

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NORTH BRANCH LIBRARY

WHAT IS THE LIBRARY REQUESTING?

The library is asking the Montgomery County Commission to approve \$750,000 in funding for land purchase in North Clarksville and \$900,000 for full design of a proposed North Branch Library.

WHY IS THE LIBRARY ASKING FOR THIS PURCHASE?

The library needs to add locations, beginning with a North Clarksville location, because it is not serving the entire population of Montgomery County adequately with one downtown building. Other parts of the county are too far away to conveniently use only one location. Population in the county has grown exponentially in the last 20 years and it is time for library services to catch up. A rule of thumb is one square foot of library space for every 1,000 people served. With a population served of nearly 200,000 and a library of 74,000 square feet, we are missing 126,000 square feet of library!

WHY NORTH CLARKSVILLE?

North Clarksville is the center of some of the largest population growth in the last 15 years. It is also close to Ft. Campbell. The military population use library services heavily. North Clarksville does not have anything like this and would benefit from a library more than most other areas of the county because of the large population. Let's build the first branch where the most people can use it.

WHY DOES MONTGOMERY COUNTY NEED ANOTHER LIBRARY? AREN'T LIBRARIES OUTDATED?

Libraries have been changing to meet the needs of a society that has changed, but remain essential services. Your library has also changed and will continue to change with an upcoming renovation to the existing building. With a full-service 25,000 sq. ft. branch library we will provide to the people of North Clarksville:

- **Technology** – computers for public use with high-speed internet connections and productivity software. Not everyone has a computer or smart phone at home. The library also provides mobile printing from patron-owned devices and robust Wi-Fi.
- **Children's services** – the library provided nearly 400 programs to over 18,000 children and teens last fiscal year. Children's literacy is one of the library's highest values and priorities and is sorely needed to supplement and bolster learning outside of school and to prevent summer slide.
- **Circulation** – the circulation of books, DVDs and other educational and entertainment materials is still the library's bread and butter. While more and more is available online through the library's virtual collection, 60% of the library's circulation still comes from books.
- **Meeting spaces** – the library is a community center and provides meeting spaces for all kinds of groups. This need is currently not met in north Clarksville in a meaningful way.

WHY CAN'T PRIVATE LIBRARY FUNDING PAY FOR THIS?

The library does have private sources of funding to supplement the taxpayer dollars that make up most of its operating budget. The Friends of the Library provides funding for certain items outside of the operating budget, such as paying for Summer Reading Program performers and special purchases. Library Foundation money is restricted to be used to enhance the library, rather than to pay for normal budgetary items. Foundation funding is responsible for the library's ability to be a leader in technology, with RFID self-checkout, for example. This private funding source will also be used in a renovation project at the main library beginning this spring so that the taxpayers will not have to bear the cost. The Library Board may be able to use some Foundation money to help fund the proposed North Branch, but the main portion of the funding needs to come from appropriations by the County Commission. No city dollars fund your public library.

What do owls, superheroes, and princesses all have in common?

They can all be found at the public library during some of our special events!



Did you know that over 1,000 people attended Harry Potter Night at the library last year?



Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library
350 Pageant Lane, Suite 501, Clarksville, TN 37040
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@CMCpubliclibrary

Where we've been and where we are going...

Twenty-one years ago, a new library opened at what is now Veteran's Plaza. This was a move from the small, cramped location on Main Street to a huge 74,000 square foot building that would anchor a government complex owned by Montgomery County. Circulation skyrocketed and services expanded in this new location. It was a great success story. The library has made leaps and bounds forward in the last twenty-one years. We now have a new vision for another great success story.

The library has created a plan for expanding library services in the county. Much time and effort went into obtaining feedback from real people who are leaders in the community along with others who responded to our community survey to help shape our vision - a vision that begins with the addition of our first library branch located somewhere in North Clarksville. No taxpayer dollars were spent in this process that created a realistic and practical plan, which can be found at: <http://bit.ly/2GMI8DN>. The library has a multitude of services and materials to offer the residents of North Clarksville. Our vision is of a library system that will serve all of Montgomery County, not just that portion closest to downtown.

In the last twenty-one years, things have changed drastically both in society and in the library world. Your library has moved forward - becoming a leader in Tennessee libraries in technology, with over 150 computers in the building and with RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) self-checkout of books and other material. The library offers PCs for public use with high-speed internet and productivity software, wireless printing, robust Wi-Fi, online booking of holds on materials and meeting rooms and more. Our vision is to purchase a materials handling system in the next six months that will make materials check-in more accurate and efficient, allowing staff to support our customers more fully and build lasting relationships.

The library has expanded children's services and programming and has purchased online materials such as downloadable music, and of course, the highly popular electronic books that can be downloaded to your device through our website. The library offers over 500 online classes and free access to Ancestry Library Edition, among many other online resources. A virtual visit to the library has been available for a number of years and our offerings will only increase after July 2018 with the purchase of Hoopla, a kind of Netflix for the library which will offer online movies, and much more.

Our dedicated and talented library staff, the heart of what we are, enhance the library's user experience well beyond materials and services. We are the public library - we transform lives and are here to provide support to every single person in Montgomery County. We serve everyone - across all demographics and age groups. Your library is the community hub where hope, knowledge and inspiration come together.

Help us take the next step to making ours a fully-fledged library system that meets the needs of everyone in Montgomery County by calling your County Commissioner to ask for this request for land purchase and library design to be approved in the budget for FY 2018-19 Montgomery County Capital Projects. Here is a link to contact information for the Commission <https://bit.ly/2E76fdw>. We need you to lift your voice to contact Commissioners, to register to vote to empower your voice, and to volunteer to attend a Commission meeting so that your presence speaks louder than words. We need your help to ask the County Commission to vote for your library's next success story.

Sincerely,

Martha Hendricks, Library Director

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