MCPL Celebrates Reopening of Kearney Branch

Library Completes Branch Renovations, Rededication Ceremony on July 18

Kearney, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is pleased to announce the completion of renovations at its Kearney Branch (100 S. Platte-Clay Way, Kearney, MO 64060), which reopened to the public on June 3. An official Rededication Ceremony will be held at the Kearney Branch on Thursday, July 18, at 8:30 a.m. The ceremony will include remarks from Library leadership as well as local officials, followed by a special “book-opening” ceremony and reception.

“We’re very proud of the hard work that has been done to upgrade the Library over the past several months, and we can’t wait for our customers to see and use the phenomenal new amenities,” said Angela Gillette, manager of MCPL’s Kearney Branch. “The Kearney Branch is now a modern library that will better serve the community for years to come.”

In addition to the Rededication Ceremony, the Kearney Branch will host an Open House on Saturday, July 20, which will kick off at 1:00 p.m. with live entertainment from comedian and storyteller Dennis Porter (registration required), followed by refreshments and a selfie station. During both the Rededication Ceremony on Thursday 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.

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 La Fuente Mexican Restaurant. The Kearney Branch Scavenger Hunt will kick off at the rededication ceremony on July 18 and run through July 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Since the Kearney Branch closed in November 2018, it has received a variety of interior and exterior upgrades, including an enclosed community programming room, new collaboration rooms, new outdoor seating area, and upgraded technology, including new computers as well as improved Wi-Fi coverage and access.

As part of MCPL’s Capital Improvement Plan, the Kearney 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 Kearney Branch’s reopening 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.