

## City Newsletter



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*Prepared by the Office of the City Manager*

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New Library Building

The new Central Library will soon be finished. Santa Cruzans have been admiring its exterior for weeks and peering through the windows for a glimpse of the interior. The gold carpeting has been installed and other finishing touches will soon be completed. It is hoped that the new building will be open for use in March.

Circulation - July to December 1967 - There has been a substantial increase in the number of books and other materials borrowed during the last 6 months throughout the Library System as shown by the following statistics:

	<u>June-Dec. 1966</u>	<u>June-Dec. 1967</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Central Library	101,065	115,467	14,402
City Branches	52,549	63,742	11,193
County Branches	119,971	131,203	11,232
Total Circulation	273,585	310,412	36,827

The total increase of almost 12% for the City-County system is contrary to the recent trend in many areas and is especially interesting and gratifying because of the crowded conditions at the temporary quarters of the Central Library.

County-Wide Service - Freedom Area - A joint meeting of the Watsonville and Santa Cruz City-County Library Boards of Trustees has been held to discuss the possibility of cooperative service. A resolution was passed "that the City of Watsonville and the Santa Cruz City and County Public Library System enter into an agreement for reciprocal library privileges free to the public." The legal and practical means for implementing this reciprocal service will be worked out by the administrative bodies.

Neighborhood Park Development

An application for a Federal grant for the acquisition of open space has been completed by the Planning Department staff and was submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) early in February. When approved, this application will provide 50% of the acquisition costs of the Garfield Park and the Grant Street elementary school sites. These sites are being abandoned by the School District because of the obsolescence of the buildings, and they are ideally located for neighborhood park purposes.

Members of the City Planning Commission and the Planning Department made a tour of the City of Fremont to view neighborhood parks which have been dedicated in conjunction with the development of new subdivisions in that city. Following the tour, the Commissioners expressed