



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Norwalk Easter Public Library Closing August 14 for Interior Refresh; Temporary Pop-Up Space Available During Closure

Norwalk Easter Public Library will close to the public beginning Monday, August 14, for an interior refresh for the installation of new carpet and paint. During the closure, the library will open a pop-up library space at Norwalk City Hall's Conference Room at 705 North Ave., to focus on serving patrons who need technology and internet access during the library's closure. Library staff will be able to provide internet access on a public computer, as well as photocopying, printing, faxing, and scanning services. Users can also access free Wi-Fi in the library's parking lot using their own personal devices anytime.

The project is expected to take 4 weeks to complete. The library's estimated reopening date is Monday, September 11. Please check the library's webpage at www.norwalklibrary.org for updates. If the progress goes faster than expected, the library will open upon completion.

The pop-up library space will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. starting August 14. Library staff will assist with these services in addition to assisting patrons with phone and email requests. "The library staff and board of trustees are dedicated to providing staff assistance and access to technology during this time," said Library Director Jean Strable. A library staff member will be present in the pop-up library space to help patrons with any questions.

The library is hard at work to refresh and update the library space for the public as a part of a \$107,700 Capital Improvement Project from the City of Norwalk. The project's scope was able to expand to include re-painting of the interior due to a very generous donation of carpet tile from Poindexter Flooring in Indianola. "We are delighted to be able to update the library's interior look just in time to celebrate this library building's 25th anniversary in August," stated Strable. "The carpeting is original to the building, and it was last painted in 2009, so the library is long overdue for some improvements."

Library patrons will see several changes and improvements in addition to the new carpet and paint including fill in of some shelves to maximize use of limited space and replacement of the grille gate that helps provide building security. "We also hope to purchase some comfortable, new furnishings for the reading room for children, teens, and adults to enjoy," said Strable.

“Everything in the library must be moved for this project. We advise the public to check out a lot of materials, so they do not have to be moved and so they can be used by our patrons during this time. Please check out the books, board games, puzzles, DVDs/Blu-rays, kits, and more that you anticipate needing and keep them the entire time,” encouraged Strable. No materials will be due during the closure; all items will have an extended check out period and patrons are encouraged to return them after the library opens in September.

The book drop at the library will be open, but users are strongly encouraged to keep their materials until the library reopens as staff will not be checking materials in until the library reopens in September. Oversized items or items that are not to be placed in the book drop should be kept until the library reopens or returned to library staff at the pop-up library space at City Hall during working hours.

Tech assistance appointments, exam proctoring, and notary services will be available at the pop-up library space on a limited basis. Call 515-981-0217 or email libraryhelp@norwalk.iowa.gov to schedule with staff.

Anyone needing to get a library card or card renewal is encouraged to visit the library prior to August 14 or go online at <https://www.norwalklibrary.org/get-a-library-card/> to apply. During the closure, staff at the pop-up library space can also assist with library cards.

Patrons can still place materials on hold during the closure, but nothing will be available for check out until the library reopens. eBooks, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines may still be borrowed using the free Libby app. More information is available at <https://www.norwalklibrary.org/free-downloadables/>

All other digital materials will be available including the Brainfuse HelpNow tutoring/homework help; Brainfuse JobNow resume/career search services; BrainFuse VetNow veterans’ assistance; Novelist reader recommendations; and Transparent Language learning service. All these free digital services are available 24/7 at <https://www.norwalklibrary.org/online-library/> .

Patrons can reserve Adventure Passes using the library’s website at <https://www.norwalklibrary.org/adventure-pass/> . These passes allow for free admission for two adults and two children to Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines Children’s Museum, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Iowa Arboretum, and Science Center of Iowa.

“We attempted to schedule this project during a less impactful time of the year,” stated Strable. “All services and programs will resume as usual after the installation of new carpet is complete and we look forward to showing off the results of the interior refresh when it is completed!”

The library will share additional information about the reopening date and the library pop-up space as project progress is made. For further information, contact the library at 515-981-0217 or libraryhelp@norwalk.iowa.gov .

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