

Almost Ready

Live Oak Library Scheduled to Open

Libraries 1990-1999

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by Jim Johnson

Live Oak is close to getting library service back. Santa Cruz City-County Library director Anne Turner said the new Live Oak Library is set to open on Saturday, February 7 on Portola Drive.

The former Live Oak's Children's Library was the region's most popular branch, for its size.

Turner said an opening day

celebration is set for 2 p.m. with Supervisor Jan Beautz, members of the Library System's Joint Powers Authority, Friends of the Library, and library staff expected to attend. Turner said the public is also welcome.

Live Oak hasn't had a library since December 1995, when it was forced to close its Children's Library due to storm damage. The library had been operating in a tem-

porary location in the East Cliff shopping center since 1989. But a winter storm and leaky roof forced the library to close.

The library system collected \$42,500 in damages in an out-of-court settlement. According to Turner, that money went a long way toward replacing the damaged library materials and furnishing the new facility.

The new site, at 2830 Portola Dr., was purchased by

the County Redevelopment Agency for \$750,000.

The site overlooks Corcoran Lagoon and the coastal marshes, easily the library system's most distinctive setting.

The property had been used as a dance club, but had fallen on hard times before the county's purchase.

The funding for the operations of the library will be provided in part by the proceeds from a recent sales tax measure

passed by voters.

In January, the newly-remodeled Scotts Valley branch of the county library system opened.

A smaller branch library is expected to open in Capitola next year on Wharf Road, across from the city-owned Rispin mansion. The Capitola facility will be housed in a portable trailer awaiting the city's decision about a permanent home. □