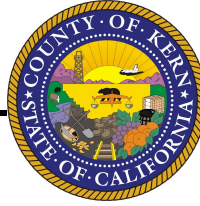


Kern County Administrative Office



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JOHN NILON
County Administrative Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2015

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BEALE LIBRARY CLOSED UNTIL BEDBUGS CAN BE EXTERMINATED

The Kern County Library's downtown Beale Memorial Library branch will be closed today while limited areas are treated for bedbugs.

After Library staff and pest control technicians reported initial findings of bedbugs, Kern County Environmental Health staff conducted a thorough inspection of the Beale branch and other Bakersfield area library branches last night. Environmental Health staff found evidence of bedbugs in a few areas of the Beale branch at 701 Truxtun Avenue but no evidence of bedbugs at the other branches.

Kern County Public Health Services Director Matt Constantine said his staff found the evidence of bedbugs to be limited to a few upholstered lounge chairs in adult areas of the library. He said no evidence of bedbugs was found in the children's area of the library. As a precaution, all lounge chairs have been removed from the library and will be replaced by chairs with impermeable surfaces. The library will remain closed until a pest control service can complete a thorough treatment of the affected areas.

"Although bedbugs can cause skin rashes and discomfort, they pose a minimal health risk as they are not known to transmit any pathogens or diseases," Constantine said. "As an added precaution, the County Administrative Office decided to close the Beale Library today."

Kern County Library Director Nancy Kerr said that during today's Beale branch closure, library patrons can still access the library's online services and databases at <http://kerncountylibrary.org> or visit the Library's six other branches in the Bakersfield area at the following locations and hours:

Baker Branch

1400 Baker Street
Monday 11 am-7 pm
Wednesday 11 am-7 pm

Holloway-Gonzales Branch

506 E. Brundage Lane
Wednesday 11 am-7 pm
Friday 10 am-6 pm

Northeast Branch

3725 Columbus Street
Tuesday 11 am-7 pm
Thursday 11 am-7 pm

Rathbun Branch

200 W. China Grade Loop
Tuesday 11 am-7 pm
Thursday 11 am-7 pm
Saturday 9 am-5 pm

Southwest Branch

8301 Ming Avenue
Tuesday 11 am-7 pm
Thursday 11 am-7 pm
Saturday 9 am-5 pm

Wilson Branch

1901 Wilson Road
Monday 11 am-7 pm
Wednesday 11 am-7 pm
Friday 9 am-5 pm

For more information, visit <http://kerncountylibrary.org> or call the library at (661) 868-0701. For information on preventing and treating bedbugs, call Kern County Public Health Services at (661) 321-3000.