



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WELCOME HOME TO SOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL LIBRARY

Celebrate the re-opening of the newly renovated branch with themed activities May 16-22, 2021

Charlotte, NC – May 13, 2021 – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library announces plans to celebrate with the community its recently renovated South County Regional branch at 5801 Rea Road, Charlotte, NC 28277, with fun, spirit week activities May 16-22, 2021. The branch, which closed to the public in November 2019, underwent a 15-month renovation and re-opened with limited services in February 2021. Services expanded systemwide March 1, 2021 allowing customers to browse materials, use express computers and see updates to the branch in person.

The activities scheduled May 16-22, 2021 are a combination of online and socially distanced drop-in events to ensure customer and staff safety. One of the most anticipated events of the week is an online artist talk Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 6 p.m. with Jim Gallucci, sculptor, artist and creator of the *Open Book, Open Mind* public artwork that greets visitors outside the entrance of the building. The installment, made possible by the Arts & Science Council (ASC) and the Public Art Commission in partnership with Mecklenburg County, provides a welcoming and exciting walk through a whimsical canopy of colorful books featuring diverse authors and encourages visitors to explore and learn.

“We couldn’t be happier to re-open South County Regional Library and anticipate the community is going to love the remarkably renovated facility more than ever with all its new spaces and amenities,” says Tony Tallent, branch channel leader for Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. “We encourage you to come check out the new look and feel of the library as well as check out books and materials while you’re here.”

The schedule of the spirit week activities are as follows:

- **Monday, May 17 - Color Your Library:** Pick up a coloring sheet from the branch to complete at home. Return it to the branch to be posted in the library.
- **Tuesday, May 18 - An Evening with Jim Gallucci:** On Tuesday, May 18, from 6-7 p.m., metal sculptor and artist Jim Gallucci will discuss the inspiration behind the new "Open Book, Open Mind," public artwork that is now a staple at South County Regional Library. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3eG9KNz>
- **Wednesday, May 19 - Book Lovers Day:** Stop by the branch to fill out a paper heart with a title you love, and we’ll share it in-branch and online.
- **Friday-Saturday, May 21-22 – Character Days:** Dress up as your favorite book character and take a picture in your favorite area of the new 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 groupstudy 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.

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/southcountyregional>

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.

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Photo caption: Celebrate the newly renovated South County Regional Library branch with fun, themed activities March 16-22, 2021.

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Media resources:

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

Social sharing:

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