

July 23, 2019

12:45 pm

Sometime over the weekend of July 20-21 the Nevins Library experienced the failure of an air conditioning unit in the mechanical mezzanine above the Adult Non-Fiction Section. This failure caused large amounts of water to come from the ceiling into the Non-fiction stacks on the top floor of the Library, and then penetrate down into the second floor Fiction stacks.

The problem was discovered at 7am on Monday morning by library maintenance staff, and quick action on their part got "Soil Away", a locally-owned company which specializes in disaster cleaning and restoration on site within two hours. "Soil Away" staff mobilized immediately, moving books, cleaning up and setting up drying and dehumidifying equipment. The air conditioner was repaired and is functioning.

The number of books damaged by water was much smaller than originally feared. Books affected by water were immediately sent for freezing and restoration treatment. We are very optimistic that the vast majority of our collections will be intact.

The most significant remaining problem is walls, ceilings, carpeting and woodwork in the affected areas. The east section of the new wing has been cordoned off on the Main and Top Floors so that sheet rock, woodwork, ceiling tiles, etc, can be removed and replaced. This is projected to take up to 3 or four weeks.

Adult non-fiction and fiction collections have been moved on wheeled carts out into the unaffected sections of the Library. Staff will be working on Wednesday to try to organize these carts to make as many books accessible as possible, and to make moving around the Library as easy as possible.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Library will be open from 10am to 6pm with access only to the Main Floor Desk, so you may pick up books on reserve, museum passes, and return books. Books may also be returned in the Book Drop outside at any time. All programs and meetings have been cancelled for those two days. We plan to open on Thursday morning and resume most operations, including programs, at that time.

Limitations will include a reduced number of computers for public access, limited ability to locate adult non-fiction and fiction, limited seating, construction noise, and reduced bathroom and meeting room access.

The Library staff and Trustees are appreciative of the support of the public, city officials and the vendors and contractors involved in helping us recover. We ask for your continued patience as we move through a very fluid situation, and attempt to provide as much service as we can and keep you informed in as timely a manner as possible.

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