MCPL Opens New Red Bridge Branch in South KC

Library Celebrates Branch’s New Chapter with ‘Book Brigade’ Ceremony

Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is pleased to announce the opening of its new Red Bridge Branch in South Kansas City, located at 453B Red Bridge Road within the Red Bridge Shopping Center. Previously located around the corner at 11140 Locust Street, MCPL’s former Red Bridge Branch closed about a month ago to move its materials from the old building into the new. The Library will host a Dedication Ceremony for the new Red Bridge Branch on Wednesday, September 25, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

During the celebration, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a “book brigade” ceremony, where Library customers and staff will line up to pass the last few books from the old location to the new. Afterward, Library leaders and local officials will give some brief remarks in the community room of the new Red Bridge Branch, followed by refreshments and family-friendly activities, including face painting, a visit from the Library’s mascot, Marty the Martian, an “I Love My Library” selfie station, and a balloon artist. The new Red Bridge Branch will officially open for its first full day of public service on Thursday, September 26, at 9:00 a.m.

“We’re so excited to welcome our customers to this incredible new building, which we think will be a tremendous resource for residents of South Kansas City,” said Sherry Bridges, Red Bridge Branch Manager. “The resources and amenities now available at the Library’s Red Bridge Branch better reflect what customers expect and deserve from a 21st century library.”

During the Dedication Ceremony on Wednesday evening, the Library will give away special commemorative tokens (one per person) that can be used one time to clear all Library fines and fees up to $10. In addition, the Library will offer a mobile scavenger hunt through the free GooseChase app, which customers can participate in to qualify for a $50 gift certificate to Crows Coffee. The Red Bridge Branch Scavenger Hunt will kick off at the dedication ceremony on September 25 and run through October 4, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

The new Red Bridge Branch spans 14,352 square feet—more than 2,300 larger than MCPL’s previous location—and offers improved visibility from Red Bridge Road. In January 2019, the Library began renovating the new building, which had formerly been occupied by a bowling alley and is currently owned by LANE4 Property Group. The Library signed a long-term lease with LANE4 in fall 2018. The new facility includes a community room for Library programs and community forums, collaboration rooms for small meetings and tutoring sessions, a designated children’s area, an outdoor seating area, and upgraded technology throughout.
As part of MCPL’s Capital Improvement Plan, the Red Bridge Branch is one of many Library branches to receive upgrades, which have been made possible by increased funding from the passage of Proposition L by voters in 2016. While the upgrades at each branch have varied based on individual community needs and the building’s current condition, the Library’s goal has been to create more intentional spaces and improve essential technology. Design work for the five-year Capital Plan is being completed by Sapp Design Architects and Helix Architecture + Design with JE Dunn assuming responsibility for construction contractor management.

In addition to all the physical upgrades, the increased funding approved by voters in 2016 has allowed MCPL to expand branch hours, enhance special services, augment early literacy efforts, and buy more materials.

More information about the Red Bridge Branch’s opening can be found at mymcpl.org/Community.

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Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and two Library-To-Go locations and serving more than 816,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.