

Friends of Blackstone Mini Book Sale FAQs

Why was the September tent sale cancelled?

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, CDC and State guidelines, we felt it was unsafe to operate such a large event.

Why multiple mini sales as an alternative?

We felt that by targeting specific book genres, we could spread our sale of books over 4 separate weekends, each servicing different patrons, and reducing large groups.

Why are the sales located on the other side of town and not near the green or the library?

The Friends of Blackstone have a warehouse location at River Run Plaza to sort our donated books received throughout the year. This location is a safe alternative to host a sale as opposed to a large gathering.

What safety precautions will be taken at the mini sales?

We plan to follow CDC and State of CT guidelines for safety. Everyone must follow proper social distancing guidelines (e.g., 6 feet spacing). All patrons and volunteers must properly wear a face mask to be admitted to shop. Gloves and hand sanitizers will be provided. Many books are cleaned however, you may wish to leave your purchased items untouched for 48 hours.

Will there be a limited number of people shopping at one point in time?

The number of patrons shopping will be limited for each entry.

Do you need a Friends' membership (or pay an entry fee) to shop at the mini sales?

No, the sales are open to the general public.

What are the book prices?

Books are priced the same as in previous years. For example, \$3 Hard cover, \$2 trade, \$0.50 mass market paperback, \$5 coffee table, children's books are uniquely priced as they vary in pricing, \$1 music CDs, \$2 DVDs, and other special priced items.

What payment will be accepted?

Cash, credit card or personal check will be accepted.

Will there be a special preview sale for Friends' members?

Unfortunately, not this year.

Can we donate books? Are the donation bins open?

Yes, bins are open behind the Library or in the Volunteer Services Center parking lot at 30 Harrison Ave. Bins are open 7 days a week / 24 hours per day. Books donated after the mini sale will be used in future book sale fundraisers.

What happens to the leftover books after the sale?

As in the past, we have arrangements to re-donate any unsold books to other charities and organizations.

Will the books at the sale be sanitized from COVID19?

Many books are cleaned. Books on display for sale will have been left untouched for at least 48 hours before the sale starts. This should be enough time for any COVID19 virus to die. Hand sanitizers and gloves will be made available at the sale to minimize any surface spread. Please, use what is best for your comfort level.

Will there be a \$10 bag sale or ½ price sale?

Not this year.

Will the Friends host a Fall book sale next year?

Yes, we hope to host a successful book sale again next year. However, please keep in mind that health and safety is in the forefront of our minds.

Can I bring my children to the book sale?

Yes, children are welcome. However, they will be included in the count of patrons, so please limit shopping to two children. Please do not bring strollers and very small children. Children cannot be allowed to wander and must be with their guardians. Children over the age of 2 must wear masks.

Are there any other book sale activities or events this year?

Stay tuned for a new product [The Virtual Book Cart!](#) The Friends is preparing to launch a new way to sell gently used books to you at the same prices in the book sale. Volunteers are gearing up to offer the sale of gently used books in a 'contact-less' or 'curbside' manner to members of our Branford and local communities. Please monitor the Friends Facebook and Library postings for more information.

Can I volunteer for the friends?

Yes, we welcome all volunteers. Please send an email to friends@blackstonelibrary.org

We wish to thank all our volunteers, patrons, and donors for all your support throughout the year in support of the James Blackstone Memorial Library.