



PRESS RELEASE

Local libraries closing buildings to the public

FISHERSVILLE, Va. — In response to rising local COVID-19 cases and new statewide restrictions, the Augusta County and Staunton Public Libraries will close their facilities and provide curbside services effective Wednesday, December 16. This roll-back follows the lead of libraries around the Commonwealth that have already scaled back services as the pandemic continues.

After attending a recent Augusta Health update on the local COVID-19 situation, the two systems' library directors came to the conclusion that reverting to curbside service was the safest option. "After hearing about the positivity rates and hospital capacity, we began to seriously discuss whether we were sending the right message to our communities by remaining open," said Staunton Public Library Director, Sarah Skrobis.

Governor Northam's latest announcement of new restrictions then also led to the libraries deciding to take action. "Governor Northam encouraged people to stay home if they didn't need to be out. By relying on curbside service, we can more safely serve patrons while also helping to limit community spread," said Augusta County Library Director Diantha McCauley.

Both library systems will continue with their normal operating hours through close of day Tuesday. Starting Wednesday morning, librarians will offer reference and reader services by phone and online and residents can pick up their arrived holds using contactless drop-in curbside service. Each library will also offer modified mobile printing, faxing, and simple copy services using curbside procedures. The Augusta County Library will also be providing a limited number of laptops and Chromebooks to check out and use in the Fishersville library parking lot. Please contact each library for details.

To utilize curbside pick-up, patrons can use the library catalog at www.ValleyLibraries.org to browse and place holds. Once they receive an arrived holds notice, patrons may drop by their local library to pick up materials by following the local procedures. Anyone experiencing difficulty with their account or the catalog is asked to please contact their local library for assistance.

The Augusta County Library will offer curbside pick-up service Monday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 4:00 p.m. For more information, please visit www.AugustaCountyLibrary.org or call 540.885.3961.

Staunton Public Library will offer drop-in curbside pick-up service Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 4:30 p.m. and Friday – Saturday, 12:30 - 4:00 pm. For more information, visit www.StauntonLibrary.org or call 540.332.3902.

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