

Davenport residents welcome opening of Community Center

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DAVENPORT — Supervisor Gary Patton called it “the biggest thing that’s happened in Davenport in 10 years.”

And while big events are few and far between in this windswept coastal town, the opening of the Davenport Community Center Friday morning was, if nothing else, long sought-after.

Five years ago Assemblyman Sam Farr first announced the acquisition of funds to build a center to offer health care and other services.

Back then nurses from the county Health Services Agency offered well-baby clinics inside classes at Pacific School. The Community Action Board used a broken-down wooden building next to the church to offer referrals to Davenport’s low-income community.

“Many times driving to work I would

wish that the building had burned down overnight,” recalled Diana Pacleb-Murray, former program director at CAB.

Friday morning politicians, community workers and residents greeted a new \$75,000 building at 100 Church St. funded half by the state and half by the county.

The county Health Services Agency will use the new building to offer immunization shots, well-baby clinics, TB testing and blood-pressure screening.

CAB, a private, non-profit agency which offers services for low-income residents, will use the building to give information and referrals.

Patton, whose supervisorial district includes Davenport, said the Community Center would be an asset to senior citizens and low-income residents who can’t drive to Santa Cruz for assistance.

Farr noted that the funds for projects

such as the Community Center have since been eliminated by the state.

“It’s nice to see so many people still here. This project has been around so long the community might have disappeared,” Farr said.

The speakers’ remarks were translated into Spanish, a reflection for the many Hispanics in Davenport and in the audience.

The building was dedicated to Frank and Myrtle Garaventa. Frank, who died in 1983, was a native of Davenport who was active in community affairs. Myrtle, his wife, served as postmaster for 40 years until she retired in 1978. She cut the ceremonial ribbon which marked the official “opening” of the Davenport Community Center.

The center will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Its phone number is 425-8115