

What You Need to Know about the Upcoming Closure and Relocation of the Mitchell Park Library

This summer will mark the beginning of the two-year construction project of the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center. This project is funded by Measure N, which was passed by Palo Alto voters in 2008. The new environmentally innovative facility will replace the existing Library and Community Center and will open in the summer of 2012. The Library will relocate to the Cubberley Community Center Auditorium during the construction.

Q. When is the last day the Mitchell Park Library will be open?

A. The last day of operation will be Saturday, June 5, 2010. The Library will relocate to the Cubberley Community Center Auditorium, 4050 Middlefield Road, and will open on Monday, June 28.

Q. What will the temporary Mitchell Park Library offer?

A. The temporary Library will hold the majority of the current Mitchell Park collection, including books, DVDs, and CDs. Requests can still be placed for items from other Palo Alto libraries and be held for customers at the temporary Library. The Library will provide access to 16 PCs and 13 loaner laptops for Internet and processing use, as well as free access to Wi-Fi. The temporary Library will also continue to provide programs.

Q. What will happen to the rest of the library collection?

A. The rest of the Mitchell Park Library collection will be stored and not available for circulation.

Q. What will happen to the Mitchell Park Library staff?

A. The staff will relocate to the temporary Library at Cubberley.

Q. How will the building be constructed?

A. The Mitchell Park Library and Community Center will be the first new City building constructed in nearly 50 years. The joint facility is designed to meet LEED Gold or higher standard, providing the community with a green building that is environmentally sustainable. The new two-story Mitchell Park Library will include a large Children's area, separate Teen room, computer lab, 100-person meeting room, and quiet reading areas. The Community Center will include a large multi-purpose event room with kitchen, flexible classrooms, Teen Center, half-court basketball area and a small café. There will be sufficient parking for cars and bicycles, and the construction will have no impact on the tennis courts or the park.

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Q. Will there be any event to mark the closing of the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center for the beginning of the construction project?

A. Yes! A Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 12, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Please join us as we celebrate the construction of the new joint facility with an afternoon of community sharing, family entertainment, and free ice cream!

Q. When is the last day I can use the outside bookdrop to return items?

A. The bookdrop in the parking lot at Mitchell Park Library will be open for returns until Friday, June 11; the indoor bookdrop will be closed. Beginning Monday, June 14, library items can be returned in the bookdrop at Cubberley. As always, items can be returned to any other Palo Alto Library.

Q. What will happen to items I have requested for pick up at Mitchell Park Library?

A. Beginning May 27- June 27, customers will not be able request items on the shelf from other branches. On Monday, June 28, customers will once again be able to request available items from other branches and have them sent to the temporary Mitchell Park Library.

Q. When is the last day I can choose Mitchell Park Library as my pick-up location when placing requests?

A. The last day to designate Mitchell Park Library as a pick-up location is Thursday, May 27. When the temporary Library opens on Monday, June 28, customers can resume designating Mitchell Park as a pick-up location.

Q. What will happen to any remaining holds left on the last day Mitchell Park Library is open?

A. Any holds not picked up by June 5 will be transferred to Main Library. They will be available for pick up on Monday, June 7. Please contact Library staff if you want to change your pick-up location to Children's Library.

Q. When is the last day I can donate books to the Mitchell Park Library?

A. The last day to leave donations at Mitchell Park Library will be May 1. After that date, please deliver donations directly to the Friends book sale location at Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd. The Friends book sale room is located at the back of the north driveway adjacent to the Charleston Shopping Center.