

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library South County Regional Renovation Information

October 7, 2019

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are you renovating the library?

As a much loved and much used building that has been in use since 1998, South County Regional Library needs updated building systems including electrical, HVAC, mechanical, fire protection and telecommunications. At the same time, the renovation provides a chance to rethink the building spaces based on community feedback. We are grateful for Mecklenburg County for funding the project as part of its 2013-2018 Capital Improvement Program.

2. Will the library be closed during the renovation? For how long?

The library will close to the public on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 5 p.m. It will be closed for approximately 15-18 months.

3. What will be done in the renovation?

The renovation will bring South County Regional from 34,000 SF to 39,000 SF for a total square footage increase of 5000 SF. This will include major service delivery and technology improvements, including a renovated children's area and dedicated program space, expanded community rooms, group study spaces, a quiet reading room, a self-service café, a creative makerspace, a teen area, a family restroom, outdoor spaces and a drive-up book drop.

4. How will library service be impacted for South County customers during the renovation?

Accessing Materials: Although the Library will be closed during the renovation, books and materials will continue to be available 24/7 online via cmlibrary.org. Customers will be given options on how best to manage holds well in advance of the closure; options will include the ability to select an alternate holds location most convenient to the customer. If no choice is made, the default location for holds pickup will become Morrison Regional (7015 Morrison Boulevard Charlotte, NC 28211). *Please ensure you have an updated and current email in your Library account to receive all the latest information.*

Programs: Many South County Regional programs have been scheduled to take place at the Morrison Regional Library. Children's storytimes will continue at nearby community locations, including Gymboree Play & Music, Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church and the Morrison Family YMCA. Other Children's storytimes are offered at various times at our 19 other Library locations (visit cmlibrary.org and search the calendar).

5. What is the cost of renovation and what is the source of the funds?

The total funding allocated for the renovation is \$11,000,000, from the Mecklenburg County Capital Improvement Plan.

6. Why will the branch be closed during the construction?

South County Regional will undergo a major renovation of the entire building, including systems and public and staff spaces. We understand that a closure of 15-18 months will be a major inconvenience to our users, and we apologize for the inconvenience. We believe that the safety, noise and cost issues avoided by closing the branch in its entirety during the renovation will far outweigh the potential disturbance. We believe you will agree that the result will be well worth the temporary discomfort.

- *Safety Reasons:* The library is committed to providing a safe environment for its visitors and staff. It would be inappropriate to subject visitors and staff to the types of safety concerns that working around construction in the building and on the site entail. There are building code and ADA requirements that cannot be met during construction, so the facility must be closed during the renovation period.
- *Noise Levels:* Construction activity noise will prohibit library activities such as story times and workshops/events.
- *Cost Implications:* It is significantly more economical to close during the renovation than to have sections of the library remain open during the construction. This will allow the contractor to have multiple trades working at the same time, prevent the cost and schedule impact of protecting the public and staff from construction work in sections of the library, and will also allow the project to be completed faster and more efficiently.

7. I have further questions about the renovation. Who can I contact?

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To view images visit: cmlibrary.org and visit the building projects page.

For more information contact Ann Stawski, Marketing & Communications Leader 704-416-0702