FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

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Mid-Continent Public Library Opens Withers Branch in Liberty

Library Opens New Building Off Withers Road, Replacing Former Liberty Branch

Liberty, MO – On Wednesday, September 23, at 9:00 a.m., Mid-Continent Public Library will open the doors to a brand-new building off Withers Road in Liberty, Mo. The 18,500-square-foot Withers Branch (1665 S. Withers Road) will serve as a replacement for the former Liberty Branch (1000 Kent Street), which closed last month. The new building is more than 1,000 square feet larger than the old Liberty Branch and offers a variety of upgraded amenities, including:

- Dedicated areas for children and teens
- A drive-up window
- Enclosed community room for public programs
- Smaller collaboration and study rooms
- Outdoor reading and seating area
- Native landscaping

“We are thrilled to be able to welcome the Liberty community into this incredible new facility,” said Kara Drury, Withers Branch Manager. “This modern, upgraded space will allow us to better serve our customers for years to come.”

Customers who used MCPL’s nearby Woodneath Library Center (8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, Mo.) after the Liberty Branch closed will automatically have their held materials transferred to the new Withers Branch. Currently, materials at all MCPL locations must be reserved and picked up through curbside or drive-up window service, due to COVID-19 restrictions. In addition, all public programs, including storytimes, are currently being held virtually through Zoom or the MCPL360 Facebook page.

The construction of the Withers Branch—and replacement of the Liberty Branch, which was built in 1982 and expanded upon in 1992—is part of MCPL’s ongoing Capital Improvement Plan, which it launched following the passage of Proposition L in 2016. The Library is working with Sapp Design Architects, Helix Architecture + Design, and JE Dunn to upgrade all of its existing branches and add two new units of service by the end of 2022. Prop L funding has also allowed the Library to expand branch hours, enhance special services, augment early literacy efforts, and buy more materials.
More information about the Withers Branch and all of the Library’s construction projects can be found online at mymcpl.org/Community.

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Founded in 1965, Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 33 locations and two Library-To-Go locations and serving more than 816,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. MCPL is an award-winning library system that strives to enrich citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.