

H. B. LIBRARY
NEWS CLIPPINGS

REFERENCE
PAMPHLET FILE

Independent 3

Gibbs' butterfly park set to open this weekend

By Robert Barker, *Staff Writer*

HUNTINGTON BEACH — The Norma Brandel Gibbs Park, a 5-acre urban oasis designed for Monarch butterflies and the people who enjoy them, will officially open this weekend.

In earlier times, thousands of migrating butterflies would stop off at the rural site, a eucalyptus grove planted by turn-of-the-century settler Charles Graham.

In later years, drought and pests took a heavy toll on the trees and trimmed the numbers of Monarchs that stopped off on their autumn journey from Colorado to Mexico to the hundreds, says Jim Engle, deputy director of the city's Community Services Department.

The city has spent about \$300,000 in state grants to plant 300 eucalyptus trees to re-establish the site.

Dedication ceremonies, including refreshments, a speech by Mayor Vic Leipzig and music by a Dixieland band, will start at 10 a.m. at the park on Graham Avenue, just west of the Meadowlark Golf Course, between Heil and Warner avenues.

The park is named after Gibbs, Huntington Beach's first woman council member and mayor, and one of its most distinguished citizens.

Gibbs, who also celebrates her 70th birthday Saturday, helped to spearhead the creation of Central Park, Central Library, neighborhood parks, walking trails, and has been a constant champion for the preservation of beaches and wetlands.

"She's truly the definition of a good person," said Councilman Dave Sullivan, who will be master of ceremonies.

"She's certainly one of the most respected people in the city."

