Library to top out new Karl Road Branch with short ceremony

WHO: Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML)

WHEN: Friday, October 9 at 10 a.m.

WHERE: New Karl Road Branch construction site
Columbus Metropolitan Library
5590 Karl Road; Columbus

WHAT: Ceremonial topping out of Columbus Metropolitan Library’s new Karl Road Branch

Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) will commemorate the topping out of its new Karl Road Branch with a ceremonial photo opportunity for the media. The brief, highly visual event will mark a major construction milestone as the final steel beam is affixed to the new library branch, scheduled to open in 2021. This event marks the topping out of the first project in the second phase of CML’s aspirational building program.

CML CEO Patrick Losinski will be joined by project architect, Jonathan Moody from Moody Nolan, and Turner Construction Vice President and General Manager, Brian Mooney. All three participants will be available for comment.

All participants and media attendees will be required to wear a face covering and remain socially distanced due to COVID-19. Hard hats will also be issued onsite.

Due to the global pandemic, the event is not open to the public. The topping out ceremony will instead be livestreamed. CML customers can register to watch live or reply the event later.

The current Karl Road Branch is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Customers can browse, use public computers and take advantage of Job Help as well as other limited services. The branch continues to offer curbside pickup for customers who want to pick up reserved items without entering the branch.

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Face coverings are required to enter, but children under the age of 5 are not required to wear them.

The current Karl Road Branch, which was built in 1988, has 20,000 square feet. When completed, the new branch is expected to be approximately 40,000 square feet. The new two-story Karl Road Branch is being built on the same parcel of land in front of the current branch.

In 2019, CML completed Phase I of its aspirational building program, which renovated or rebuilt 10 of its 23 locations:

- 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
- The new **Hilliard Branch** opened June 21, 2018
- The new **Martin Luther King Branch** opened Oct. 18, 2018
- The new **Dublin Branch** opened June 6, 2019

The Karl Road Branch project represents the kickoff of Phase II, which will renovate or rebuild an additional four locations:

- The new **Karl Road Branch** is expected to open in 2021
- Planning is underway for a **Hilltop Branch** renovation and expansion
- Planning is underway for a new **Gahanna Branch**
- Planning is underway for a new **Reynoldsburg Branch**

CML hopes to have all four Phase II projects completed by 2024.

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 30 to 40 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.

Visit [columbuslibrary.org](http://columbuslibrary.org) for more information and to track progress of CML’s ambitious building program.

Visit [columbuslibrary.org/press](http://columbuslibrary.org/press) to view other Columbus Metropolitan Library press releases.

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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, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Challenge 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.

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