



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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**JAMES DAVIS, *MAYOR***



**July 11, 2024**

**For immediate release:**

**Grand Reopening Party at the Bayonne Public Library on Thursday, July 18**

Director Melody Scagnelli-Townley of the Bayonne Public Library announced that the landmark Bayonne building will have a grand reopening party on Thursday, July 18, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. The event will include opening speeches from local dignitaries; a ribbon-cutting ceremony; carnival games and food; a photo booth; a movie showing for teens; Bayonne Public Library swag bags; grab-and-go crafts; and a special story time for kids. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the reopening of the library following a year of renovations. The historic building is located at 31<sup>st</sup> Street and Avenue C.

The renovations included the installation of a new elevator and a new boiler. The lobby, the circulation area, and the Children's Room were reconstructed. In the

Children's Room, patrons will see a new ceiling, new lighting, and stadium-style seating for the Story Time area. Elsewhere in the library, new technology, computer carrels, and furniture have been installed.

After the completion of renovations, the library reopened on May 1, 2024. There was no ceremony at that time. Director Melody Scagnelli-Townley said, "Now that we have had two months to unpack and settle into the renovated library building, it is time to celebrate! We are inviting the Bayonne community to join us for a party on Thursday, July 18. We hope you will attend and enjoy our beautifully renovated library."

Mayor Jimmy Davis said, "I am looking forward to celebrating the reopening of the library, which plays such a great role in our community. The City of Bayonne Administration joins with the library in inviting the public to the party on Thursday, July 18."

Library Board Chair Maribeth Doria said, "I would like to thank the Library Director, Melody, and the library staff for all of their hard work on getting the library reopened. They had to move thousands of items back into the library, resume library services, and get used to new technology in very short order. We appreciate the assistance of the Bayonne Department of Public Works with coordinating the transition of materials from one library branch to another. The Bayonne Library Board is very proud of our staff and happy with the renovations. The Library Director, the

entire Library staff, and the Library Board are very pleased with final outcome. We appreciate the assistance and support of the City of Bayonne.”

Director Scagnelli-Townley concluded, “We look forward to showing off the library renovations during our celebration on Thursday, July 18!”