**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Library Launches Phase II of Five-Year Capital Plan**

**MCPL Acquires Lee’s Summit Property, Reveals Next Round of Construction**

Greater Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is pleased to announce the launch of Phase II of its five-year Capital Improvement Plan, which calls for upgrades at all 31 MCPL branches and the addition of two new branches by 2022.

The plan, made possible by increased funding from the passage of Proposition L by Library district voters in November 2016, has impacted seven branches to date—five of which (Antioch, Blue Springs South, Excelsior Springs, Oak Grove, and Weston) have temporarily closed for construction upgrades. Due to issues uncovered during the construction process, the reopening of the Weston Branch has been delayed until late September. The Platte City Branch will close immediately upon the reopening of the Weston Branch. The Midwest Genealogy Center remains open while construction of a 400-seat Community Hall progresses.

“We’re very excited about the progress we’ve made so far in fulfilling our promises to the voters, and we look forward to kicking off this new round of upgrades, which will offer our customers the modern library experience they need and deserve,” said Steven V. Potter, MCPL Director and CEO.

**Completing Phase I**

Rounding out Phase I is MCPL’s recent acquisition of a property in Lee’s Summit, Mo., at Blue Parkway and Battery Road just east of Todd George Road (just north of 50 Highway) where the Library intends to erect a brand new 18,500-square-foot branch with a wide array of amenities and upgraded technology. Pending city approval, the design of the new facility will include:

- A community programming room for classes and forums
- Enclosed meeting/study rooms
- A teen area
- A children’s area, which will be called the “Richard and Deborah Link Learning Center” (dedicated to the prior owners who generously donated a portion of the property)

MCPL currently has two other branches in Lee’s Summit—off Oldham Parkway and Colbern Road—and collectively the two circulated more than one million items during the last fiscal year (putting them at #1 and #3 in terms of circulation out of MCPL’s 31 branches). Additionally, they had more than 330,000 visitors in their buildings last year. The new Lee’s Summit branch will help the Library better meet the needs of this growing community.
The final step of Phase I will be to replace the current Liberty Branch with a new building. More details about this project will be announced later.

**Launching Phase II**

Targeted closure dates as well as planned branch improvements for the start of Phase II include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Closure Date</th>
<th>Reopen Date</th>
<th>Improvements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lone Jack Branch</td>
<td>Mid-October 2018</td>
<td>January 2019</td>
<td>Enhanced entry with automatic entry doors; outdoor seating area; new paint; new updated public computers, improved Wi-Fi coverage and access; landscape enhancements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden Point Branch</td>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>January 2019</td>
<td>New windows and lighting; refreshed exterior with automatic entry doors; outdoor seating area; new paint, carpet, and ceilings; new updated public computers, improved Wi-Fi coverage and access; landscape enhancements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Branch</td>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>January 2019</td>
<td>New windows and lighting; refreshed exterior with automatic entry doors; outdoor seating area; new paint; new updated public computers, improved Wi-Fi coverage and access; landscape enhancements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgerton Branch</td>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>January 2019</td>
<td>New windows and lighting; refreshed exterior with automatic entry doors; outdoor seating area; new paint; new updated public computers, improved Wi-Fi coverage and access; landscape enhancements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kearney Branch</td>
<td>Late November 2018</td>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>New community room; enhanced entry with automatic entry doors; outdoor seating area; new paint, carpet, and ceilings; new updated public computers, improved Wi-Fi coverage and access; landscape enhancements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claycomo Branch</td>
<td>December 2018</td>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>New community room; new windows and lighting; enhanced entry with automatic entrance doors; outdoor seating area; new paint; new updated public computers, improved Wi-Fi coverage and access; landscape enhancements.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Most branches receiving upgrades in Phase II will require temporary closures, during which time customers will be directed to alternate locations to conduct their Library business. 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 such as community and meeting rooms, 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 these improvements and closures can be found online 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 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.