

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

CONTACT:

Gregg Dodd, Marketing Director
Columbus Metropolitan Library
(614) 849-1043 office, (614) 205-7816 cell
gdodd@columbuslibrary.org
www.columbuslibrary.org

Ben Zenitsky, Marketing & Communications Specialist
Columbus Metropolitan Library
(614) 849-1045 office, (614) 315-3766
bzenitsky@columbuslibrary.org
www.columbuslibrary.org

Library to open first new branch in a decade on July 12

New Driving Park Branch will open with community celebration

COLUMBUS—On Saturday, July 12, Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) will open its new Driving Park Branch to the public with a brief dedication ceremony followed by a grand opening celebration. The event is free and open to all.

- **New Driving Park Branch Dedication and Grand Opening Celebration**
1422 E. Livingston Ave. (at Livingston and Kelton avenues)
Columbus Metropolitan Library
Saturday, July 12, 2014 | Noon-3 p.m.

Following brief remarks from community and city officials – including Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman – the afternoon will be filled with refreshments, music and entertainment. Plus, all are welcome to explore the new branch (see photo 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 new Driving Park Branch, which is CML's first new building in a decade, represents the first of 10 library locations (including Main Library) to be renovated or rebuilt in the next few years. Ground broke for the new building on July 30, 2013. CML also held a groundbreaking for its new Whitehall Branch on Sept. 10, 2013, scheduled to open next spring.

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 21 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.

--More--

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, CML aims to minimize its environmental footprint. CML's goal with each new building is to achieve LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, certification with the U.S. Green Building Council.

Phase one of CML's aspirational building program will transform and significantly upgrade 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 will 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.

Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio for 141 years. With its Main Library and 20 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help Centers, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Club and the Ready to Read Corps. 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. In 2013, Columbus Metropolitan Library became the only large public library in the country to be rated a 5-Star Library for all six years of Library Journal's industry standards rating program.



--30--