

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY CELEBRATES NEW MOBILE LIBRARY WITH A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Plans for a ribbon-cutting and community celebration to commence January 29, 2022

Charlotte, NC – January 10, 2022 – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library will celebrate the arrival of MoLi, pronounced “Molly,” the Library’s new Mobile Library with a community celebration at the Eastway Regional Recreation Center, located at 3150 Eastway Park Drive, Charlotte, NC 28213 from 10 a.m.– 12 p.m. The 33-foot-long vehicle has a wheelchair lift for accessibility, a side awning for outdoor programming, eight public-use Chromebooks and the capacity to hold up to 2,400 physical materials including books, audiobooks, magazines, CDs and DVDs. Visit www.cmlibrary.org/mobilelibrary for more information.

The community celebration includes a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m., followed by tours. Inside the Eastway Regional Recreation Center, the schedule is as follows:

- 10:30 a.m. - Nature Storytime presented by the Eastway Recreation Center
- 11 a.m. - Puppet show presented by Charlotte Mecklenburg Library’s puppeteers
- 11:30 a.m. - Storytime in Spanish presented by Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
- 12 p.m. - Ceremony concludes

The Mobile Library will offer access to adult, teen and children’s collections, materials checkouts and returns, online resources and databases, free Wi-Fi access (approx. 50 ft. radius from the vehicle), public use Chromebooks, Library card services (registrations/renewals/updates) and Library staff support. Services will begin on January 18, 2022 and will be available on a three-week rotating schedule that targets high-need areas of Mecklenburg County. The monthly schedule will be available on the Library website.

“The Library’s mission is to improve lives and build a stronger community, which means reaching every community member in every part of Mecklenburg County,” said Caitlin Moen, chief library services officer. “The Mobile Library expands and deepens the Library’s ability to reach into high-need areas of the community, providing access to free resources, programs and technology, particularly where limited physical or digital access to Library services exists. This access will help create pathways for citizens to learn and grow, gaining success in school, in their careers and beyond.”

Onboard features include:

- Shelving for a sizeable collection
- An entrance and exit for easy customer flow through the vehicle
- An ADA-compatible wheelchair lift
- Four mobile collection carts for pop up collections and displays
- A mobile technology cart to be equipped with laptops, Chromebooks, tablets and other technology
- An air filtration system to help mitigate COVID-19 and other pathogens
- An onboard and external A/V system equipped with an external 65-inch display, and two additional displays inside

- A speaker system with microphones for programming both inside and outside the vehicle.
- A diesel generator and a power inverter supported by four solar panels on the roof of the vehicle; this means our vehicle comes with lots of power and plugs for extra flexibility
- 360-degree backup and side cameras to ensure safe parking and navigation

Charlotte's first bookmobile was introduced in December 1937 under the leadership of James E. Gourley, director of the Charlotte Public Library. In 1949, using funding from Alcohol and Beverage Control, the Library was able to purchase two new bookmobiles including one that would be used for the Black community. Unfortunately, due to growing expenses to operate, both vehicles went into retirement in 1966.

Bringing back the Mobile Library in 2022 is part of Mecklenburg County's vision for residents to have access to high-quality education at any point in life and be prepared to meet the needs of employers. It seeks to connect people of all ages to Charlotte Mecklenburg Library by lowering access barriers to services.

"The Mobile Library will allow more community members to have access to Library resources, information and services," said Meryle Leonard, assistant director of outreach at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. "Many areas in Charlotte such as Nations Ford Road, Thomasboro, Freedom Drive and many more, do not have convenient access to a physical library and connecting virtually may not be an option. With mobile access, we can meet people where they are and bring customers the services and resources they want and need."

To learn more about the Mobile Library, please visit www.cmlibrary.org/mobilelibrary.

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: Charlotte Mecklenburg Library celebrates the arrival of new Mobile Library, MoLi, with a Community Celebration on Saturday, January 29, 2022.

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Media resources:

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

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