

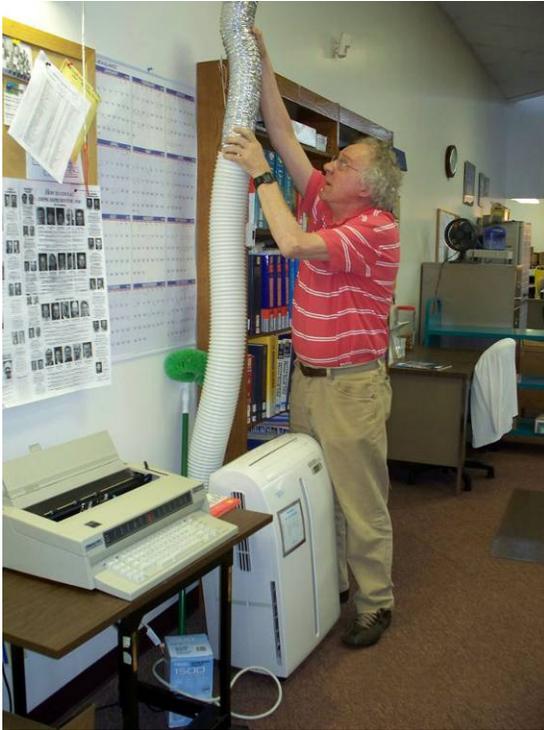
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“Things are Heating Up at the Library”



So the Norfolk Public Library won't have central air conditioning this summer. The inside temperature may not be below 70 all summer long but library staff aren't concerned and most summer activities won't be curtailed because of it.

“It really won't be so bad. Last July the air conditioning stopped working and we did all right for the rest of the summer. This year we're more prepared and will be doing more things to keep the library as cool as we can,” said Mike Caldararo, Norfolk city library director.

Some of the changes include adjusting the hours the library is open. The new hours for the library this summer will be 9:00 am to 7:00 pm from Monday through Thursday and from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday and Saturday. Currently the library is open from 10 am to 8 pm on Monday through Thursday and 10 am to 5 pm on Friday and Saturdays. The new hours will go into effect from Memorial Day and remain that way until Labor Day. The library will be closed on Sundays.

There will be more circulation of cool outside air into the library during night time hours.

Portable air conditions will be used in high traffic areas of the library. There will also be fans circulating air throughout the library.

“We also may cover some of the skylight windows that bring in light to the library but bring in a lot of heat,” Caldararo said.

Most events in the library will go on as usual including the popular summer reading program. Some of the reading program events may be held earlier in the day or later in the evening but none have been cut because of the lack of air conditioning.

“We're doing the best we can with what we have. With the additional steps we're taking to cool the library down it should be cooler in here than it was last year,” Caldararo said.

He added that circulation of library materials did not decrease last year because of the higher temperatures in the library but actually was up higher than previous years.

“We encourage everyone to come in and check out books this summer to read on vacation or when it's too hot to do anything else. It may be a bit uncomfortable in here but it won't be unbearable,” Caldararo said.

A complete overhaul of the library heating and cooling system is scheduled for this fall.