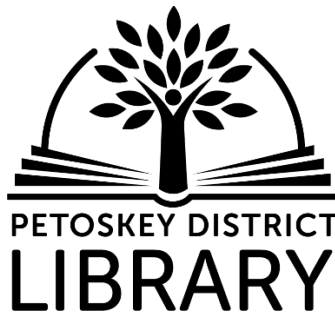




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Construction Scheduled to Begin at Petoskey District Library This Month

Big changes are scheduled to begin July 19 at the Petoskey District Library that will affect how patrons enter and exit the building for the next several months.

As library patrons may already be aware, the steps and ramp leading to the library's main entrance have been deteriorating over the past few years. Not only does this present an unsightly look to a prominent downtown Petoskey building, the crumbling ramp, steps and sidewalk are increasingly becoming unsafe.

On July 19, Lansing-based Gordon Construction Services Inc., will begin installing a temporary ramp from the sidewalk to the entrance door closest to the AT&T building, east of the library's main entrance on Mitchell Street. Following completion of the temporary ramp, the area in front of the library's main entrance will be closed off, likely beginning July 20, as excavation of the ramp and steps will take place over several days. Construction of a new ramp, steps and sidewalk will get underway after the demolition of the old infrastructure and continue through the early fall.

Library staff have been preparing for these disruptions to normal operations. An additional desk has been set up just inside the east door entrance where patrons can get answers to general questions. Since the east door does not have an automatic opening option, a doorbell will be installed at that entrance for those requiring assistance. Patrons needing help with the door will be able to ring the bell and a library staff member will assist.

During construction, the book return drop located outside the main entrance door will not be available. The book return drop in the alley behind the library will continue to be accessible as well as the book return drops inside the library and those located at township buildings.

Though some parking spaces may be cordoned off while contractors are working, including the accessible parking spots, curbside services will continue to be available during the construction period. For curbside assistance, patrons can park in any open metered spot on Mitchell Street between Waukazoo and Woodland avenues, call (231) 758-3100, and await for a staff member to assist.

Library director Val Meyerson had hoped to accomplish more during the construction, including masonry work on other parts of the library building and the outside of the Carnegie Building across the street from the library. Unfortunately, the contractor bids for the larger planned project came in more than three times the amount budgeted.

"As we all know, construction prices are at very high levels at this time," said Meyerson. "But, the library board and I felt the integrity of the building was at stake and the sooner we took action the better. The safety and security of our patrons and of the building are of utmost importance and we are excited to get this project underway."

The library welcomed a newly designed website earlier in 2023 which enables patrons to access a wide variety of library services. These online options, in addition to the library's 24/7 pickup lockers, offer patrons the ability to utilize library services in a time more convenient for busy schedules.

Depending on weather conditions, the construction is scheduled to be finished in early November.

For more information, please call (231) 758-3100 or visit us online at www.petoskeylibrary.org. The library's hours will continue to be Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

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