



News Release For Immediate Release

Contact: **Steff Koeneman**
Community Relations Manager
(520) 594-5610 / 419-2272
steffannie.koeneman@pima.gov

Jan. 21, 2011
For immediate release

Long-awaited Murphy-Wilmot Branch Library remodeling project complete; Reopening celebration on Feb. 13

After a year of planning and months of remodeling, the much-loved Murphy-Wilmot Branch Library will reopen its doors at its original location, 530 N. Wilmot Road during a celebration on Sunday, Feb. 13.

The event will take place at 12:30 p.m., with the doors opening at 1 p.m. There will be a brief ceremony. The event is free and open to the public.

The “new” library will not disappoint customers. Architect Dino Sakellar, son of the library’s original architect, Nicholas Sakellar, retained the modernistic design features of the library, through the remodeled design. This design features an open floor plan with large window walls to let in plenty of light. New carpeting, concrete flooring and paint create a light-toned environment for browsing and reading. Here are some additional remodeling features:

- The branch library has been expanded by 5,000 square feet to a total of 20,000 square feet.
- The patio area outside has been enclosed and landscaped, adding some outdoor seating.
- Two study rooms have been added.
- A “teen area” has been added.
- Seating is increased and some is café style, so customers can sit and enjoy a snack.
- The main meeting room has been made larger.
- Customers can browse for materials in new display areas.
- All systems – electrical, lighting, heating/cooling, computers and phones – have been upgraded to make the library more efficient and comfortable.

(more)

Planning for the remodeling – the branch’s third since it opened in September, 1965 – involved a great deal of community outreach through forums, focus groups and questionnaires, and many of the ideas offered by the community were included in the remodel.

The iconic and historic building was designed by Nicholas Sakellar and Associates and reflects his style of modern design in desert settings. The entire project cost approximately \$5.5 million. Funds for the project came from a 2004 bond.

#