

# MELROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY



May 27, 2020

## **A Message to Melrose from the MPL...**

We are all looking forward to the time when we are able to safely open the doors of the library building to the public. We miss you! During these challenging times we all face many obstacles. Working remotely, library staff strive to be available and responsive, and to do our best to provide you with access to as many digital resources and services as possible. We want to thank you for your patience and willingness to learn with us as we adapt and develop new ways to keep in touch and provide services and programming. We have really enjoyed all of the ways we've been able to interact with you and hope you have had an opportunity to participate. We are currently busy planning for our Virtual Summer Reading Program, which will have its online kickoff on June 22<sup>nd</sup> – stay tuned for details!

MPL staff have also been working on the best approach to restart in-library and in-person services once it is safer to do so. The health of our staff and patrons is our number one priority. The City's Return To Work Safety (RTWS) Committee is actively working with us to ensure that we get this right, for everyone. We are developing a step-by-step plan to get back together with you!

### **The first public step will begin with the returning of library materials.**

Over 15,000 items are checked out to our patrons, and we know many of you are ready to return these items! We are working on a plan to safely accept and check-in these returns. We will be sending out guidance on this process soon. Please note that, once returned, items will be quarantined for several days prior to check-in. (Items will remain on your account during the quarantine period, but no fines will accrue during this time.) And if you aren't going out and about yet, don't worry! Due dates are still being extended during this time.

### **The second public step will allow contactless pick-up of library materials.**

We are hard at work on plans for contactless pick-up service that will enable borrowing of Melrose materials. Though the building will not be open to the public during this step, we are excited to be planning this service as a safer alternative for both the public and our staff. During this step, we will also be developing protocols for future steps that will include a limited and regulated opening of the building to the public as advised and permitted by the RTWS Committee and State guidelines.

### **Keep in mind**

There are no fines or fees for material currently checked out. And remember to regularly visit us at Melrose Public Library.org (<https://www.melrosepubliclibrary.org/>) You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and our Instagram account for teens.

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Please know, we are excited to be working towards our step-by-step process to bring back in-person services in the safest ways possible for staff and patrons. We will be letting you know about our next steps in the upcoming weeks, and in the meantime we hope you can come to a virtual book group, or check out some of our online resources. Questions? Give us a call at 781-665-2313, or email us at [mel@noblenet.org](mailto:mel@noblenet.org).

Thank you again, and always, for your patience and understanding.

Linda Gardener, Director  
Melrose Public Library