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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

Northside Branch Library Marks 100th Anniversary

Centennial Celebration, Saturday, April 12, 2008, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Northside Branch Library will celebrate a century of Library service to the community this year! Library staff will officially mark the branch's 100th birthday at an Anniversary Open House on Saturday, April 12, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. Remarks from Tim Jeckering, president of the Northside Community Council, and Sarah Schellenger, Northside Branch Manager, will begin an afternoon of fun for the whole family—complete with face painting, an ice cream social, the Smooth Transition Barbershop Quartet, and more! Northside Branch Library customers are also invited to add their own related memorabilia to a “time capsule” that will be opened at the branch's 125th anniversary in 2033.

A BIT OF BRANCH HISTORY



Mary Folz, left, has been a loyal Northside Branch Library customer for more than 50 years. With her are Northside Branch Manager Sarah Schellenger and long-time Northside resident and Library employee Diane Stroud.

After funding issues forced the community's library to close in the late 19th century, Northside residents appealed to the Cincinnati Public Library to help them reopen it. The new Cumminsville Branch Library, a French Renaissance style building funded by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, opened to the public on April 27, 1908, with 5,027 volumes on the shelves and 1,705 registered borrowers.

The branch underwent an extensive renovation and remodeling project in August of 1999, which included the addition of an elevator and the restoration of the branch's original tables and chairs. It reopened on September 23, 2000, as the Northside Branch Library to better reflect the community it serves. Today, the branch continues to be a valuable resource in the Northside community, circulating 135,000 materials and reaching 2,700 adults, children, and teens with worthwhile programs.

OTHER CENTENNIAL HAPPENINGS AT THE BRANCH

On view at the Northside Branch Library throughout April

- Historic pictures of the Northside (formerly Cumminsville) Branch Library
- “Faces of Northside” – an exhibition of more than 300 pictures depicting people and events happening in Northside from early summer 1994 through the mid-summer 1995. The vision of Northside residents Dr. Richard and Ruth Jameson, the project received a grant from the City of Cincinnati Arts Allocation Committee and opened at Northside's Off the Avenue Gallery on Knowlton Street in September of 1995. Dr. & Mrs. Jameson donated the “Faces of Northside” to the Library's 100th Anniversary Celebration in hopes that the images would be enjoyed and appreciated by a new generation of Northsiders as well as the older ones, too. They will be taking pictures at the branch on April 12 to create a new “Faces of Northside” exhibit.

Tuesday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m.

- Read and discuss *The Wind in the Willows*, originally published in 1908, with the Northside Book Club
- Join author Mary Ellen Armentrout for a slide presentation of her book, *Carnegie Libraries of Ohio, Our Cultural Heritage*