



News Release
August 9, 2007
Berkeley, California

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**Berkeley Public Library's West Branch Will Close for New Carpet, Paint,
and the Installation of a New Public Service Desk**

Berkeley Public Library's West Branch will be closed beginning September 10, 2007, to install a new carpet, receive an interior paint job, and have a new public service desk built. The Branch is tentatively planned to reopen on October 29, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. Until the Branch closes, please call West Branch Library at (510) 981-6270 with any questions. After September 10, please phone (510) 981-6100 or go to www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org

The Berkeley Public Library's Board of Library Trustees has authorized the closure and funding for this work. Special thanks to the generous fundraising of the **Berkeley Public Library Foundation** to pay for a new public service desk.

West Branch Library is also the home of **Berkeley Public Library's Adult Literacy Program, Berkeley Reads** -- http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/services_and_resources/literacy_program/index.php **While West Branch Library is closed, Berkeley Reads literacy services will continue. During the closure, Berkeley Reads staff can be contacted at their regular phone number, (510) 981-6299.**

West Branch Library was built as a Carnegie library in 1923 and was extensively remodeled and expanded in 1974. This is the first time since then that they have closed for extensive deferred maintenance. **Berkeley Public Library** is grateful to the **Berkeley Public Library Foundation** for their part in making West Branch more user-friendly. The very worn carpets will be replaced, badly-needed new paint will be applied, and a much more inviting and practical public service desk will be built to welcome patrons back to West Branch. While not a renovation, this refreshment will improve staff work areas, brighten up the teen area, and create a more welcoming feeling for visitors of all ages. A party to celebrate is planned for soon after West Branch re-opens: the party will celebrate the improvements, the newly configured Teen Area, and the launching of the **Early Literacy for Families (ELF) California State Library Grant**. Parents, caregivers, and children will have access to interactive learning materials and toys, books designed for read-alouds, and much, much more.

For more information on Berkeley Public Library's West Branch Library, please phone (510) 981-6270, (510) 548-1240 (TTY), or go to <http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/>

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