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# El Paso Public Libraries to Host Open House to Celebrate 130th Anniversary

**EL PASO, Texas**—The El Paso Public Libraries is celebrating its 130th anniversary with a series of open houses at all branch libraries to showcase services, resources and programs that are available to the community.

The free open house events provide an opportunity for visitors to meet with librarians and library staff to learn about free services and programs while getting to know their neighborhood library. There will be library tours, free refreshments, swag and giveaways. Visitors can also take pictures with Public Libraries mascot, Lea.

“El Paso Public Libraries have been a cornerstone of our community for 130 years, and we’re excited to celebrate by inviting everyone to their neighborhood branch,” said Library Director Norma Martinez. “Our aim is to highlight the many library resources available to people of all ages.”

The first open house will be at **11 a.m. Wednesday, September 25, at the Westside Branch Library**, 125 Belvidere. Additional open house events in October include:

**José Cisneros Cielo Vista Branch**

11:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 9

**Irving Schwartz Branch**

3:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 25

A complete list of open house locations, dates and times is posted at [www.ElPasoLibrary](http://www.ElPasoLibrary).

The Public Libraries has 14 branch libraries, including a branch at the EPCC Transmountain Campus, and a bookmobile. Libraries offer free services including historical research archives, passport services, public meeting spaces, a free high school program for adults, story times and developmental programs for children as well as downloadable resources.

## History of the El Paso Public Libraries

In the fall of 1894, teacher, Mary Irene Stanton opened a reading room for her students in room 127 of the old Sheldon Hotel in downtown El Paso near where the Plaza hotel stands today. Her reading collection consisted of approximately 600-800 volumes from her own personal collection. The reading room became so popular that adults started requesting the privilege of reading Stanton's books. These were the humble beginnings of the El Paso Public Library. That library eventually moved to City Hall but by 1904, partially through a grant from steel magnet Andrew Carnegie, the El Paso Public Library opened its first stand-alone library building at what is now Cleveland Square. Cleveland Square has been the home of El Paso’s Main Library ever since.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**  
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