AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Library Patrons and Community Members,

Unfortunately, due to the continuing threat of the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus), we have decided to close the library, starting at 5pm tomorrow, Saturday, March 14th, until further notice. We will remain open tomorrow for patrons to pick up holds, check out materials, and use our computers, but we ask that you come in, do what is needed, and return home without lingering - for everyone's safety.

We think it is important for our community members to understand what we are considering when we evaluate whether or not to stay open. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advises against people being within close proximity. Our library is not very large, so it would be near impossible to address the CDC recommendation of social distancing.

When schools close, a common expectation may be to use the local public library as a place to connect to each other and to use our online resources including Internet connectivity and WiFi. Increased numbers of patrons in our building, however, is counter to the CDC recommendations and we are concerned that remaining open increases the possibility of further spread of the virus within our community.

Lastly, our library staff are as susceptible to the virus as anyone else. As Director, I care deeply about the health and welfare of the people who work in our library. I must also weigh the relative risk to them of remaining open to the public when other community resources have been closed.

Of course, I am sorry for the inconvenience our closure may cause, but please keep in mind that we will still be responding to email (info@matawanaberdeenlibrary.com) and phone messages (732-583-9100) if you have information needs. Our website, and our wide range of electronic resources (ebooks, audiobooks, movies, music, classes, tech help, etc.) are available 24-7. You can visit our website by clicking the box below.

All materials that are currently checked out will have their due dates extended until we reopen and fines will be suspended. Library cards that are about to expire will be automatically renewed so that patrons can continue to use our electronic resources without interruption.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the email or phone number above should you have any questions. Also, please be patient with us as we navigate this unprecedented situation - we will do our best to continue to
assist our community members in every way possible. Please watch our website or our Facebook feed for further updates.

Take care, and be well.

Kimberly Paone
Library Director