

Email Correspondence with Robyn Ritz

1/24/2021

Hi Mr. Nick.

The email sent out about the Peebles Library closing on January 21 was received in my inbox a day late. (Adams County Public Library <website@adamscolibrary.org> Fri 1/22/2021 5:04 PM) This is the second time a closing of a branch was received a day after the fact. Not sure why, but just letting you know, and board minutes haven't been posted since August 2020. I think I'm the only one reading them. Any idea when the library might start opening on Saturdays?

Wishing you a safe and Happy New Year.

Robyn

Hi Robyn,

I hope you and yours are doing well!

Thanks for the heads up! You reminded me of a change I wanted Josh and Julia to make. We have Mail Chimp set up as a service that gathers all of our website posts for the week and sends them out at the end of the week, on Friday. So, when Julia posted to the website and FB that we were closing that day, it ended up as part of the summary email at the end of the week. It works great as long as it's not news that needs to go out by email immediately, at that very moment. I've asked Josh to send an additional, immediate email on any day we have to close, in the future.

Josh is also still getting used to all of his responsibilities with the new position, as Jessica always used to upload the minutes. No one has mentioned it since the last time you reminded us, so you might be the only one, for all I know, as you say. He should have them up shortly, and I asked him to set himself a calendar reminder.

I'm not sure yet when we'll start opening on Saturdays, but we're watching the status of the virus closely. Our next step will be expanding hours on two of current 5 days that we're open, once these Library Design projects are completed, in the next couple of weeks. Those projects will give us the spaces we need to spread out more with our quarantine areas and staff workspaces, so more patrons can safely get in the building at once, as well. We have some other safety related projects we're working, too, such as improved air filtration and touchless doors. The Library Design spaces can be utilized as meeting area and offices after the end of the

pandemic. We've structured these projects so that the library and community will benefit from them, even after the pandemic. I wanted to kill as many birds with the same stone as possible.

When we go to Saturdays, it will require us to start having multiple people working in multiple library locations. So far, we've decided to delay that, choosing to minimize the risk that one or more locations will need to go down for 2 weeks, rather than a day or two. And that's certainly been borne out by experience, for us. When you see us closing for a day, like we did last week, it's typically because we're waiting on test results, in order to determine the extent of exposure and need to quarantine.

So, far, when that's happened, we've been left with 2 people that haven't been exposed to run that location, while the others quarantine and/or get tested. I've seen Highland County and other area libraries have several multiple week closures. Brown County is still at 4 days for 3 of their locations and 3 days at 1, with no Saturdays, for similar reasons. The bigger the library, the more open hours they have. That's true in non-covid times, and even moreso, right now.

I miss you, and hope you have a safe and happy new year, as well! Please let me know if you have any other questions. You can call me, too, if you'd like. I'm not sure if you still have my personal cell number, but it's 740-352-4445.

-Nick