

## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

### HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**MEETING DATE:** April 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Change in Library Hours of Operation

**PRESENTER:** Trina Rushing, Library Director

**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes

1. Proposal to Resume Post-COVID Library Services

#### SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

With recent COVID related guidelines on gatherings being relaxed by the State, Library Staff and the Board of Directors are requesting the Board approve the new proposed library hours of operation, to be effective May 3, 2021.

Hours of Operation						
Branch Library	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Main</b> (56)	9AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-5PM
<b>Fletcher</b> (37)	9AM-6PM	CLOSED	9AM-5PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-3PM	9AM-3PM
<b>Edneyville</b> (31)	9AM-6PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-5PM	CLOSED	9AM-3PM	CLOSED
<b>Etowah</b> (37)	9AM-6PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-5PM	CLOSED	9AM-3PM	9AM-3PM
<b>Green River</b> (31)	9AM-6PM	CLOSED	9AM-5PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-3PM	CLOSED
<b>Mills River</b> (31)	9AM-6PM	9AM-5PM	CLOSED	9AM-5PM	9AM-3PM	CLOSED

#### BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to approve the new branch library hours of operation to take effect May 3, 2021 as presented.

#### Suggested Motion:

*I move the Board approve the new branch library hours of operation as presented.*

## Proposal to Resume Post-COVID Library Services Beginning Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Library staff were fully vaccinated by the end of March and are now comfortable lifting many of our COVID restrictions and returning to a somewhat normal level of services. Our service proposal is as follows:

### Proposed hours of operation:

Hours of Operation						
Branch Library	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Main (56)</b>	9AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-7PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-5PM
<b>Fletcher (37)</b>	9AM-6PM	CLOSED	9AM-5PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-3PM	9AM-3PM
<b>Edneyville (31)</b>	9AM-6PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-5PM	CLOSED	9AM-3PM	
<b>Etowah (37)</b>	9AM-6PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-5PM	CLOSED	9AM-3PM	9AM-3PM
<b>Green River (31)</b>	9AM-6PM	CLOSED	9AM-5PM	9AM-5PM	9AM-3PM	
<b>Mills River (31)</b>	9AM-6PM	9AM-5PM	CLOSED	9AM-5PM	9AM-3PM	

Curbside service will be available on an as needed basis instead of during scheduled hours. Usage of this service has dramatically decreased over the past couple of months, making an on-demand curbside option a viable solution.

### Capacity Limits lifted as allowable by Governor order.

Capacity at all libraries remained well below 100% pre-COVID, except during well-attended programs. Instead of imposing capacity limits, the libraries will control the number of visitors in the buildings by offering socially-distanced outdoor programs and indoor programs by registration only.

Library	100% Capacity
Main Library	240
Fletcher Library	60
Etowah Library	80
Edneyville Library	28
Green River Library	20
Mills River Library	20

### Facility and Service Changes:

- Discontinue 30 minute visitor time limit
- Reopen study rooms
- Resume in-person library programming
  - Youth programs outdoors or indoors with registration. Indoors only at libraries with adequate meeting space for social distancing. Maximum participation determined by gathering restrictions and facility space.
- Restore some additional seating throughout buildings (wooden or vinyl seating that can be easily sanitized)

### Continued Restrictions and Safety Protocols:

- Face coverings encouraged
- Plexiglas barriers will remain in place
- Regular sanitation of high-touch surfaces
- Cloth lounge seating in storage
- Large meeting rooms closed to public until August.