

*For Immediate Release*  
**Monday, July 20, 2009**

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## Chapter Closes for Busy West Side San Jose Library Branch

*Residents Bid Farewell in Anticipation of Better Things to Come*

SAN JOSE, Calif. – Calabazas Branch Library marks its last day of service on **Saturday, August 15** prior to an estimated 18-month closure that will witness transformation of the 5,880 sq. ft. library facility into one that is nearly twice the size at 10,000 sq. ft. A day of special activities—including musical performances, story times and children’s activities—will ensure that the old library goes out in style, closing the chapter on 40-plus years of community service.

### AT A GLANCE

	<i>Old</i>	<i>New</i>
Building Size	5,880 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.
Computers	11	20
Seats	42	60
Group Study Room	-	8 persons
Community Room	0	50 persons
Parking	38 spaces	45+ spaces

Community members are invited to visit and add their memories to a special memory book that will be on display during closing day. E-mail memories to [cz.sjpl@sjlibrary.org](mailto:cz.sjpl@sjlibrary.org). Library staff will also be taking photos of Calabazas customers and their families to include in the memory book. For more information, call (408 ) 996-1536.

Calabazas Library first opened its doors in 1966. In fiscal year 1994/96, just prior to an infusion of funds from the 10-year Library Assessment District, the branch circulated 23, 493 items. On the eve of its closure in fiscal year 2008/09, the branch circulated 791,760 items generated by 205,114 visits.

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Children's programming is particularly popular at the tiny branch, with audiences willing to stand in nearby aisles in order to take in the variety of storytelling, puppetry and musical enrichment that the branch has freely offered on a regular basis. The new branch will have a special program area to host these activities.

The expanded library will be built at the existing location. The building design by Krong Design, Inc. (San Jose, CA) features an Internet café/tech center, community living room with a fireplace, teen room, group study area, and a community room that will accommodate 50 persons, as well as significantly more space for seating, collections and computers. Krong Design brings experience from the Willow Glen library project whose community, like the Calabazas community, strongly advocated maintaining the library on its original site.

A contractor is yet to be selected, but construction is expected to get underway in early 2010, with projected opening in mid to late 2011. The total project budget is \$7.8 million.

Calabazas Library is the nineteenth of 20 projects that will be completed under the \$212 million library branch bond measure, approved by voters in November 2000 and dedicated to the construction of six new and fourteen expanded branch libraries. At this stage, 13 new libraries have opened and four more are under construction. A fourteenth will open this year when East San José Carnegie celebrates its grand opening on Saturday, August 29.

While the new branch is under construction, Calabazas area residents are welcome at all branches of the San José Public Library System. Most will find neighboring West Valley Branch Library, located at 1243 San Tomas Aquino Road, to be most convenient. All branch libraries are open Monday 2 p.m. – 7 p.m., Tuesday - Wednesday 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Thursday - Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. For updates on future branch library developments, visit [www.newsanjoselibraries.com](http://www.newsanjoselibraries.com).

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