

"ALWAYS WORTH A BROWSE"
 FRIENDS OF THE OCEAN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY NEWS
AUGUST, 2020



Important News --

(1) Please note that given the continuing uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus situation, our **September meeting is canceled**.

(2) Please also note that although we greatly appreciate your kind intentions, **we are still unable to accept any book donations at this time**. We will let you know when this situation changes. Thank you for your understanding.



It's Official! -- Great News! **The Township of Ocean Library is reopening tomorrow, July 29th**. Here are some Q's & A's that will provide you with critical information regarding the reopening, new procedures, capacity limits and safety protocols. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with all of this information prior to visiting our library.

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers About The Reopening

(1) What are the library's operating hours?

The library will be open at 25% capacity for patrons to enter from Monday through Thursday 1 p.m. until 9 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Curbside pickup now will be available only on Mondays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. No curbside service will be available on Friday or Saturday. (Please visit our website: www.friendsofocantwplibrary.org for helpful information on the curbside pickup process.)

(2) Is there a limit on how many people will be allowed in the library at one time?

Yes. Our library capacity during this time is limited to 25%, which means that in addition to the staff, only a limited number of patrons will be allowed in at any one time.

(3) Do children need to be accompanied by an adult when entering the library?

Yes.

(4) Are masks required? Will people be denied entry if they refuse to wear a mask? What if I don't have a mask?

Masks are **REQUIRED**. In addition, your mask **MUST REMAIN ON** until you exit the building. The staff appreciates your cooperation with this critical safety measure. If you do not have a mask, you can always take advantage of our library's curbside pickup option.

(5) Will there be a temperature check or symptom check when entering the library?

No.

(6) Will hand sanitizer be available in the library for patron's use?

Yes, hand sanitizer will be available for visitors to the library.

(7) How often will "high touch areas" such as counters, computers, door handles, be cleaned and sanitized?

The staff will be regularly wiping down high touch areas throughout the day.

(8) Can I bring a tote or backpack into the library?

Yes.

(9) If I have books to return, can I just bring them to the circulation desk?

NO materials can be returned inside the library. All materials can only be returned in the book drop, which will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Items placed in the book drop will be quarantined for a minimum of 72 hours, at which time the items will be removed from the patron's account and any applicable fines will be removed.

(10) Now that the library is reopening, can I drop off book donations?

Unfortunately, we still cannot accept any book donations at this time. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and will let you know as soon as this situation changes. Thank you for your understanding and support.

(11) What can I expect when I get in the library?

Upon entering you will notice that there is now plexiglass on all of the staff desks, most of the furniture (tables and chairs) have been removed, directional arrows are placed on the floors and all staff members will be wearing masks. In addition, at this time the rolling baskets purchased by the Friends will not be available because they are considered a "high touch" area. **It is important to note that you should plan on coming into the library, browsing quickly and then checking out.**

(12) Will there be signs or directional arrows to follow to ensure social distancing?

Yes. All aisles in the library will be "one way" and will be marked accordingly. So, one way into an aisle and one way out. The same will hold true for when you are checking out any books you select. In addition, the library staff have placed "X's" on the floor to help ensure social distancing. The staff is trusting patrons to be respectful of others in the building by maintaining a safe distance.

(13) Is there a limit on the amount of time I can stay inside the library to browse?

You should plan on a brief browse only. Families visiting should plan on only quickly picking out a book and checking out.

(14) Will I be permitted to use the tables and chairs?

Very few chairs or tables are in the library now. Almost all furniture has been put into storage.

(15) Will the Terner Gallery be open?

No.

(16) Will the Quiet Study areas be open?

No.

(17) Will the Children's Activity Room be open?

No.

(18) Will the library's restrooms be open?

Yes, with two stalls open and one sink. There will be a limit of one person in the restrooms at a time.

(19) Can I use the library's computers to search the library catalog and find books?

Yes. There will be TWO catalog computers available for use. You will be expected to wipe the computer down with disinfecting wipes BEFORE and AFTER you use them. (Wipes will be made available.)

(20) Will the children's game computers be available?

No.

(21) Can I use the computers for my own personal research or to access library databases?

Yes. There will be TWO computers for public use. **A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED TO USE THESE COMPUTERS. APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE AND YOU ARE ONLY PERMITTED ONE USE (OF NO MORE THAN ONE HOUR) PER DAY.**

You should call the Ocean Township branch library (732-531-5092) up to two days in advance to make your reservation.

Please plan on arriving no more than 10 minutes before your scheduled computer appointment. Upon arriving at the library, go to the reference desk to check in and receive permission to begin your computer session. Please also note that the hour limit must be used in a single sitting. (So for example, you can't use 10 minutes and then come back later to use up the remaining 50 minutes.)

(22) Do I need to make an appointment to use the computers and, if so, do I call the Ocean Township Library Branch to make a reservation?

Yes. **A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED. You can call the Ocean Township Library Branch at 732-531-5092 to make a reservation up to two days in advance.** Please note you are only permitted one use of no more than an hour per day. That appointment hour must be used in a single sitting (So, you can't use 10 minutes and then come back to use the remaining 50 minutes). Also, please plan on arriving no more than 10 minutes prior to your scheduled computer appointment. Upon arriving at the library, go to the reference desk to check in and receive permission to begin your computer session.