



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **LIBRARY REOPENS AND THE BOOKMOBILE RIDES AGAIN Library Opens Tuesday, July 27 - Bookmobile Starts August 3, 2021**

Monterey, CA. – The Monterey Public Library, the first library in Monterey County to offer sidewalk service beginning in June 2020, is proud to welcome patrons for services inside the library after the COVID-19 pandemic caused city facilities to close last March. The building reopens on Tuesday, July 27. Hours will be Tuesdays – Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sidewalk Service will continue from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at a special service window immediately south of the Library’s Pacific Street entrance.

“We have been anticipating this momentous day and are very excited to bring visitors back inside our library,” said Library and Museums Director Inga Waite. “Our services are an integral part of the quality of life in our community and we are eager to offer indoor access to the library’s collections, computers, California History Room, and other services.”

Visitors will see some familiar faces once inside, but some things have changed as well. Funding and staffing are being re-introduced gradually, and services will follow suit. The safety of the community and staff is a top priority. New measures include:

- Protective face coverings will be required for individuals two years of age and older to keep everyone safe, especially our youngest readers (those requesting a modification to this mandate for medical or disability reasons may call 831.646.2093.)

*(more)*

- Sidewalk service will remain available for everyone from 10 am to Noon, Tuesday - Saturday;
- Fewer computers and chairs, to avoid overcrowding;
- Outside air intake and air filtering systems have been maximized;
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes available throughout the building;
- Programs remain online or outdoors, and use of meeting rooms is on pause;
- A patron app provides library users the option to borrow without stopping at the desk or self-checks;
- Eating and drinking are not permitted.

During its physical closure, the Library served over 200 patrons a day and circulated 115,814 items through Sidewalk Service – providing a lifeline to information, educational materials, and entertainment. Volunteers logged 4,000 hours shelving materials and pulling holds to help keep this vital service running.

The Library’s nonprofit arm, the Friends & Foundation, announced a campaign in February 2021, Monterey Learns, to help sustain and enhance services, and generous donors provided funds to convert the 100,000-item library collection to a new, state-of-the-art \$50,000 inventory and collections management system that streamlines the borrowing process and enables contact-free checkout.

“We are grateful to the outpouring of community support,” says Waite. “Thanks to the City, volunteers, MPL Friends & Foundation, and generous supporters we are welcoming you back into your library at long last.”

Monterey’s mobile branch, the Bookmobile, will hit the road again on Tuesday, August 3. The new schedule will encompass the traditionally busiest stops:

Tuesdays	Thursdays
11:30 am - 12:30 pm, Merrill Gardens	1:00 - 4:00 pm, La Mesa Tech Center
1:00 - 2:00 pm, The Park Lane	4:45 - 6:00 pm, Montecito Park

Everyone is welcome at the Bookmobile. Call 831.646.3710 for more information, and visitors can keep their eyes peeled for Ms. Orquidea at the wheel around town!

Library staff are happy to see and help visitors again as they navigate the post-Covid era. *Learn more at [monterey.org/library](http://monterey.org/library) and watch for their brand new website coming in August!*

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