THE NEW LIBRARY ‘NORMAL’

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The Libraries in El Dorado County are moving into one full year of library service under Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Rising to the challenge of safely providing public access to vital resources and materials, we have worked together to create safety protocols that are now being used by other libraries across the state. We are also one of the few library systems still open in the state, and our journey has been a wild one!

We have offered parking lot book delivery at the grocery stores, provided essential EDD and health computer appointments even when our doors were shut last spring, and continuously made senior facility deliveries and outreach during the tightest lockdowns.

Not content to stop with book delivery, library staff and volunteers have 3D printed and distributed thousands of face shields for our health care workers, school employees, and county workers when PPE was unavailable or in short supply. We have stretched in new ways to serve our communities that we never imagined when we set up our 3D print labs to provide access to technology for everyone.

Providing voting ballot boxes at our library sites, and even hosting a voting center so that everyone could have easy access to vote, our libraries have continued to provide the services that our communities have come to depend on, even during a pandemic. Storytimes and programming are all online, and Zoom meetings allow us to meet more frequently with each other than ever before.

In compliance with health protocols, our staff wear face coverings all day so that they may safely serve our communities. Working daily with hundreds of possibly contaminated books using the strictest of protocols, we are helping provide resources, materials, and activities for our seniors, families, and others who are isolated at home.

And now, our library staff are working with the Health Department to make online Covid-19 Vaccine appointments for our most vulnerable seniors without access to internet or knowledge of computers. It is no easy task to ensure that 41,000 people over the age of 65 are able to make a vaccine appointment but our libraries are working side by side with the Health Department to ensure it gets done. Our libraries are in the center of our county communities, and are open to anyone who walks through our doors, calls us, or ends up on a very long list of people that need help making an online computer appointment.

No, life at the library does not look ‘normal’ right now, but what is normal is our library staff serving the needs of our community, whatever those needs might be. And right now, we are providing library resources and materials for homebound and isolating patrons, we are making Covid-19 Vaccine appointments for at-risk seniors, and we are making sure that our community is supported in every way possible...but we do have an ache in our hearts. Library staff are built for interaction with our communities and we are counting the days until we can once again hug a little one at storytime, sit close to our seniors while helping them on the computers, and stand shoulder to shoulder with a parent while we watch their child explore our developmental play areas.
Georgetown Library Update
Through the help of our Friends of the Library in Georgetown, our library has undergone a tremendous remodel! With the full support of our landlord, the Friends provided the funding for an incredible transformation of our Georgetown library. Gone are the rabbit-warren winding hallways and surprise little rooms, and here is an open, flowing library that appears to have been designed for maximum public use and enjoyment. Angela Bernoudy, our site supervisor, has created an enchanting layout that is easy to navigate, and welcomes every visitor.

Cameron Park
Upcoming: Sometime in the late spring, our Cameron Park Library will be closed for four weeks so that the mechanicals for heating and air can be replaced and updated.

Cameron Park provides superior service for students at the two adjacent schools and CSD facility right next door.

El Dorado Hills
Keeping Busy: The El Dorado Hills Friends of the Library had a very successful fundraising campaign this winter!

Steady and Strong: Providing activity kits and Zoom storytimes in-between essential computer appointments, our small but mighty Pollock Pines library is providing super hero service!

South Lake Tahoe
Upcoming: Our South Lake Tahoe library is due for mechanical work on updating the heating and air systems in early summer, and we anticipate a three week closure.

Working with the El Dorado County Historical Museum, the “Women of Influence” exhibit is up and generating lots of interest. Essential computer use is always at the heart of service at this site, and the law library computer is often in use.

Our Libraries
A Photo Journey

The California State Library sent a professional photographer to capture images of our libraries during the pandemic, and here are a few special shots...

Placerville
Serving the County: Placerville library is the coordination hub for library staff helping with senior Vaccine appointments and EDD applications. Teen Mental Health support is also a key program as a part of our Community Hub partnership with Public Health.
Early Learning in the Neighborhood

This CA State Library grant is providing a hybrid mobile vehicle for Georgetown Library. It also provides special technology LENA devices to promote language with our childcare providers.

Create El Dorado

A CA State Library grant to work with our local businesses to put on interactive Zoom classes. These classes will include fine arts, crafts, and much more!

Digitizing the El Dorado Republican

Through a CA Revealed State Library grant we will get our original copies of our local newspaper from the early 20th century preserved for all time and accessible!

Did you know? First 5 El Dorado provides funding for our Community Hubs and Early Childhood Literacy Specialists!

Mobile Library

South Lake Tahoe is getting a Ford Transit as their new mobile library and will be all over town visiting seniors, child care sites, and community events.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Our libraries are working on several grant and funding opportunities so that we may serve our communities in new ways. Here are our newest ones!