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Library System Announces Closings *State Budget Agreement also Calls for Deep Library Cuts*

Carlisle, Pennsylvania — Due to current and anticipated 2009 budget shortfalls, the Cumberland County Library System will reduce library hours in October at two libraries, Cleve J. Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill and New Cumberland Public Library.

Effective Thursday, October 1, 2009, New Cumberland will reduce its hours from 58 to 45 per week (22%), closing one hour earlier on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and two hours earlier on Thursday. It will be closed all day Friday.

Effective Saturday, October 3, 2009, Fredricksen Library will reduce its hours from 69 to 65 per week (6%), closing 4 hours on Saturday mornings. It will open from 1 to 5 pm on Saturdays and continue to be open 1 to 5 on Sundays.

Jonelle Darr, executive director of the Cumberland County Library System, said that these reductions will save New Cumberland about \$4200 in 2009 and \$17,000 in 2010. Fredricksen’s projected savings will be about \$3500 in 2009 and \$15,000 in 2010. At this time, neither library is laying off staff. Reduced hours are being re-distributed among staff members.

“It’s unfortunate that during this recession, that our libraries need to reduce hours. People need us more than ever so that they can apply for jobs online and to stretch family budgets. But, it’s an economic reality. We knew that budget deficits existed at both libraries this

year, but we were hoping to make up the difference by year end. However, by the middle of this year, it became apparent this wouldn't happen.”

Darr said that the current state budget agreement also does not hold good news for library services next year.

“The Pennsylvania Library Association has notified us that this past weekend's state budget agreement calls for a 34% cut to the public library subsidy. Plus, it cuts POWER Library reference databases, Ask Here PA (online reference service), the statewide library card and interlibrary delivery even more — 73%.”

Darr said that these cuts “will cost Cumberland County's libraries about three quarters of a million dollars in 2010. Plus, our kids won't have POWER library databases anymore at their school or public library. We will also be throwing away about \$3 million in federal matching funds.”

Darr said that until the state budget agreement is final, the library system won't be able to determine what further cuts must be made.

In the first 3 months of this year, Cumberland County's libraries had:

- More than 45,000 people use the library system's free high-speed Internet computers — a 33% increase from last year.
- 3258 people sign up for new library cards — a 13% increase from last year.

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Cleve J. Fredricksen Library

Monday - Tuesday 9 AM – 9 PM
Wednesday 9 AM – 6 PM
Thursday - Friday 9 AM – 9 PM
Saturday - Sunday 1 PM – 5 PM

New Cumberland Public Library

Monday – Wednesday 10 AM – 8 PM
Thursday 10 AM – 6 PM
Friday CLOSED
Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM

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