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50th Anniversary Parkland Community Library

Allentown, Pa – Parkland Community Library (PCL) celebrates 50 years. Articles of Incorporation were signed on August 2, 1973, and officially approved by the Department of State on August 21, 1973. The library was housed in a converted building in Guthsville, South Whitehall Township. Over the years of expanding its patronship, the library was relocated to larger locations several times to meet the district’s needs at its current location in the South Whitehall Township Complex. It took nearly 20 years to lobby for the legislation necessary to expand to suit the needs of our evolution as a community center.

The library finally achieved a much-needed modernization and expansion in 2021, going from 5,400 square feet to over 11,000 square feet. The expansion included updated technology, additional parking, a new children’s wing, a new large meeting room for library programs and events, and a book shop for the Friends of the Library volunteer group. In February 2023, PCL received the 2023 Lehigh Valley Environmental Innovations Nonprofit Award, presented by The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environment Committee, for renovating our existing building, committing to energy efficiency, using recycled content building materials, and commitment to sustainability as a whole.

“The 50th anniversary is a proud milestone for the library,” says Jaclyn Hoimes, Interim Library Director. “Parkland Community Library has proven to be a gathering place for patrons and their families. Since its inception, we have helped forge strong bonds with our community and remain a fixture in pursuit of knowledge, technology, and entertainment. I want to thank all past and present staff and volunteers for their continued work and dedication to the library’s mission to establish Parkland Community Library as a cornerstone of our community.”

Parkland Community Library joined forces with local libraries in 2018 to form the Lehigh Carbon Library Cooperative (LCLC). Joining the cooperative allowed all the libraries to expand collections to over 550,000 items in a shared catalog under one library card.

“Libraries are still relevant”, says Jaclyn Hoimes. “Beyond books, Parkland Community Library continues to provide new, innovative, and convenient services that both save you money and promote lifelong learning and literacy. Museum Passes, Mobile Hotspots, Medicare Enrollment assistance, and a plethora of community events for all ages are just a snapshot of what the library offers. We look forward to serving you for many years to come.”

Parkland Community Library is calling on our patrons, community partners, and local businesses to celebrate this milestone by sharing your photos and experiences on social media with the hashtag #PCL50Years. Email your stories to adults@parklandlibrary.org