

# Library openings

## to follow holidays

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By CAROLYN SWIFT

Santa Cruz City-County Librarian Charles Atkins has guaranteed the four closed library branches will be reopened by Jan. 2.

Atkins told the Santa Cruz Public Library board of trustees Monday that the county has approved its contribution of \$26,000 toward operation of the Bookmobile, and a revised budget was sent to the Santa Cruz city council for approval on Tuesday. The city has already provided \$13,000 in additional funding

for the reopening of the Garfield Park Branch Library.

Revisions in the budget will include both the city and county contributions above the 85 percent funding already approved for the year.

Hours at the other branch libraries have been reduced, and a number of staff shifts have been arranged in preparation for the reopening of the La Selva Beach, Ben Lomond and Soquel branches, and the Bookmobile. Garfield Park is already open on a limited weekly basis.

Atkins also said Monday that while Soquel branch is ready to be reopened, a number of staff arrangements have yet to be completed. The library will be staffed by its former librarian, Marilyn Walker, who has been working at the Aptos Branch.

Both the La Selva Beach Library and Ben Lomond need to be resupplied with book collections. Because of the shortage of staff, Atkins himself has been assisting with restocking of the library shelves.

Staff must also be hired and schedules printed for the Bookmobile. The employee hired for the vehicle will be classified as a library assistant II.

The city-county librarian said he now hopes to open all branches on the same day, and is certain arrangements will be finished after the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Winifred G. Jensen, president of the La Selva Beach Library Guild, presented a letter to trustees asking for a schedule of hours that will serve working residents and teenagers in the evenings. La Selva Beach has been allocated limited hours of 12 per week, but Atkins said the schedule has not yet been set to determine the exact hours.

The newly-formed library guild also offered its services as volunteers. The offer included a proposal for volunteers and a coordinator to help staff the library for an additional six hours per week. Mrs. Jensen told the board the volunteers within the librarianship at Cabrillo

College.

In a report on the possible use of volunteers within the library system, Atkins said he received an outstanding response from a survey distributed to the staff. The library employees listed a number of areas where they felt volunteers will be helpful. An example, Atkins said, is in the music and arts department, where volunteers could help run projectors, assist with the picture file or shelve books. In the periodical department, non-paid staff could arrange artwork and displays.

Volunteers have been used in the library on such projects as art exhibits for a number of years, Atkins said, but it now appears possible to broaden both the duties and the number of non-paid workers. Details are being completed on insurance and workman's compensation, and forms are being prepared for board approval.

The use of volunteers will be considered at the reopened branches, he added, once all four libraries and the Bookmobile are in operation.

In another matter, Leonard Greenberg and Atkins reported on the California Library Association Conference in San Diego. An additional report was informally presented by Bill Hinchliff, who also attended the conference sessions.

Both Hinchliff and Greenberg discussed the first White House Conference on libraries and informational services, to be held Oct. 28-Nov. 1 next year. In preparation for this event, a series of local and regional conferences will be held Jan. 27, and a state conference has been scheduled March 2-4. Delegates to this event will be selected for the national conference.

Atkins said a county meeting has been tentatively set for Dec. 19 in preparation for the January conference. This will be a public meeting held to inform interested residents about the purpose and goals of the state and national conferences. The local meeting has been arranged through the efforts of a local businessman, Don Rice.

Atkins said he learned at the conference that the CLA has organized a committee to study and propose alternative methods of funding to county

support of library systems. The group is working on proposals that will shift the funding from local sources to the state. Atkins said it is believed a \$10 per-capita platform would provide adequate funding for libraries.

The librarian added that libraries throughout the state have been suffering since financial cuts were made after the passage of Proposition 13, and that state aid is essential.

Greenberg also said he discussed the impact of Proposition 13 during the conference, but wished to stress the positive rather than the negative. "Just because Proposition 13 is here today, doesn't mean it can't be changed tomorrow," he said.

Trustees also learned at the meeting that the session between a library board committee and directors of La Selva Beach Recreation Department was postponed because of illness. The library board hopes to work out an agreement on a lower rent for the library building.

The board subcommittee on revisions to by-laws has scheduled its first meetings after January 1.

The next meeting of the library board of trustees will be Jan. 8.