



7711 Goodwood Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
(225) 231-3750 www.ebrpl.com
Text A Librarian (225) 361-8476 • Facebook / Twitter

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Micki Talbot

June 7, 2022

mtalbot@ebrpl.com

(225) 231-3712

CIRCULATING HOT SPOTS: Wi-Fi 2 GEAUX EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BEGINS CIRCULATING 500 HOTSPOTS TO LIBRARY PATRONS

Access to reliable, high-speed broadband is no longer a luxury. It is a utility. However, a large percentage of local citizens lack access to low cost, *high-speed*, home Internet. Residents are unable to successfully connect to the Internet for work, on-line learning, tele-health, educational, and personal use, including access to the many resources available in the EBRPL's Digital Library.

Outside of our branch library system, there is little to no access to reliable high-speed broadband in many areas of our parish. These digital inequities were amply evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic. To address this issue, the Library is supporting a two-year pilot Wi-Fi lending program. In this pilot project, the Library will provide 500 Wi-Fi Hotspot devices for check-out to the public.

The individual Hotspots will be available for check-out to EBRPL cardholders at the following locations:

- Baker
- Carver
- Delmont Gardens
- Eden Park
- Main
- Scotlandville

-more-

EBRPL patrons will be able to borrow the devices for three weeks and renew them for up to three additional loan periods. This will provide patrons up to 12 weeks of use, if needed, and should be helpful to students, job seekers, and others who may have specific needs that could span a period of two or three months. The pilot project also includes a limited number of more robust Wi-Fi devices which will be placed in other shared public spaces in the community.

Library Director Spencer Watts commented: “The Library is excited to offer an additional means for the public to access the Internet and vital digital services. These devices provide an additional means to help bridge the digital divide. It offers another avenue for people to obtain the tremendous advantages that can be realized through a ready, flexible connection to the information infrastructure.”

For more information about this pilot project, contact Mary Stein at mstein@ebrpl.com.

For more information about the Library, visit us ebrpl.com.

###

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library is a community service organization that connects our citizens with information, resources, materials, technology and experiences in order to make a positive difference in their lives. The Main Library at Goodwood is joined by 13 branches open seven days a week (hours vary), and Library services are available 24 / 7 at www.ebrpl.com. Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Pinterest.