Mid-Continent Public Library Hosts Community Stakeholder Discussions

Library Seeks Community Input on Proposed Branch Enhancements

Independence, MO – Beginning on March 2, Mid-Continent Public Library will launch a series of public meetings across its three-county district for community members to gather and learn more about the Library’s plans for the future, as well as express their thoughts on what each branch can do to better serve local residents.

The meetings, which will be led by members of MCPL’s administrative leadership, were scheduled on the heels of the November 8 general election in which voters approved Proposition L, a proposed increase to the Library’s levy for the purposes of building and renovating branches and maintaining or expanding Library collections, services, and programs. The meetings will offer attendees the opportunity to join in a dialogue about how Library services should be customized to their community, including the expansion of branch hours or modification of programming and resources. Those unable to attend the meetings will have the chance to share their thoughts through an online survey that will be emailed to all Library customers in the coming weeks.

“Community dialogue and feedback are vital parts of our operations at Mid-Continent Public Library,” said Steven V. Potter, Library Director and CEO. “We try very hard to provide the best library experience to our residents, and the way we accomplish that is through open dialogue and public input on what residents want to see from their Library. We’re very grateful to the voters for their approval of Prop L in November, and because of their support, we’re now able to open this exciting new chapter of growth and improvement in the Library’s history.”

Prop L passed with a total of 62.3% approval and support from the majority of voters in all three counties in the Library’s district (Jackson, Clay, and Platte). Although the Library will not begin collecting the approved levy amount until the end of 2017 (based on the standard property tax cycle), MCPL leadership will use feedback from the meetings to guide the planning and budgeting process preceding the launch of its next fiscal year (July 2017).

Schedule of Community Stakeholder Discussions:

- **Antioch Branch** – Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Blue Ridge Branch** – Thursday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Blue Springs North Branch** – Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Blue Springs South Branch** – Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Boardwalk Branch** – Thursday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Buckner Branch** – Thursday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Claycomo Branch** – Thursday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m.
Colbern Road Branch – Thursday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.
Dearborn Branch – Monday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.
Excelsior Springs Branch – Thursday March 2 at 7:00 p.m.
Grain Valley Branch – Thursday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.
Grandview Branch – Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m.
Kearney Branch – Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m.
Lee's Summit Branch – Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Liberty Branch – Thursday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.
Lone Jack Branch – Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m.
Midwest Genealogy Center – Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.
North Independence Branch – Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m.
North Oak Branch – Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Oak Grove Branch – Thursday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m.
Parkville Branch – Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.
Platte City Branch – Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m.
Raytown Branch – Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.
Red Bridge Branch – Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.
Riverside Branch – Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.
Smithville Branch – Thursday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.
South Independence Branch – Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m.
Weston Branch – Monday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Woodneath Library Center – Thursday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Residents may register to attend a Community Stakeholder Discussion at mymcpl.org/community.

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Access Your World

Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and four Library-To-Go locations and serving over 792,000 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.