Dear Ransom District Library Community,

Yesterday, Governor Whitmer extended the stay-at-home order through May 28. For public libraries in the state of Michigan, this means that we will continue to be closed to the public, and unless there is a lifting of restrictions, curbside delivery of library materials will also have to wait. Ransom staff is eager to return to regular services, but we understand the greater importance of public health, and are glad to take up the challenge presented to us. Staff continues to meet and work from home every day to offer digital programming and improve electronic lending for our patrons. We are also constantly planning during this fluid situation for our return to in-person services.

Our intentions, in concert with our neighboring libraries, is to return in waves, beginning with curbside delivery of library materials. We are constructing our plan to allow return of materials, delivery at your car or walk-up stand, consultation over the phone and internet, and more. The next phase, when allowed and sanctioned by local and regional health authorities, will be to invite patrons back into the building in limited numbers while still practicing social distancing and other safety protocols. Eventually, we will be able to allow full access to the building, and then, finally, we will enjoy offering programs again.

Due to the lifting of some construction restrictions, work on our new building will be allowed to resume on May 7. We’re glad to get that project back on track, and we know plans for worker safety are in place. We also know it might seem ironic that we are focusing on the construction of a physical space while working hard during a pandemic to more fully convert the library’s offerings to the digital world. There really is no irony—when our lives have crept back to a more familiar mode, even if it retains some new cautions, we will need an adaptable, inclusive, equipped public place more than ever. As businesses adapt to changing times, many workers will lose desk and office space and will be asked to continue to work from home. Those workers and everyone affected by extra use of home space will need the library’s services professionally and personally. Our patrons who have been hit economically by the pandemic will certainly need the Library’s resources more than ever.

We can’t wait to meet your needs in person. Until then, please visit our website (www.ransomlibrary.org) to explore all the great things you can access for free with your Library card, and follow us on Facebook to learn about and take part in the programs we are offering there.

Wishing you all mental and physical health and safety,

Joe Gross
Director
Ransom District Library