

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FRIENDS OF BLACKSTONE CANCEL BOOK SALE BUT PLANS ALTERNATIVES**

**BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT** [July 17, 2020] The Friends of Branford's Blackstone Library has voted unanimously to cancel its annual September book sale under the tent on the Branford town green due to the dangers of Covid-19 infection.

This was not an easy decision and many factors were taken into account. The most important one was maintaining the health and safety of all of the volunteers and attendees. This is also in accordance with Gov. Lamont's guidelines to curtail the pandemic.

The Friends have collected thousands of books and audio/visual materials from last September through March, which have been carefully sorted. This inventory will be available for purchase to the public with its continued support. In order to allow for adequate safe distancing, a series of smaller sales will be held at a new location: River Run Business Park, 59 School Ground Rd, Unit 6. Note this is not at the library or town green.

Masks must be worn and social distances kept. A restricted number of shoppers will be admitted into the warehouse at the same time. This protocol will be followed all days of the sales which will run selected weekends, Fri – Sun., 9 AM – 2 PM.

Schedule of sales is as follows:

1. **Aug 14– Aug 16**, Children's, Young Adult
2. **Aug 21 – Aug 23**, Adult Fiction, Mystery, Classics, Science Fiction.
3. **Aug 28 – Aug 30**, Art, Music, Biography, History
4. **Sept 11– 13**, Cookbooks, DVDs, CDs, Crafts, Audiobooks

Money raised by the Friends supports Blackstone Library services, including Hoopla and Kanopy streaming service, children's programming, scholarship for professional development opportunities, and equipment purchases. Over

\$100,000 has been donated to the library in the past two years through the Friends' efforts. It is hoped that despite the consequences of COVID-19, economic gains will continue to progress and also provide an expanded source of recreational reading for the people of Branford.

In the future look forward to another "novel" fund-raising approach by the Friends of the Blackstone Library which will be an online virtual sale of gently used books and literary items.

Check the Blackstone Friends' Facebook page--  
<https://www.facebook.com/JBMLfriends>. Call 203.488.1441; or email [friends@blackstonelibrary.org](mailto:friends@blackstonelibrary.org) for further information. Thank you for your continued support.

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