

...consulting ... gone back to the board.

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County Libraries Will Open: Forbus

By PAUL BEATTY
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A collision course between the county and city of Santa Cruz over the city-county library system shortened today as County Supervisors' Chairman Dan Forbus warned, "We're going to quit reacting to the City Council and we're going to get the branch libraries opened."

Forbus said the issue would

go before county supervisors Nov. 7 "and we'll have something going at that time."

He would not disclose the leverage the county is expected to use.

Four branch libraries remain closed, and the bookmobile service stopped, in the aftermath of Proposition 13 which resulted library funding being cut down by 15 percent.

Initially, five branches were closed, and the Bookmobile

grounded by the library board. Subsequently, the City Council decided to re-open the Garfield Branch Library, the one of the four that is within city limits.

Forbus pointed out, "When we funded the libraries this year it was with the idea those branch libraries (Ben Lomond, Twin Lakes, Soquel and La Selva) would be re-opened.

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"They're (city council) dragging their feet and we're going to come up with some positive action."

He said the county pays "more money than the city for the system, and yet we're the only ones being deprived service."

The library conflict has grown to a point where there is talk that the city and county could go their own ways.

Forbus would not comment on that rumor.

Forbus gained supervisors' approval of a library budget after saying "I have faith that the city will negotiate in good faith on a policy statement for system operation."

The council had earlier said a quorum could not attend a supervisors' invitation to a joint meeting Nov. 2 to discuss the library question.

Then subsequent statements to the effect the county has no administrative rights, that it is a system customer, appeared to reduce room for negotiations to settle the growing differences over system operation.

Actually, the city is operating the library system without a required policy statement approved by the county. The funding agreement or "contract" stipulates there must be an approved policy statement governing system operations.