

## For Immediate Release

## EVPL provides resources during closure, curbside service to begin June 1

*Evansville, IN, May 28, 2020* – Since the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library temporarily closed library locations on March 14, 2020 due to the threat of <u>COVID-19</u>, library staff have created innovative ways for virtually providing services, programs, and materials to the community.

Since the closure, EVPL has expanded <u>digital collections</u> by doubling allowable Hoopla checkouts per month, upgrading RBdigital collections to expand access to all available magazine titles and thousands of new eAudiobooks, and adding several new <u>platforms</u>. The more than 50 EVPL Digital Programs shared have reached over 65,000 users. The annual Summer Reading Celebration, <u>Our Summer: Imagine Your Story</u>, was moved online for the first time in program history. EVPL staff are offering help via phone 53 hours a week and virtually through <u>AskEVPL</u> for 57 hours a week. All locations and materials have been and continue to be extensively cleaned and sanitized. Several facilities projects were completed, including striping EVPL parking lots, replacing flooring, and repairing lighting. EVPL Administration is looking at the future by beginning our Strategic Planning Process, brainstorming and reimagining library services. The <u>EVPL website</u> has also been expanded and updated with the addition of dedicated sites for <u>EVPL Kids</u> and <u>EVPL Teens</u>.

<u>EVPL To Go</u>, a curbside pickup service, will begin at all eight locations on Monday, June 1. Hours of operation will be 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays.

"We are excited to once again be able to get library materials in cardholders' hands," said Scott Kinney, EVPL CEO-Director. "We know our community has missed borrowing items from our collection and visiting our locations. We thank everyone for their patience during this unprecedented time and are looking forward to transitioning towards in-person services, beginning with the expansion of EVPL To Go to all eight of our locations."

EVPL To Go is part of a phased plan to resume services in stages created by EVPL Administration in collaboration with the EVPL Board of Trustees. A reopening date has not been set.

Library users are urged to continue to utilize EVPL's digital collection, which includes thousands of <u>eBooks</u>, <u>eAudiobooks</u>, <u>movies</u>, <u>TV shows</u>, <u>music</u>, <u>and more</u>, available 24/7.

Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library has served our community for more than a century. With eight locations throughout Vanderburgh County, immediate access to hundreds of thousands of digital resources, and a dedicated team of library professionals, EVPL strives to create opportunities for you to discover, explore, and connect with your library. For more information, visit evpl.org.

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