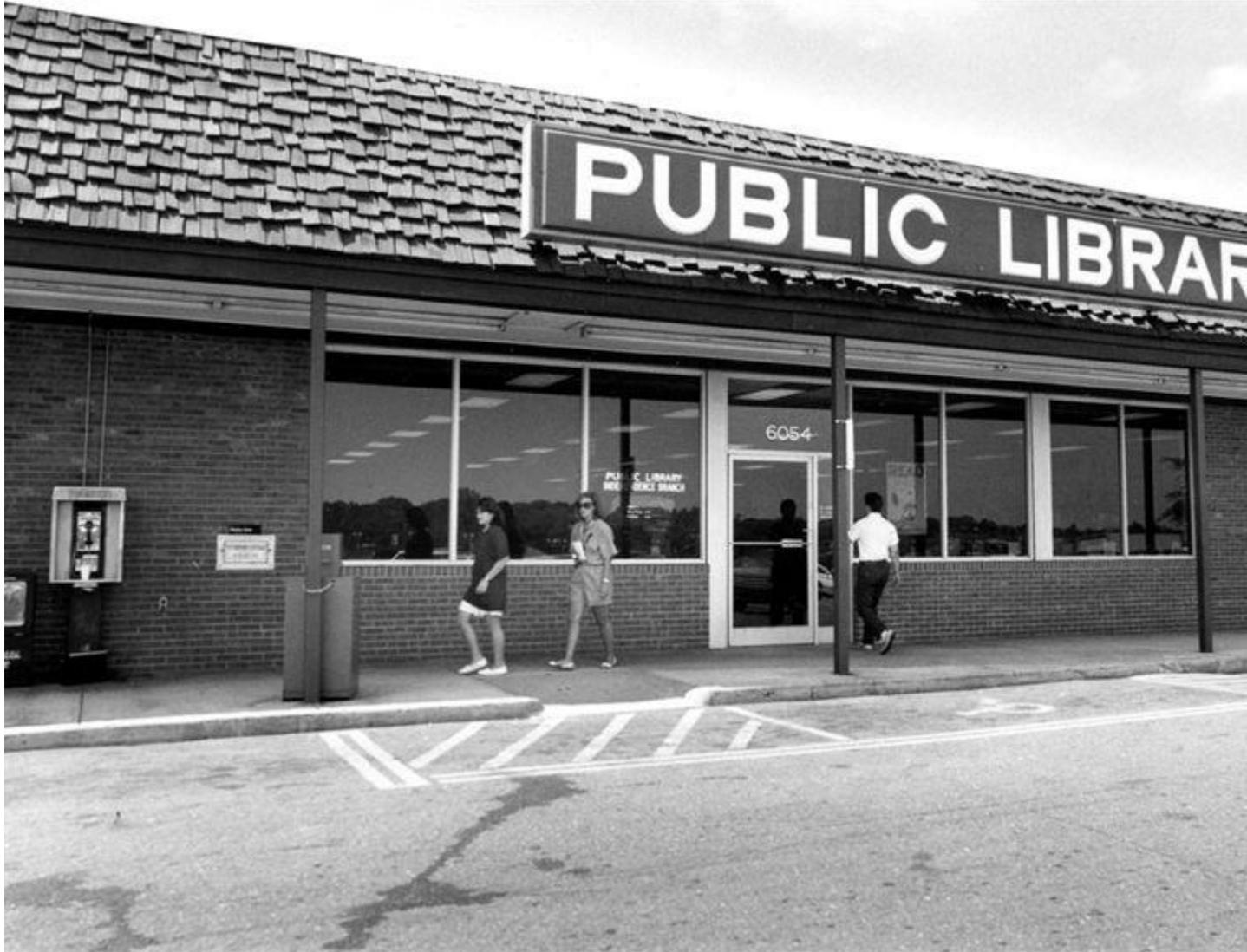


Independence Regional Library branch turns 40

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The Independence Regional branch of Charlotte Mecklenburg Library might be turning forty this year, but that doesn't mean it's over the hill. Instead, this milestone birthday is cause for a daylong celebration!

"The Independence Regional branch library is a special place for generations in our community," said Branch Manager LaJuan Pringle. "Many of the people who came to the library as children now bring their own children – and grandchildren -- to our programs."

To mark the event, the branch will host a celebration on Thursday, September 4. Members of the public are invited to attend. Festivities that day include:

10:30 a.m.: A special program for families

Noon: Commemorative celebration with longtime patrons and staff

1 p.m.: eReader and technology tutoring sessions

After school: Activities for teens

4:30 p.m.: A bilingual family program (English and Spanish)

"It's going to be a very busy day, and definitely a fun day," added Pringle. "I'm looking forward to it. Whenever there are happy people in the library, we're happy."

The Independence Regional Library is located at 6000 Conference Drive in Charlotte. The branch first opened in 1974 and was renovated and expanded in 1996. It boasts a collection of over 37,000 items and offers quality programs for preschool children and their parents/care givers, book discussion groups for school-age children and their parents, teens and adults, and other special programs throughout the year. In the past year, more than 195,000 library customers checked out almost 230,000 items. New library users are encouraged to visit the branch to get a library card or apply online at www.cmlibrary.org/getstarted. Cards are free for Mecklenburg County residents and students; non-residents can obtain a library card for an annual fee.

The library is open Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. After Labor Day, the branch will again offer Sunday operating hours from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call the branch at 704.416.4800.

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