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‘Legacy Luncheon’ Pays Tribute to Impact of Libraries

MCPL’s Annual Fundraiser Honors Staff, Features Bestselling Author Sarah Smarsh

Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library will once again host its Legacy Luncheon, an annual event that celebrates the impact of libraries and librarians on the community, on Friday, July 19, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at Tower Club East in Arrowhead Stadium (One Arrowhead Dr., Kansas City, MO, 64129).

The annual program will honor the great impact and bright future of libraries while paying tribute to the employees and community members who make it all possible. In addition to its longstanding John Ferguson Legacy Award for Outstanding Library Service, bestowed upon an MCPL employee for exceptional customer service, and its Victor Gragg Library Champion Award, given to a community member for their support of MCPL, the Library will debut a new award this year called the Maggie Jackson Community Spirit Award.

This new honor is dedicated to the memory of long-time MCPL Liberty Branch staff member Maggie Jackson and will be awarded to a Library employee who is committed to taking the Library's mission beyond its four walls. The recipient will have demonstrated this by going above and beyond in their outreach efforts, striving to develop meaningful connections and improve their community.

“Legacy Luncheon is a really special tradition where we, as a community, come together to celebrate the Library and the people who make it what it is,” said MCPL Development Specialist Danielle Haynes, who organizes the event. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude to the individuals whose passion and dedication is felt every single day by the people they help and the impact they make in their community.”

The Legacy Luncheon will also feature an update on the future of the Library and a special keynote presentation by author Sarah Smarsh. Guests will enjoy lunch and receive a complimentary copy of Smarsh’s bestselling book, Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth. Smarsh is a Kansas native from a five-generation farm family whose work as journalist and political commentator has earned her the spotlight in many prominent national media outlets.

In addition to her writing career, Smarsh is an educator who has taught classes at Washburn University, Columbia University, and Ottawa University, among others, and she regularly speaks on socioeconomic class, politics, and rural issues at high-profile events and in the news. She is a fellow of the Center for Kansas Studies and serves on the advisory board for I’m First, a national organization that supports first-generation college students.

The Legacy Luncheon is made possible in part by funding from its sponsors, including Children’s Plus, Metropolitan Community College, Central Bank of the Midwest, and JE Dunn.
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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.