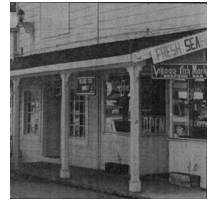




Aptos Branch Library History Timeline

1933

In 1933, David McFadden opens the first Aptos branch of the Santa Cruz public library in a vacant store in the Harper building owned by the McFadden family. The library operated until October 1935 when Mr. McFadden left for a trip to Mexico. The building was destroyed by the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989.



1944

Aptos did not have a library until Mrs. Helen Wikkerink began pleading for discarded books to start a borrowing service for children, as wartime gas rationing made it difficult for Aptos residents to visit the Santa Cruz library. For the next two decades, the library moved locations several times in an effort to accommodate patrons.



1964

The community's desire for a larger location as the demand for programs increased, led to the Aptos library to relocate to the Rancho Del Mar shopping center on Dec. 15, 1964. The Aptos Branch grew to be the second largest in book circulation.



1975

With community input, a search began to find a location for a permanent library. That location was designated at the corner of Soquel Drive and Ledyard Way. The new library was completed and dedicated on June 28, 1975, and opened its doors to the community on Monday, June 30 circulating 1,142 books.



2021

On June 12, 2021, after serving for almost half a century in its current location, and during a global pandemic, the existing library suspended services to give way to the construction of a larger, more modern, comfortable, and efficient facility to better serve the community and its needs. The design concept of this new facility incorporated input from Aptos residents, reaffirming the community's commitment and love for its library.



2024

After facing supply chain delays and post-pandemic setbacks, the Aptos Branch Library reopens its doors on Monday, February 5, 2024. This brand-new facility welcomes users to a net-zero green building that reflects the character of the community, offering 12,400sq.ft of space that includes community meeting rooms, study rooms, and a partnership with the Aptos History Museum to serve the Aptos community and its long standing love for libraries.



This effort was made possible by funding from the voter-approved Measure S and the unwavering support of community members, the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries and the Friends of the Aptos Library.

