FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 28, 2021

Rockford Public Library reinstates Safe Opening, Monday, February 1, 2021.
RPL welcomes patrons back to locations under restricted, safety-conscious protocols

Rockford, IL – As of Monday, February 1, 2021, Customers of Rockford Public Library (RPL) will be welcomed back to the Hart Interim Library and the East and Montague Branches to browse, check out materials, and pick up holds. Face-to-face service will be offered during regular Library hours, incorporating procedures designed to prioritize the safety of customers and staff. RPL’s Nordlof Center, the Library’s performing arts and training facility will resume the rental of meeting spaces for 50 or fewer attendees, at a safe social distance. The Rockton Centre Branch will continue to serve customers by appointment only, via Curbside Pick-Up of materials placed on hold.

“We are thrilled to welcome customers back to Rockford Public Library locations,” explains RPL Executive Director, Lynn Stainbrook. “We are again taking careful consideration to employ protocols that enable us to offer safe, in-person library service.”

While visiting the Hart Interim library, or the East and Montague branches, customers will be required to wear face coverings during their visits and are asked to keep a distance of at least 6 feet from one another. Your Rockford Public Library or reciprocal library card number is required to check out materials. If you need to obtain a library card and are eligible, you can do so through our website or at our public computer terminals. No more than 50 customers will be allowed in any RPL location at any one time. Customers are welcome to browse the collections and check out their selected items via RPL’s self-service kiosks. Materials placed on hold can be retrieved from designated areas inside locations. Curbside Pick-up only will be offered at the Rockton Centre location. Public computer stations are available for 45 minute sessions at the Hart Interim Library and the East and Montague branch locations. Meeting facilities at RPL’s Nordlof Center are available for rental. All other location meeting rooms and study rooms, are not available for public use. All in-person storytimes, classes and events remain canceled until further notice.

Customers should call 815-965-2723 to arrange an appointment to use the Maker Lab. The Local History Room at the Hart Interim Library is available to one individual or family group at a time, by appointment only. Hour-long appointments can be made in person, or by calling 815-987-6618. Customers should call 815-987-6649 to retrieve a forgotten Library Card Number. Please visit www.rockfordpubliclibrary.org to get a card and to download the new RPL App.
RPL Locations and Hours:

- Hart Interim Library 214 N. Church Street Mon-Thu: 9AM-8PM Fri & Sat: 9AM-5PM
- East Branch 6685 E. State Street Mon-Thu: 10AM-8PM Fri & Sat: 10AM-6PM
- Montague Branch 1238 S. Winnebago Street Mon-Thu: 10AM-8PM Fri & Sat: 10AM-6PM
- Rockton Centre Branch 3112 N. Rockton Avenue Mon-Thu: 10AM-8PM Fri & Sat: 10AM-6PM
- RPL’s Nordlof Center 118 N. Main *Call 815-987-6614 for computer appointment and rental info

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About the Library

The Rockford Public Library, founded in 1872 as the second library in Illinois, currently has five facilities, including a performing arts and training center (RPL’s Nordlof Center), the Hart Interim Library and three Branch Libraries. Rockford Public Library informs, educates, entertains, and provides cultural enrichment to the people of our community.

Contact:

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