FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 13, 2020

MCPL Releases Construction Plans for Lee’s Summit Branches

Library Temporarily Closes Colbern Road Branch, Prepares to Open ‘East Lee’s Summit’

Lee’s Summit, MO – By the end of 2022, Mid-Continent Public Library customers in Lee’s Summit, Mo., will have three state-of-the-art branches to choose from to get their Library resources and services, but as MCPL works to achieve this goal, Library customers will have to navigate some temporary closures and relocations.

Beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 15, the Library’s Colbern Road Branch (1000 NE Colbern Road, Lee's Summit, MO) will be closed for renovations as the Library prepares to tear down the current building and build a brand new one on the same site. This new building will be 33,000 square feet (more than twice the size of the current building) and will become home to the Library’s Square One Small Business Services division (a group dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs and small business owners across the metro) in addition to its regular resources and services. The new Colbern Road Branch building will also include:

- An enclosed community room with an operable partition wall that seats up to 240
- A children’s program room that seats 106
- Five smaller collaboration rooms
- Co-working space for entrepreneurs and small businesses
- A teen space
- A coffee shop

The renovated Colbern Road Branch is expected to be complete by late spring 2021. From March 16, 2020, through late April 2020, the Library’s Lee’s Summit Branch (150 NW Oldham Pkwy., Lee's Summit, MO) will be the only MCPL location open to the public. During this time, all Lee’s Summit customer holds will be automatically transferred here, and customers are encouraged to attend this branch’s storytimes and programs.

In late April or early May, MCPL will open a brand-new branch called East Lee’s Summit, located at 2240 SE Blue Parkway in Lee’s Summit. Ground was broken in May 2019 on this new branch, which will span 18,500 square feet and offer a wide array of amenities, including:

- A community programming room for classes and forums (seating cap. 150)
- Three enclosed meeting/study rooms
- Designated teen area
- Children’s area—the “Richard and Deborah Link Learning Center” (dedicated to the prior owners who generously donated a portion of the property)
Following the opening of the new East Lee’s Summit Branch, all customers who previously used the Colbern Road Branch will have their holds automatically transferred to East Lee’s Summit (unless they ask staff to keep or transfer their holds elsewhere). MCPL’s Colbern Road Branch staff members will work at the East Lee’s Summit Branch and resume their regularly scheduled books groups and storytimes soon after reopening.

“We’re very excited to ultimately expand our services in Lee’s Summit,” said Ritchie Momon, Chief Customer Experience Officer at MCPL. “Our Lee’s Summit branches are some of the busiest in our three-county district, and these upgrades will help us better serve residents. That said, we know the transition period will be tough for some, and our goal is to make it as quick and smooth as possible. If you have any questions about what’s happening at your MCPL branch, I strongly encourage you to chat with your local staff members.”

The last MCPL branch in Lee’s Summit to receive renovations will be the Lee’s Summit Branch off Oldham Pkwy. This branch is slated to temporarily close for renovations sometime before the end of 2022.

All of these upgrades are part of the Library’s Capital Improvement Plan, which was made possible by increased funding from the passage of Proposition L by voters in 2016. 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 Library’s Capital Improvement Plan, including all the planned upgrades for its Lee’s Summit branches, can be found at mymcpl.org/Community.

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Founded in 1965, [Mid-Continent Public Library](https://www.mymcpl.org) is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 32 branches 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](https://www.facebook.com/), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/).