**AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**PRESS RELEASE
Date: March 23, 2020**

**RE: COVID-19 CLOSURE**

**Library Offerings and Access During COVID-19 Shutdown**

Effective March 14th, the Agawam Public Library will be shut down until further notice as a precaution for the COVID-19 Virus State of Emergency. The library will continue to offer digital services during this shutdown. Although our patrons will not have access to our physical collections, there are many resources available digitally and through our streaming platforms. To ensure access, we have relaxed some of our standard operating procedures so that more people can enjoy our online materials.

Library users have access to many resources for academic and entertainment purposes. Visit <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/research/databases-2/> or <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/research/ebooks-streaming/> to get started. Simply log in with your Agawam Public Library card number and pin. If you cannot remember, or need to reset your pin, go to: <https://bark.cwmars.org/eg/opac/password_reset>. For Agawam residents who no longer have a library card with us, we are creating temporary cards that will be active until June 1, 2020. Agawam and Feeding Hills residents can email libstaff@agawam.ma.us to apply for their temporary cards. Residents will need to supply their full name, street address, telephone number, email and birthdate when they email our staff. Patrons will be issued a temporary card with a PIN, which will allow access to our library resources. After June 1, patrons can apply for a permanent card when they visit the library and show a current ID and proof of address.

Most of our streaming services are available as apps for mobile devices. Download from the Apple Apps Store or Google Play Store. **Libby** has thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines. **Hoopla** is another great source for eBooks, audiobooks, TV, movies, and music. **Kanopy**is a streaming film service that offers thousands of films, documentaries, and shorts from producers in the U.S. and around the world. In addition, our **RBdigital** service offers access eBooks, magazines, British TV productions, music concerts & college-level courses! **Freegal** is also available for downloadable and streaming music with a selection of over 7 million songs.

As of Thursday, March 18th, the library’s book drop is closed and locked. Please hang on to your library items until we re-open. There are NO OVERDUE FEES accruing during this time, as all items are now due May 1st. While the building is closed, our phone system is un-staffed. Please direct all questions to libstaff@agawam.ma.us .  Please stay tuned to our social media outlets for more information and as things change rapidly.

The library would like to thank our faithful patrons for their patience and understanding during these uncertain times. If you haven’t already, please follow us on social media for the latest information and resources to consider during our shutdown. Our staff wishes you all health and safety. Please email libstaff@agawam.ma.us with any questions.