

Our Neighbors: El Sobrante Library will dedicate reading garden

By Chris Treadway

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The final touches are in place, and the official dedication of the reading garden at the El Sobrante Library will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

The last major piece installed was an arbor, where the library can hold storytelling and other children's programs. The arbor is on a grassy mound where children can gather. Benches and a small play structure adorn the 865-square-foot area west of the library parking lot.

"The arbor is done and that was the last element we had to do," said Donald Bastin of the El Sobrante R9 Committee, which is co-hosting the dedication along with county Supervisor John Gioia and the Contra Costa Public Works Department.

Also being installed is a plaque that will honor Eleanor Lloynd, who has long been active in El Sobrante issues and projects, including the establishment of the reading garden.

"She contributed a substantial amount to the arbor," Bastin said, adding that the plaque also will be an acknowledgment of Lloynd's "dedication to El Sobrante."

Installation of the arbor was done through the donated labor of the Ironworkers Local. The union also is acknowledged on the plaque.

The reading garden, which had been in the planning more than three years, officially opened in July 2007 and was an immediate hit with the community as the only park in the El Sobrante Valley that wasn't within the Richmond city limits or on school property.

Local groups and individuals collaborated and volunteered to establish the park, which boasts native vegetation that complements the plant life in the Native Plant Demonstration Garden elsewhere on the library grounds.

"Our little park is well-used, and we need to keep an eye on it," Bastin said. "It's been a success, and I think it's going to be a success in the future."

All are welcome at the dedication ceremony at the library, 4191 Appian Way, and the Friends of the El Sobrante Library will provide refreshments.