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## Lake Community Library in Hartville



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The Repository

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### Key Points

The Lake Community Library branch will reopen Saturday after months of renovations.

It is the final branch to be renovated as part of the first phase of the library district's Re|Imagine project.

HARTVILLE – The Lake Community Library branch will reopen Saturday following several months of renovations.

Stark Library will celebrate with a ribbon-cutting and open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The library at 565 Market Ave. SW is the final branch to undergo renovations as part of the first phase of the library district's Re|Imagine project, a multi-year plan involving upgrades to various library branches. It is being funded by a a 2-mill, eight-year levy approved by Stark voters in 2019.

Stephanie Cargill, communications director at Stark Library, said the budget for the project was about \$1.28 million, but costs are expected to come in around \$1.22 million, or \$60,000 under budget.

Upgrades at the Lake Community Library include new furniture, self-checkout stations, touch-screen catalogs and two study rooms.

Stark Library CEO and Executive Director Mary Ellen Icaza said the renovations helped the branch become a more flexible space. It has a similar color palette to the other Stark Library branches, along with new lighting that has brightened up the space.

"It feels so much lighter and brighter," Lake Community Library Branch Manager Linda Uhler said.

**Stark Library:** Newly renovated Perry Sippo library branch to reopen Saturday

Uhler, who has worked at the branch for about a year-and-a-half, said the new lighting and the colorful paint in the children's area have made the library seem more welcoming. She

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a bookmobile in the branch's parking lot during the renovations, and many patrons have said they can't wait for the branch to reopen.

Icaza said it's exciting to finish the first phase of the Re|Imagine project. Stark Library has remodeled six branches in the last two years, including North Branch, East Canton, Madge Youtz, Perry Sippo and DeHoff Memorial.

The library district is looking to build a new Main Library and Operations Center in downtown Canton as part of the second phase of Re|Imagine. The \$54 million project includes a 70,000-square-foot library that would replace the existing building at 715 Market Ave. N. Officials hope to break ground on the new Operations Center in 2024 and library in 2026.

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