

PRESS RELEASE

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Library opens new Hilliard Branch Eighth new library to open since 2014

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) has cut the ribbon on its new Hilliard Branch.

The new Hilliard Branch has:

- 63,000 square feet of space on two floors (three times larger than the former branch)
- Interactive children's area with more space for programs and areas for children to read, study and use computers
- Ready for Kindergarten area where preschoolers and their families can prepare for kindergarten
- Stroller parking conveniently located on the 1st floor near the children's area
- Tween and teen areas with computers, study space and comfortable seating
- Larger Homework Help Center where students can get free after-school help
- Three large meeting rooms and 11 individual/small group study rooms for the community to gather and meet
- Kerr's Café operated by the Public Perk, which sells coffee and pastries
- Multiple seating areas including a quiet room and a three-season pavilion
- A robust collection to meet the community's needs

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Ribbon cutters participating in today's dedication include:

The Honorable Tom Baker, *Member, Hilliard City Council*

Joe Bengoechea, *Office of U.S. Congressman Steve Stivers*

Michael Bongiorno, *Director/Designer, DesignGroup*

The Honorable Kevin Boyce, *President, Franklin County Board of Commissioners*

David Brown, *Project Executive, Turner Construction Co.*

Bob Carroll, *Director of Data Analytics and Meter Services Support, American Electric Power*

Alison Circle, *Chief Customer Experience Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library*

Christy Clark, *Executive Director, Destination Hilliard*

Kim Emch, *Founder and Executive Director, SON Ministries*

Timothy Frommeyer, *President, Columbus Metropolitan Library Board of Trustees*

Libby Gierach, *President/CEO, Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce*

Lauren Hagan, *Chief Financial Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library*

Charlie Hansen, *Public Services Director, Columbus Metropolitan Library*

Marihelen Hatcher, *Public Services Director, Columbus Metropolitan Library*

Cindy Hilsheimer, *Managing Principal, BeecherHill*

The Honorable Jim Hughes, *State Representative, District 25*

The Honorable Albert Iosue, *President, Hilliard City Council*

Wendy Tressler Jasper, *2020 Vision Program Manager, Columbus Metropolitan Library*

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Erika Clark Jones, *Member, Columbus Metropolitan Library Board of Trustees*
Grace Kendall, *Retired Hilliard Branch Manager*
The Honorable Stephanie Kunze, *State Senator, District 16*
Patrick Losinski, *Chief Executive Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
Grant Lynch, *Chief Administrative Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
Cathy Lyttle, *Vice President of Corporate Communications, Worthington Industries*
Dr. John Marschhausen, *Superintendent, Hilliard City Schools*
The Honorable Pete Marsh, *Member, Hilliard City Council*
Joe Mayer, *Designer/Project Architect, DesignGroup*
Jordan Miller, *Treasurer, Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation*
Robin Nesbitt, *Hilliard Branch Manager, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
The Honorable Donald Schonhardt, *Mayor, City of Hilliard*
Catherine Strauss, *Member, Columbus Metropolitan Library Board of Trustees*
Roger Sugarman, *Member, Columbus Metropolitan Library Board of Trustees*

The Hilliard 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 new **Northern Lights Branch** opened Sept. 24, 2016
- The new **Shepard Branch** opened Oct. 13, 2016
- The new **Northside Branch** opened June 22, 2017
- Construction is underway on a new **Martin Luther King Branch**
- Construction is underway on a new **Dublin Branch**

The new Hilliard Branch is located in what was originally intended to be the 2-story community center of the Hickory Chase development. The 86-acre Hickory Chase site, initially slated to be a residential community for seniors, fell into foreclosure in 2009 and remained unfinished along Davidson Road between Leap Road and Britton Parkway. At approximately 63,000 square feet, the new branch is CML's largest. Turner was the construction manager at risk and DesignGroup was the architect.

The former Hilliard Branch located at 4772 Cemetery Rd. has been placed for sale.

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.

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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.

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 and career 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. CML was also named 2010 Library of the Year by Library Journal.