



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Workers finish the new city library Thursday, which is located at 100 W. 10th Ave., which is scheduled to open Dec. 26.

Library makes its move

Residents are excited, but area business owners are concerned about problems with parking shortages

Ken Paulman
City/State Politics Reporter

The Eugene Public Library's downtown branch is about to begin a new chapter.

The old library, which opened in 1959, will close for good at 5 p.m. Sunday. During the coming weeks, the library's entire collection will be moved to the brand new facility three blocks away at 100 W. 10th Ave.. The new library is scheduled to open Dec. 26.

The new facility, located across the street from the downtown transit hub, will feature an expanded children's area, spacious reading rooms and a coffee shop. A grand opening celebration will take place at the new library Jan. 11.

"Everyone's very excited, and I think the community will be when they see it," Library Services Director Connie J. Bennett said.

Construction on the new building was completed ahead of schedule, and the move is set to begin at 8 a.m. Monday.

Downtown business owner Mike Summers said he looks forward to the increased activity the library will bring to the area. Summers is the owner of Jim the Shoe Doctor, a shoe repair shop located next door to the new library. The library project, along with the transit hub and the reopening of Broadway, is another step in the revitalization of downtown that encouraged him to move his business from Santa Clara seven months ago.

Despite the excitement about the new facility, sentiments are mixed.

Some area business owners are concerned about a potential parking shortage. The new library will have

only 70 parking spaces, which could mean trouble for area businesses that already have problems keeping spaces open for customers.

"I've been pretty lax about it," Summers said, "but it could definitely be a problem if people using the library aren't respectful of the businesses around here."

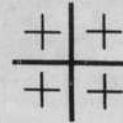
Summers will post signs in his parking lot advising that it is for customers only. The signs have a picture of a shoe, and warn people that if they park there illegally, they will be "toed."

Bill Moore, a University staff member, was browsing at the old library on Thursday. Moore said the new facility was necessary because the library had outgrown its existing building, but as a taxpayer, he felt it may be a little extravagant.

"I think it probably could have been done less expensively," he said. The new facility will be the

Turn to **Library**, page 8

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