

PRESS RELEASE

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Library to dedicate new Northside Branch on June 22 with community celebration

Temporary location to close at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 15

COLUMBUS—On Thursday, June 22, Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) will open its new Northside Branch to the public with a brief dedication ceremony followed by a grand opening celebration. The event is free and open to all.

- **New Northside Branch Dedication and Grand Opening Celebration**
1423 N. High St.
Columbus Metropolitan Library
Thursday, June 22, 2017 | 3:30-6 p.m.

Following brief remarks and a ribbon cutting by library and city officials, the afternoon will be filled with refreshments, music and entertainment. Plus, all are welcome to explore the new branch (see rendering below), whether on their own or as part of staff-guided tours. Visitors can also sign up for a commemorative library card and register for a chance to win an eReader.

The Northside Branch project is part of CML's 10-project aspirational building program:

- The new **Driving Park Branch** opened July 12, 2014
- The new **Whitehall Branch** opened April 11, 2015
- The new **Parsons Branch** opened June 4, 2016
- The transformed **Main Library** opened June 25, 2016
- The transformed **Northern Lights Branch** opened Sept. 24, 2016
- The new **Shepard Branch** opened Oct. 13, 2016
- Planning is underway for a new **Martin Luther King Branch**
- Planning is underway for a new **Hilliard Branch**
- Planning is underway for a new **Dublin Branch**

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CML hopes to have all 10 projects completed by 2020.

The former Northside Branch, located on the same site as the new branch, was one of the smallest buildings in CML's 23-library system with approximately 7,700 square feet. When it opens June 22, the new branch will offer approximately 25,000 square feet of space, more than tripling its size.

Since CML closed the former Northside Branch for construction of the new building, it has [provided temporary services](#) out of its bookmobile in the Kroger parking lot at 1350 N. High St. In preparation for the June 22 grand opening, this temporary location will close to the public at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 15. The new branch's book drop will open on Friday, June 16, allowing customers to return materials ahead of the grand opening.

CML understands that great libraries create stronger communities, and each branch is an essential hub that reflects the unique needs of the neighborhood it serves. Some of CML's 23 locations are 40 to 50 years old and inadequate to meet the demands of a growing 21st century community. Demands and expectations will continue to grow, along with the population of Franklin County.

CML's aspirational building program is the result of a community-wide process that will continue to serve the needs of Franklin County well into the future. The plan is a multi-phased comprehensive blueprint that reinvents and revitalizes the entire 600,000 square feet maintained by the library.

In addition to being a vital community asset, Columbus Metropolitan Library strives to minimize its environmental footprint. With each new building or renovation project, CML plans to use sustainable building materials, incorporate glass for natural light to reduce energy costs and introduce other design and building elements friendly to the natural environment.

Phase one of CML's aspirational building program is transforming and significantly upgrading seven urban branches (Driving Park, Whitehall, Parsons, Martin Luther King, Northside, Northern Lights, Shepard) and two suburban branches (Hilliard and Dublin). In addition, changes to Main Library represent a major investment in downtown Columbus and the Discovery District.

Visit columbuslibrary.org for more information and to track progress of CML's ambitious building program.

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Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help Centers, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Club and Ready for Kindergarten. The library's Strategic Plan supports the vision of "a thriving community where wisdom prevails," which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college readiness and employment resources.

CML was named a 2011 National Medal Winner by the Institute for Museum and Library Services for work in community service, the highest honor for libraries and museums. Columbus Metropolitan Library has been rated a 5-Star Library by Library Journal for seven of the eight years the magazine has published its industry ratings.