deductible.

And though library patrons will have to pay, they'll be getting more for their money.

With 13 volunteers lined up so far, the library will be open six days a week; Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In the past, the library was open only three days a week.

The volunteers range in age and experience from 10-year-old Terry Pewitt, a Quail Hollow pupil, to retired Felton librarian Edith Fikes. Other volunteers include Jean Butterfield, Meredith Nicoles, Louise Voss, Wilma Mitchem, Claudia Scott, Jody Jahn, Madeline Miner, Peggy Winchester, Jane Langdon, and the Ellises.

Details of the transition were discussed with Supervisor Pat Liberty two weeks ago, and were finalized last week when members of the Friends group met with county administrative analyst Luther Perry and city-county branch librarian Rosemary Milburn.

The town association had discussed taking over the library, but members were unwilling to make that commitment, said Ellis. The decision to work with the Youth Council proved advantageous because that group is incorporated and holds a tax exempt, non profit status.

"Rick (Youth Council president) and Jody Jahn have been a big help,"

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