

Old library makes way for a new one

Building will be razed after skating season ends; new facility set to open 2010

By Theresa Harrington

STAFF WRITER

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To make way for a new downtown branch library, the current 46-year-old library building will close next month.

The library at 1644 N. Broadway will shut its doors Nov. 30, allowing librarians time to pack up books and other materials before the building is torn down.

The city expects to break ground on a 42,000-square-foot, two-story library on the site in April, to be opened in 2010.

The \$46 million library and garage will accommodate a growing population of residents and business users, who frequent the now outdated, cramped library, which opened in 1961.

"Despite its small size, the Walnut Creek Library is currently one of the busiest libraries in Contra Costa County," said Cindy Brittain, senior branch librarian. "Since 2000, visits to the library are up 62 percent and circulation is up 37 percent."

The outdoor ice rink will operate on the site of the new library for the last time this season, from Nov. 8

through Jan. 21. The old library will be razed after the skating season ends and a new rink location is being sought.

Library patrons can pick up books and other items requested for pickup at the Ygnacio Valley Library at 2661 Oak Grove Road in December. Beginning Jan. 2, patrons can browse through a small collection of books, DVDs and CDs in Park Place, where a temporary library facility will operate at 1395 Civic Drive.

The Farmers Market, which has been located in the library parking lot for 25 years, will move to North Locust Street between Giammona Drive and Lacassie Avenue on Jan. 6. The Library Foundation plans to hold a celebration of the old library in mid-January, before the building is demolished.

Reach Theresa Harrington at 925-945-4764 or tharrington@bayareanewsgroup.com.

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