



Fulton Public Library

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For Immediate Release
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FULTON PUBLIC LIBRARY CUTS HOURS, STAFF

Marian Stanton, president of the Fulton Library's Board of Trustees, announced today that, "Continued under-funding of the library by the City of Fulton has compelled the trustees reluctantly to reduce open hours and layoff one staff member."

"We have received flat City funding for the last three years," Stanton said, "but this year we can't make those dollars go any further. These cut-backs, however much we resist making them, are now unavoidable. Mayor Woodward and the council members said they were unable to provide us with an additional \$20,000 in funding."

At a special trustees' meeting on Thursday, action was taken to reduce hours from 54 to 42 weekly at the Fulton main branch on South First Street, and to reduce them from 15 to 12 at the West First Street, Vayner branch, she said. She also said the trustees voted to layoff one staff member.

Beginning January 4, the library's main branch will be open from nine to five on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, nine to seven on Wednesdays, and closed Saturdays, according to Stanton. "The Vayner branch will be open Tuesdays through Fridays from two to five," she also said.

"The trustees tried very hard to accommodate the needs of Fulton students," Stanton said. She noted that computer use at the main and Vayner branches by students and other members of the community has hovered at 88 to 90 per cent of available hours. Stanton said the board intends to revisit the schedule in May to see if open hours need to be adjusted. "We'll be keeping a log of comments and usage and by in these difficult times to serve the public to the best of our abilities as resources allow," she said. "Our hourly rates for library aides range from \$8.20 to \$11.07, so asking employees to work for less money was obviously not an option," said Stanton. "We will also pursue any grant opportunities that would allow us to reverse this decision."

"It's ironic that this comes as use of the library by the community is expanding," Stanton said. "We have more than tripled our number of registered borrowers from 2,594

in 2002 to over 10,000 in 2008, and our circulation has increased over 8 per cent annually since 2002. Inter-library loan numbers-the number of books loaned to us for our patrons by other member libraries has more than doubled since 2003."

The Fulton Public Library is a member of the 65-member North Country Library System and through its inter-library loan program can request any books, CDs, DVDs, or other materials for its patrons. Stanton pointed out that all of these services are free to the public.

Fulton Public Library, 160 South First Street, Fulton

Days	New Hours of Operation
Mondays	9 am to 5 pm
Tuesdays	9 am to 5 pm
Wednesdays	9 am to 7 pm
Thursdays	9 am to 5 pm
Fridays	9 am to 5 pm

David E. Vayner Library, 365 West First South, Fulton, NY

Tuesdays through Fridays from 2 pm to 5 pm