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Hoboken Library Main Building Renovation Mandates Four-Week Close

HOBOKEN, NJ June 29, 2021 – The Main Building of the Hoboken Public Library at 500 Park Avenue will close for an estimated four weeks, starting Saturday, July 10, to facilitate major renovation work to replace its antiquated HVAC system and make other necessary repairs.

Customers will continue to be able to order materials via the [Library's online catalog](#), and pick them up at the Main Library's Curbside Pickup Station, or by using the 24/7 Self-Service Lockers outside the Main Library and the Branch at 124 Grand Street.

The Library's programming for adults, teens, and children will be unaffected, as shown on the Library's events calendar at www.HobokenLibrary.org, and in-person events will be held in Church Square Park – across Fifth Street from the Library – and other popular venues throughout Hoboken.

“One of the major challenges of a century-old building is keeping it warm in the winter, and comfortable in the summer,” said Library Interim Director Rosary Van Ingen. “The current air conditioning system, installed many decades ago, was not equal to the task. Accordingly, a new, high efficiency HVAC system, featuring HEPA filtering, is being installed. As to heat, we

are still using the original – from 1897! -- furnace that was converted from coal to gas. It's massive, and massively inefficient, so we are replacing that, too."

The library building has been serving Hoboken's diverse and dynamic community since it opened on April 5, 1897. But a Library built in the 19th Century is not equal to the needs of a 21st Century community. And that is why the Trustees of the Hoboken Public Library have approved a staged renovation of the building to make it safer, more comfortable, and suited to the needs of its users, using the latest, safest materials while retaining the historic nature of the Library building.

The work being done during this current stage is a gut-renovation of the Third Floor to create a safe and welcoming home for the Children's and Teen/Tween Departments, with energy-efficient lighting and new furnishings.

The building-wide HVAC component involves removing and replacing the furnace and all associated pipes and conduits, installing new ductwork, and repositioning various walls.

The Library has created a dedicated webpage – www.HobokenLibrary.org/renovation -- to keep the public updated on the work's progress. It features photos and updates to service changes.

About the Hoboken Public Library: Founded in 1890, the Library is a cultural and educational centerpiece of the City of Hoboken, NJ. Its mission is to connect people with each other, ideas, and opportunities, and to support lifelong learning, personal growth, and community development. Full details on the Library, its programs and services, and collections – including a renowned Local History Collection – are available at www.HobokenLibrary.org. The Library building – completed in 1897 -- is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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[Note to Editor: This photo -- MainReadingRoomWithACandFireplace_5x6@150dpi -- is associated with above item. No rights issues. Caption:] This recent photo shows the classical lines of the 1897 fireplace in the Library's Main Reading Room, and the immense and ineffective air conditioning unit (upper right) installed decades ago.



