



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL LIBRARY TO RE-OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY MARCH 1, 2021

Newly renovated Library welcomes back customers and community

Charlotte, NC – March 1, 2021 – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is proud to announce South County Regional Library at 5801 Rea Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, will open its doors on March 1, 2021 at 9 a.m. for expanded public access under Level 2 of the Library’s re-opening plan. The branch, which closed to the public in November 2019, underwent a 15-month renovation and re-opened February 22, 2021 with limited “Grab and Go” services. Customers did not have direct access to the branch at that time.

Level 2 services will allow customers to browse materials and use express computers within branch occupancy limits. Library hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The branch is closed on Sunday. New customers are encouraged to sign-up for a Library card online or at the branch. More information can be found at: <https://www.cmlibrary.org/blog/welcome-home-south-county-regional-library>

South County Regional Library increased by nearly 1,100 square feet and now offers 33,800 square feet of new and reimagined spaces including: redesigned spaces for children and teens including a Children’s programming room, a new Teen Loft, two community rooms, individual and group study rooms and collaborative spaces, a vending café, a patio and a refreshed collection that includes 40 new launchpads preloaded with educational apps for children. Features include free Wi-Fi, audio-visual capabilities, a training lab/studio and a public computer lab. A new exterior book/materials drop is part of the new traffic flow in the parking lot that requires cars to travel to the left in front of the building and drive in a counterclockwise direction.

South County Regional visitors will also notice the new, interactive outdoor public art display *Open Book, Open Mind* by North Carolina artist and sculptor Jim Gallucci. The installment located at the Library’s entrance provides a welcoming and exciting walk through a whimsical canopy of colorful books featuring diverse authors and encourages visitors to explore and learn. The new public art was made possible by the Arts & Science Council and the Public Art Commission in partnership with Mecklenburg County.

“We are delighted to restore service at our largest and busiest library branch, and are especially grateful to our customers and the community for their patience and understanding during the closure for renovation,” says Lee Keesler, CEO for Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. “Thanks go also to Mecklenburg County for providing the funding for capital improvements, and to Liollio and Edifice for their creative design and expert construction management, respectively. Welcome home to South County.”

“South County Regional Library is a vital part of the local community,” says Caitlin Moen, library

director and chief customer officer for Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. “We are excited to open the doors to customers who have been waiting to explore the new spaces, including dedicated space for Children and Teens, new study and meeting spaces and amazing art. Welcome back to your Library.”

South County Regional Library is also updated with an efficient checkout system using radio frequency identification (RFID) and a new automated materials handling unit. Public funding for the South County Regional project was approved in 2014 by Mecklenburg County and cost approximately \$11.1 million. The project was managed by Mecklenburg County’s Asset and Facility Management Team, the architect was Liollo Architecture, and the builder/contractor was Edifice Inc. The South County Regional renovation is the fourth of recent projects for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library system: SouthPark Regional Library was renovated and re-opened in 2017, North County Regional was renovated and re-opened in October 2019 and South Boulevard Library was relocated from Scaleybark in 2020. Main Library is scheduled to close later this year for demolition followed by construction of a new Main Library targeted to open in 2024.

About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is one of America’s leading urban public libraries, serving a community of more than one million citizens in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Through 20 locations, targeted outreach and online resources, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. For more, visit cmlibrary.org.

###



Photo caption: The newly renovated South County Regional Library will open its doors to the public on Monday, March 1, 2021.

Media Contact:

Ann Stawski
Marketing & Communications Leader
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
704-416-0702
astawski@cmlibrary.org

Media resources:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library newsroom: cmlibrary.org/library-news

Social sharing:

Hashtags: #cmlibrary

#CMLibrarySORRenovation

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cmlibrary

Twitter: @cmlibrary

Instagram: @cmlibrary

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/charlotte-mecklenburg-library