



**News Release**  
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**Pima County Public Library unveils new bookmobile  
at Get Fit Festival**

Pima County Public Library invites the public to tour its new bookmobile and enjoy the ongoing Get Fit Festival on Saturday, Sept. 27.

Chairman Richard Elías, Pima County Supervisor, District 5, will lead the brief dedication ceremony held in front of the Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone, beginning at 2 p.m. Festival attendees and members of the public can then tour the bookmobile.

The new bookmobile replaces one purchased in 1990. It is a larger, more comfortable and a more user-friendly vehicle. It is 39 feet long, weighs 35,000 gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), and can hold up to 4,000 books. It also includes a retractable canopy, and satellite technology to provide video and WiFi services.

In addition, the bookmobile boasts a vibrant paint job featuring the word "bookmobile" in tall letters surrounded by images of the desert and people you'd find using a library or bookmobile.

This bookmobile will travel 700 miles a month or 8,400 miles a year to 20 stops throughout Pima County. The furthest stop from Tucson is in Sasabe, Ariz., but it also travels to Vail, Ariz., -- the furthest stop to the east. Urban stops are scattered from the more southeastern part of urban Tucson, north to Marana. Its mission is to provide library services to areas without libraries, or to people unable to easily access libraries.

The old bookmobile is being replaced because of high mileage. It has continued to serve the public, and is running still with 123,000 miles. During its 18-year tenure, it has served an estimated 65,400 customers. At one time, it was used as the library in Arivaca, until that branch location was built in 1996.

Matthews Specialty Vehicles, based in Greensboro, NC, built the bookmobile, which cost \$238,000. Funding for the vehicle came out of the Pima County Public Library 2007-2008 budget, which ended in June 2008.

The image wrap on the vehicle was designed by Tanya Fernandes, a graphic designer for the Library.

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