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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Back entrance of Brooks Memorial Library to close
2 starting April 13

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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 The back entrance of Brooks Memorial Library, which
6 connects to the Municipal Center parking lot, will be closed to
7 the public due to construction starting April 13.

8 The entrance will remain inaccessible throughout
9 construction, which is anticipated to continue through early July
10 2026. Library patrons should plan to use the front entrance along
11 Main Street.

12 During this phase of construction, visitors to the library
13 and Municipal Center should note the following:

14 • There will be limited parking in the back of the library
15 throughout construction. Library patrons may park along the
16 Municipal Center parking lot exit that leads to Main Street.

17 Signage will note where library parking is available.

18 • Foot traffic from the Municipal Center parking lot to
19 the Main Street entrance of the Municipal Center will be routed
20 to the North side of the building. Visitors to the Municipal Center
21 may continue to use the back entrance or approach the Main
22 Street door from the North side.

23 • The Field to Fork Tool Shed will remain open
24 throughout construction.

25 The construction starting this spring is part of a larger
26 project that aims to expand the usable space throughout the
27 exterior of the building and update the ADA approach to meet
28 current standards.

29 The scope of work includes safety and accessibility
30 improvements, including asbestos containment, bringing the
31 windows in the Children’s Room to code, the installation of a
32 security door to allow for meetings after hours, as well as various
33 longstanding maintenance needs. The walkway from the
34 Municipal Center parking lot will be overhauled and incorporate
35 a covered, outdoor seating area for reading, computer use, and
36 conversation.

37 The first phase of the project, taking place between April
38 13 and early July, will address the library’s upper floor. The
39 second phase, which is expected to occur between early July and
40 November, will see renovations to the front entrance facing Main
41 Street. The project is funded through a competitive grant
42 administered through the U.S. Treasury Department.

43 The Vermont Department of Libraries selected 14
44 libraries to receive a total of \$16.4 million toward capital
45 improvements. Brooks was awarded \$1.4 million through the
46 program.

47 "We apologize for the disruption, but these long-overdue
48 improvements will expand access to our library so that all can
49 benefit to the greatest extent possible," Library Director Starr
50 LaTronica said in a news release. She expressed gratitude to those
51 who helped secure the grant, to the Brattleboro Planning
52 Services, and to the Department of Public Works.

53 Patrons are encouraged to check out the library's online
54 and downloadable resources and their home delivery service. For
55 more updates, visit Brookslibraryvt.org or call the library at 802-
56 254-5290.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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