

Liberty checks in with a bank for Ben Lomond

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BEN LOMOND — Ben Lomond will once again have a bank.

Liberty Bank has announced plans to open a full-service branch this summer inside the popular Ben Lomond Market.

The move comes after several years of not having a bank or even an automated teller machine in town.

"We have been needing a bank in our town for a long time," said Alan Andersen, a director with the Ben Lomond Business Association. "They are being welcomed warm-heartedly by a lot of people."

The results of two surveys of residents and merchants were overwhelmingly supportive, said Sam Mosunic, Liberty Bank president and chief executive officer.

"We were originally looking at installing an ATM, but the community wanted real bankers," he said Tuesday.

As a result of the strong response, Liberty plans on locating three bankers six days a week at the branch. There will also be an ATM.

Mosunic said the branch will provide complete banking services, from deposits to loans.

It will be the third branch for the South San Francisco-based Liberty, an \$80 million bank. It is scheduled to open July 1 where the greeting cards are located in the market. Liberty also has a branch in Boulder Creek.

Patrick DeMoro, vice president and manager of the Boulder Creek bank, will oversee the new branch.

"Ben Lomond is a community," he said. "Part of the thing about a community is having your own bank."

DeMoro said the town has been without full banking services since Bank of America left six or more years ago.

Bank officials praised the cooperation of the Clements family, which has owned Ben Lomond Market since December 1978.