



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT OPENS NEW LIBRARY Throng Attends Ribbon Cutting and Sets Record for Checkouts**

Las Vegas, NV – At 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2009, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District held a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the Centennial Hills Library at 6711 N. Buffalo Drive in the northwest area of Las Vegas. Five years in the planning, the library opened on time and on budget, funded completely by regularly transferring a portion of operating fund revenue to savings.

A crowd of approximately 1,000 gathered to hear remarks by Library District Board Chair M. Frances Barron; Oscar B. Goodman, Mayor of the City of Las Vegas; Clark County Commissioner Larry Brown; City of Las Vegas Councilman Steve Ross and Thomas J. Schoeman, president and CEO of the building's designer, JMA Architecture Studios. Following the ribbon cutting, the public enjoyed refreshments and the many amenities offered by the first library opened by the District since 1997.

At approximately 11:30 a.m. patrons began checking out items. In the six and a half hours the library was open to the public, more than 8,000 items were checked out—nearly double the number of items checked out that day by the District's highest circulating branch, the Sahara West Library.

Daniel L. Walters, Library District Executive Director, remarked, "We were delighted at the number of people who came out for the opening, particularly the parents who brought their kids to use the children's computers and browse the many books in the Young People's Library. It was a great day," he continued, "not only for the public, but for the various government agencies who worked collaboratively to make this project happen, especially the City of Las Vegas and the Clark County Commission."

The library occupies 32,431 square feet, with an additional 13,124 square feet prepared with wiring and HVAC, ready for future library expansion to meet the needs of Centennial Hills as it continues to grow.

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The library will be open seven days a week. It has a collection of more than 160,000 volumes and state-of-the art technology including wireless Internet access, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and automated materials handling, a 42-seat computer area, a 20-seat computer lab for adults and a 22-seat computer lab for young people that will also offer homework help. The library has meeting space, a Young People's Library, an art gallery, a café and used bookstore.

The new library will be submitted for a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification, which means that a building has been constructed to reduce negative environmental impacts and improve occupant health and well-being. The building will efficiently use day lighting to minimize the need for overhead or other lights, and will use regional building materials and water efficient irrigation systems.

The Centennial Hills Library became a reality as a result of the agreement between the District and Henderson District Public Libraries that modified the Henderson District's boundaries to be the same as those of the City of Henderson. The Library District's Green Valley Library, located in the City of Henderson, transferred without charge to Henderson District ownership on January 1, 2009, allowing the District to transfer its resources, including staff, from Green Valley to serve the residents of the northwest.

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