March 18, 2020

Dear Patrons,

I am writing, once again, with difficult news. Effective immediately, the Siuslaw Public Library District is closed until further notice. I am sure that, like many of you, I keep making phone calls and sending emails I didn’t expect to send, and there has never been a truer statement about any letter I have ever written.

With confirmed community transmission of the COVID-19 virus in our region, we must take increasingly difficult steps recommended by local, state, and national health authorities to keep the larger community safe. As library staff and a library board, we are asking each of you to do what we will be doing – trying our very best to stop the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Public libraries offer many vital services – people ask questions about the most important issues in their lives. This is a place for people to find community, find a book, get warm, use a restroom, look at art, volunteer, work. We serve the most vulnerable populations in this region. We can do those vital things again sooner by keeping our physical space closed for a time.

We have been answering phones as we can, and I want to share with you the most current answers to the most frequent questions we are receiving:

- All library events are canceled until further notice
- AARP TaxAide/free tax preparation service is suspended nationwide
- Please keep any items you have checked out until the library reopens
- During this closure, we will automatically renew all library items and expiring library cards

We are posting updated, trusted information from health officials on our website: www.siuslawlibrary.info, along with resources and activities you can take advantage of from home. Of course, not everyone has online access, and sometimes a phone call is nice anyway. So please call people you know who might not be able to leave their homes. Stay in touch. Be gentle. Be kind. Stay healthy. Please.

Meg Spencer
Director, Siuslaw Public Library District