

PRESS RELEASE

Monday, Jan. 25, 2016

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Library opens new Canal Winchester Branch

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



Ribbon cutters, from left to right:

Jack Hedge, Architect, DesignGroup

Eric Lipschutz, Architect, DesignGroup

Martha Lund, Manager, Columbus Metropolitan Library Canal Winchester Branch

Tim Frommeyer, Secretary, Columbus Metropolitan Library Board of Trustees

Jennifer Hadden, Past President, Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library Board

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Will Bennett, Vice President, Canal Winchester City Council
Connie Spruill, Acting Chair, Canal Winchester Chamber of Commerce
Steve Donahue, President, Canal Winchester City Council
The Honorable Mike Ebert, Mayor, City of Canal Winchester
Jim Sotlar, Superintendent, Canal Winchester Schools
The Honorable Heather Bishoff, Member, Ohio House of Representatives
Jeff Lyttle, President, Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation Board
Roger Sugarman, President, Columbus Metropolitan Library Board of Trustees

The new Canal Winchester Branch is located in the former gymnasium of the Canal Winchester Education Center (the city's former high school) at 115 Franklin St. Canal Winchester Schools leased the roughly 5,400 square-foot space to CML for five years at a cost of \$1 per year. After minor renovations, CML has opened the new branch to the public.

"We are thrilled to extend CML's reach to this community, and to be a hub for out-of-school learning for its young minds," said CML CEO Patrick Losinski.

The new branch includes a Homework Help Center. This dedicated space offers free after-school assistance to K-12 students from staff and vetted community volunteers. It operates Monday through Thursday from 3:30-6:30 p.m. and Friday from 3-6 p.m.

The Canal Winchester Branch also offers:

- Books, magazines and newspapers
- Programs and services to help families prepare their children for kindergarten
- Access to computers for adults and children
- Wireless access for mobile devices
- Printers and photocopiers (at cost)

The Canal Winchester Branch represents CML's second "express" branch. The library system similarly opened its [Marion-Franklin Branch](#) on Sept. 15, 2014, which became its 22nd location.

Hours of operation at the new Canal Winchester Branch are Monday through Thursday, 12-7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 12-6 p.m.

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.

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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 for 142 years. With its Main Library and 21 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 2014, Columbus Metropolitan Library became the only large public library in the country to be rated a 5-Star Library for all seven years of Library Journal's industry standards rating program.

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