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# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **Book Cart Parade Brings Students & Books Together to Kick-off Westwood Branch Library Reopening**

A **Book Cart Parade** brings students from Westwood Elementary School and books together for a Pre-Grand Opening celebration of the Westwood Branch Library on Thursday, May 30 from noon to 12:45 p.m. Students grades K-8 will push carts full of books from the Annex for the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County (corner of Epworth, Harrison, and Urweiler avenues) to the branch. The Annex has served as a workplace for branch staff members as they busily readied the greatly expanded collection for the move.

Amid colorful balloons and Public Library trucks, students from each grade level wearing commemorative Library logo t-shirts will march their way up two blocks across Harrison and Montana avenues to the Westwood Branch Library at 3345 Epworth Avenue.

The close proximity of Westwood Elementary School, which is located across the street from the branch, has made it easy to develop a long-standing relationship between the two learning traditions.

“Neighborhood students have always made up a big portion of our library users,” said Joyce Baer, Branch Manager. “We’ve invited the students to participate in this festive parade to help showcase the upcoming grand opening while emphasizing how important serving students has been and always will be to us.”

The \$1.9 million expansion and complete redesign of the branch will add about 2,000 square feet to the existing 3,780-sq.-ft. main floor space, where students and parents alike will find a collection of much greater size and range available to them. Two of the most exciting enhancements to the branch are the newly added Charles H. Dater Children’s Reading Room, which will house an expanded collection of children’s materials, and a new Teen Space with interactive CD-ROM station and a large collection of popular graphic novels and comic books.

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Other improvements include a new entrance tower that will provide direct access from the parking lot to the program room on the lower level, as well as the main floor. The tower also features a lift to make the facility handicapped accessible. There will also be a separate area for reference assistance, more computers with Internet access (15 instead of 3), more seating room, and expanded parking. Another reference librarian and a part-time library services assistant have been added to the staff to provide more service.

## **Grand Reopening of Westwood Branch Library**

The Grand Reopening of the Westwood Branch Library will take place on Saturday, June 8. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with local officials will take place at 10:00 a.m. A reception will immediately follow with entertainment and refreshments. The first program to commence in the newly remodeled branch will be the Library's Summer Reading Club, *Read Around the World*, which will continue through August 15. Any parent and child pair who sign up together for Summer Reading Club at the Grand Reopening will be eligible to win four tickets to a Cincinnati Reds Game. Two sets of four tickets will be awarded. For more information on the Grand Reopening call 513-369-6961.

Westwood Branch Library hours are Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The phone number for the branch is 513-369-4474.

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