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Oak Grove Branch Open, Welcome Back Ceremony on Nov. 16

Library Completes Branch Renovations, Hosts Ribbon-Cutting and Open House

Oak Grove, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is pleased to announce the completion of renovations at its Oak Grove Branch, which reopened to the public on October 10, resuming its regular hours (Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.). An official Welcome Back Ceremony will be held at the branch on Friday, November 16, at 9:00 a.m. and will include remarks from Library leadership as well as local elected officials, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception.

“The Oak Grove community has been incredibly patient and supportive during our transition period, and we can’t wait to show them all the improvements that have been made to their Library,” said Amy Vajnar, Oak Grove Branch Manager. “One of the features I am most excited about is the new enclosed community room, which will allow us to continue to provide engaging and educational programs to our customers with less disruption to others who are using the library. It is also a space that can be reserved by community groups when not scheduled for Library events.”

In addition to the Welcome Back Ceremony, the Oak Grove Branch will host an Open House on Saturday, November 17, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event will open with live entertainment by Mad Science and will continue with refreshments, a selfie station, and a mobile scavenger hunt through the free GooseChase app to qualify for a $50 gift certificate to El Maguey in Oak Grove.

During both the Welcome Back Ceremony on Friday and throughout the day on Saturday, 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. The Oak Grove Branch Scavenger Hunt will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 17, and continue through Friday, November 23, at 6:00 p.m. To register for the live entertainment, visit mymcpl.org/events.

Since the branch closed on July 2, it has received a variety of interior and exterior upgrades, including the new programming room for use by the public, technology upgrades, and a new entry façade that includes the Library’s logo.

Scheduled at the start of Phase I of MCPL’s Capital Improvement Plan, the Oak Grove 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 vary 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 Oak Grove Branch's reopening can be found at mymcp.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 three Library-To-Go locations and serving more than 800,000 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.