

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WESTPORT LIBRARY REOPENING JULY 13th

Westport, CT – After a most challenging year, the Westport Library is pleased to announce that it will begin the careful, phased process of reopening its building on Monday, July 13th.

“Before we had to close the building in mid-March, the Library had become a bustling hub for Westport and surrounding communities,” stated Westport Library Executive Director Bill Harmer. “Nearly 1500 people each day were visiting the Library to attend informative and engaging programs and use the well-designed meeting spaces. After school and on weekends, our communal spaces and study rooms were full of teenagers, and children’s programs were at capacity. A record numbers of Reference questions were being answered and the JobSearch Work Team was helping people land jobs. The dramatic, new Forum was full nearly every day with patrons collaborating with one another, working productively, or simply enjoying a good book.”

On June 23, the staff marked the one-year anniversary of the buildings reopening after the completion of the Transformation Project. And on July 13th, the Library will reopen again for patrons to browse the collection as we welcome the community back once more!

It is imperative that this reopening be done thoughtfully and responsibly, with the health of patrons and staff as the top priority.

Westport First Selectman Jim Marpe added, “I am pleased with the level of thoughtfulness that the Westport Library has put into its reopening plan. The town and the Library have coordinated on the reopening protocols, and we are confident that this next phase will be one that many Westporters can appreciate. I urge all patrons to remain vigilant in their practices of social distancing and mask wearing, while at our Library and while taking part in any activity in our community. We all must do our part for a safe reopening that affords the continual enjoyment of our local amenities.”

The Library will be open for limited services Monday through Friday from 2:00pm to 6:00pm and on Saturday from noon to 4:00pm. Curbside pickup service will continue Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 1:00pm. The Library will be closed on Sunday.

Patrons will always be required to wear a mask in the Library, as will the staff.

The Library will continue its enhanced cleaning protocols and has installed plexiglass barriers at points of service and hand sanitizer stations throughout the building. There will be a single-entry point on the Main Level in the Upper Parking Lot and a single exit through the Library's café. Materials will still need to be dropped off in the outside annex box so proper quarantining can continue.

Although Governor Lamont's rules allow for 50% occupancy, the Library will limit the number of patrons and staff in the building to 100 people at any given time. This is being done to reinforce social distancing and to discourage extended stays or gatherings.

The Café and Store will not be operational during this phase and conference and meeting rooms will remain closed. Computer access will be limited to the Express stations, with space between seats.

The Library will extend loan periods during this phase, but fines will accrue for materials not returned within the loan period.

The Library will continue to offer exceptional virtual programs and services as we phase in the full reopening of the building and resume all services and programs. We are very grateful for your partnership and patience.

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