



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

150
1853-2003

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio
45202-2071

Richard L. Helmes
Phone•513•369•6959
Fax•513•369•4565
rick.helmes@cincinnati-library.org
or
Phyllis Hegner
Phone•513•369•4571
Fax•513•369•4565

August 21, 2003

Clifton Branch Library Expansion & Remodeling Complete

- **Open House Set for Saturday, September 6, 12:00-4:00 p.m.**

To celebrate its expanded and remodeled space, the Clifton Branch Library, 351 Ludlow Avenue, will host an Open House on Saturday, September 6 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. Rainbow Clowns will be making balloon animals for the kids from 1:00-3:00 p.m., and refreshments will be available. Children and adults are also invited to make a reading box as a means to keep their library books in a centralized spot at their homes.

TOTALLY PAID FOR--NO PUBLIC FUNDS USED FOR PROJECT

None of the costs of the \$115,000 expansion have come from public funds. Thanks to the generosity of several donors and use of in-house personnel for some of the work, the project is totally paid for. After work on the project began, additional gifts were received from six anonymous supporters, as well as Emma D. Hartkemeier, Robert F. & Emma Hartkemeier, Herbert Curry, Deborah Gephardt in memory of Thomas Gephardt, Jenny Gomien, James M. Lewis, and Joan Seeman Robinson & William Robinson. The heating, ventilation and air conditioning work was done by HVAC mechanics from the Library's HVAC Department, saving half the cost, which allowed restoration of the tin ceilings.

BRANCH REMAINED OPENED DURING PROJECT

For several months the branch was condensed into about 600 square feet of space while work was going on, and most of the adult collection was put into storage. In early July, work on two of the three storefronts was completed, and the branch moved over while the final storefront was remodeled. The project was completed on Monday, July 18. Not only is the branch one-third larger at 2,000 square feet with many more

resources, but the entrance on Ludlow Avenue has been relocated to where it originally was in 1954 when the branch first opened.

BRANCH ENHANCEMENTS

The new space includes an expanded children's area, complete with books, CDs, videos, and DVDs, a PC Pal educational CD-ROM workstation, Internet computers, and a program space. Directly opposite from the new entrance in the center of the building is the service desk, and nearby the adult audiovisual collection of DVDs, CDs, and videos. A new adult area includes popular books, a reading area, and Internet computers, offers more shelving for books and other items, and an expanded work area for staff allows the processing of materials in a centralized location. Additionally, the branch is now handicapped accessible with new public restrooms, more shelving for books and other items, and features new awnings for a more attractive exterior.

FUN FACTS

Circulation has been steadily increasing despite being one of the smallest of the 41 branches in the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County system. The Clifton Branch circulated more than 225,000 items in 2002, a 6% increase over 2001. Despite the construction, the reduced temporary size of the branch, and the fact that most of the adult collection was put into storage, circulation held its own over the past few months.

“Circulation was down by about 800 items in May when we closed half of the branch and removed most of the adult collection,” said Branch Manager Jenny Gomien. “However, in June circulation was up slightly over that of the previous year, and after moving into the two renovated storefronts on July 7 while the final storefront was being renovated, our circulation for the month of July was up 10% over that of last July. We're very pleased with the community response and are looking forward to seeing what the future brings.”

CUSTOMERS COME FIRST

Despite its size, avid readers have always taken advantage of the personalized service by the staff. “We have one of the oldest, longest-running bookclubs,” continued Ms. Gomien. “We've had regular book club meetings here since 1969. The branch also has a strong collection of abridged books-on-tape, children's book and cassette kits, and children's easy books and easy readers. We are also proud of our wide selection of biographies, and

the Clifton history files, which track major happenings in the Clifton area since it was incorporated as a village in 1850.”

“With the increase in space, more of our collection will be accessible to the reading public,” said Ms. Gomien. “We hope area residents take advantage of this long-awaited change. We’re really excited about seeing our dream become a reality through the generosity of our loyal users.”

HOURS OF OPERATION

- **Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 12:00-8:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**
- **Telephone: (513) 369-4447**

CONTRACTORS

- Architect: Gerald Harley of Harley Associates Architects
- General Construction: J. B. Schmitt Company, Inc.
- Plumbing: Mech. Spec. Inc.
- Electrical: T. J. Boesken Enterprises, Inc.

✓ **Information about the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**