



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Library News

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## ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON BRANCH TO REOPEN IN TEMPORARY QUARTERS JULY 28

The Robert Louis Stevenson Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, closed since last October's Whittier Narrows earthquake, will reopen in temporary quarters at 3500 E. Whittier Blvd. on Thursday, July 28.

An opening day celebration, featuring Fourteenth District City Councilman Richard Alatorre and Library Commission Vice President Martha D. Katsufakis, will begin at noon in the 3,300 square foot facility located in the Spence Plaza mini-mall. Refreshments will be served.

On opening day the branch hours will be from noon to 5:30 p.m. Regular service hours will be Monday and Wednesday, 12:30 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. A Summer Reading Program offers special activities for young people every Monday from 1 to 2 p.m. with stories, films or crafts. The program will culminate with a Read-A-Saurus Celebration on Friday, August 26 at 1 p.m.

The branch's former location, a 4,474 square foot building at 803 Spence St., was built in 1927 of unreinforced masonry prior to the adoption of the city's current seismic standards.

The building will be repaired, renovated and expanded while the branch is housed in its temporary quarters. Design work for the project was performed by Martinez-Hirsch Associates.

Three other branches, Junipero Serra in south-central Los Angeles, Malabar in east Los Angeles and Wilshire in the Wilshire district, were also closed due to seismic damage. Temporary quarters for the Junipero Serra and Wilshire branches will also be opening on July 28.

(more)

The Robert Louis Stevenson Branch started as the Stephenson Branch inside a rented storefront in 1914 at 3431 Whittier Blvd., which was then known as Stephenson Avenue. The branch came about as a result of a petition to the Library by area residents asking for library service.

When Stephenson Avenue was renamed Whittier Boulevard in 1925, the branch changed its name to Robert Louis Stevenson. As the store site became inadequate to meet public demand for service, plans were made for the construction of a branch building at the corner of Spence and Percy streets.

With funding from the 1925 Library Bond measure, the branch's Spence Street building was constructed in 1926-27 at a cost of \$37,652. On February 1, 1927 the branch opened in its new quarters.

Senior Librarian in charge of the Robert Louis Stevenson Branch is Pearl Yonezawa.

The Robert Louis Stevenson Branch is located in the Fourteenth Council District represented by Councilman Richard Alatorre.

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