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Mid-Continent Public Library Breaks Ground in Liberty

Groundbreaking Ceremony on October 29 Kicks Off Construction of Replacement Branch

Liberty, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is proud to announce that it will host a groundbreaking ceremony at 1665 S. Withers Rd. in Liberty, Mo., on Tuesday, October 29, at 9:30 a.m., marking the start of construction on a replacement building for its Liberty Branch, which is currently located at 1000 Kent Street. Acquired by the Library in early 2019, the six-acre property where the new building will reside is a mile south of the old facility on the east side of Withers Road near the community center.

The groundbreaking ceremony will include remarks from Library leadership and local officials. The replacement building will offer a wide array of amenities and upgraded technology throughout the 18,500-square-foot space, including:

- Community programming room for classes and forums
- Enclosed meeting/study rooms
- Designated teen area
- Children’s area

“One of the things we are most excited about are the enclosed programming and meeting rooms, which will be an amazing resource for our customers seeking coworking or study space,” said Kara Drury, Liberty Branch Manager. “But we’re also really looking forward to the architects’ plans to bring the outside in. Overall, this modern space will allow us to better meet the needs of our customers, and we can’t wait to share it with them.”

The new building is more than 1,000 square feet larger than the current Liberty Branch, which opened in 1982 and was expanded upon in 1992. Construction of the replacement branch is scheduled to be complete by late 2020, and the current Liberty Branch will remain open as it is built. The Liberty Branch circulated more than 316,000 items and saw nearly 141,000 customers walk through its doors in the past fiscal year alone. The new building will help accommodate growing customer use.

The construction of the new building is part of MCPL’s Capital Improvement Plan, which it launched following the passage of Proposition L in 2016. As part of the Capital Plan, all 31 MCPL branches will be improved in some way, and two new branches will be built by the end of 2022. While the upgrades at each branch vary based on individual community needs and the building’s current condition, the Library’s goal is to create more intentional spaces, as well as upgrade essential technology like computers, printers, and high-speed Wi-Fi. The Library is working with Sapp Design Architects, Helix Architecture + Design, and JE Dunn to complete all of the work in the Capital Plan.
In addition to all the physical upgrades, the increased funding approved by voters in 2016 allowed MCPL to expand branch hours, enhance special services, augment early literacy efforts, and buy more books, movies, and music.

More information about the Liberty Branch and all of the Library’s construction projects can be found online 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.