

Local libraries announce programs canceled

Some closed temporarily

By Kristine Coulter

Howland Public Library in Beacon, East Fishkill Community Library in East Fishkill and Blodgett Memorial Library in the Village of Fishkill have announced temporary closings. Grinnell Library in Wappingers Falls has canceled its programs through March 31, but, on its website as of press time, the library remains open.

“In light of the recently declared state of emergency for Dutchess County, the closing of all public schools, and in an effort to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Howland Public Library will be closed starting Monday, March 16th, until Monday, March 30th,” announced Kristen Salierno in a post on the library website. “Any items that are currently checked out will not be due until April 2nd. Please hold them until we reopen. All fines during this time period will be waived as well. The safety of our patrons and community members is paramount but we apologize for any inconvenience. We will continue to provide limited hours of telephone and email assistance while closed.”

For more information, visit <https://beaconlibrary.org/>.

On the Grinnell site, <http://grinnell-library.org/>, the announcement reads that the programs are canceled until March 31.

“We will reassess the situation in two weeks. Look for our April newsletter for any updates at the end of the month,” it states. The library staff asks its patrons to “familiarize” themselves

with the digital offerings.

As of Monday, March 16, the site stated, “The Library remains open during regular business hours.”

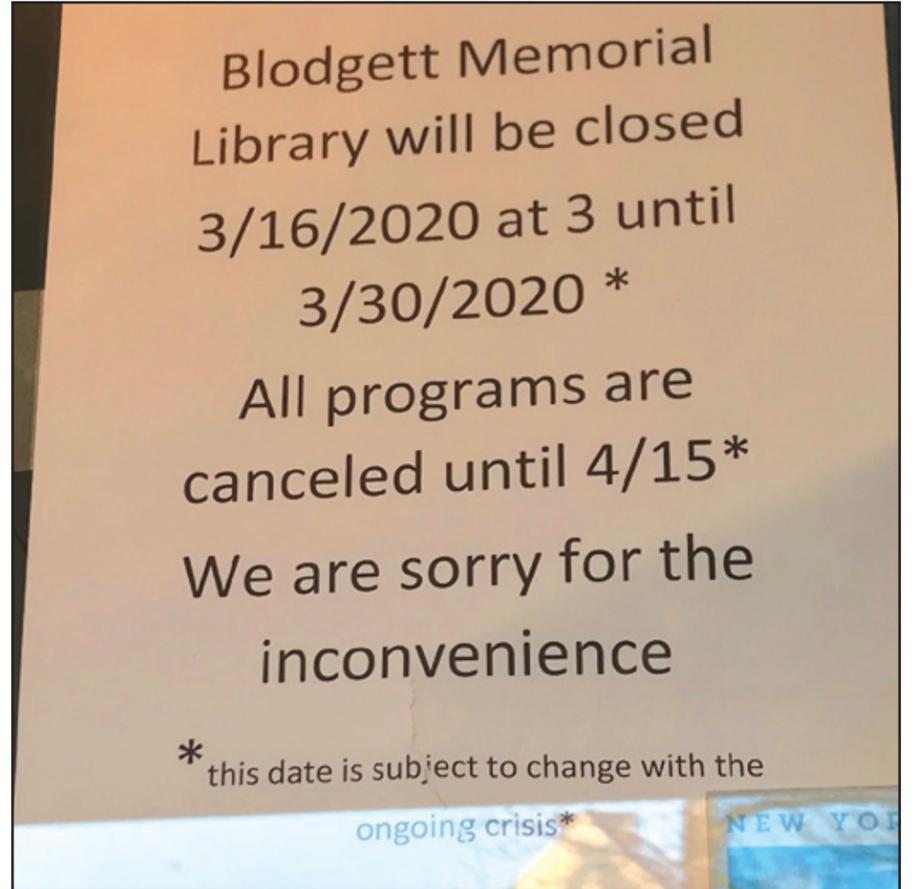
The East Fishkill Community Library closed at noon on March 14. Library staff anticipate reopening on April 1, as of press time.

“No overdue fines will accrue while we’re closed. If there’s any problem, we’ll waive fines when we reopen. We’re all dealing with so much already, and we don’t want you to worry about one more thing,” reads the announcement. “Although the book drop will be open, we’ll have limited ability to empty it – and you’d be surprised at just how fast it fills up. So please just hang on to whatever library materials you have in your possession right now and don’t return them.”

For patrons with items on hold, one can get them when the library reopens. It is advised to check out the digital features offered.

For more information, visit <https://eflibrary.org>.

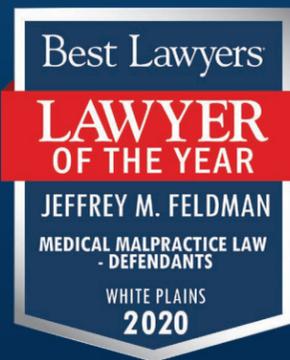
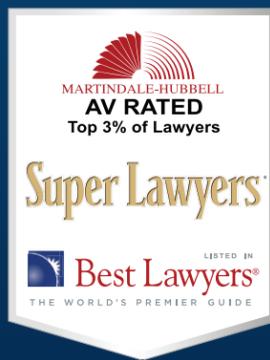
Julie Spann, Blodgett Memorial Library Director, stated on the library’s website, “We are doing all we can to ensure that our buildings are clean and safe and we appreciate your understanding in this effort.” She noted all special and everyday events will be canceled at this time. If one does not have a library card, they can create one by visiting the library’s website, <http://blodgettmemoriallibrary.org/>.



A temporary closure announcement on the entrance doors of Blodgett Memorial Library in the Village of Fishkill.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter

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