

- PRESS RELEASE -
Clermont County Public Library

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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LIBRARY TO REDUCE HOURS, CUT EMPLOYEES

Batavia, Ohio—The Clermont County Public Library (CCPL) Board of Trustees met Wednesday, July 1, 2009 to discuss the future of the library and the current funding crisis. **The Trustees voted in favor of layoffs, suspending development on the Union Township Branch and reducing operating hours to 8 per day, 6 days a week at all ten branches beginning August 3, 2009.** The library currently has 82 full-time and 56 part-time employees.

The reduction in hours are in addition to the 24 staff layoffs that will take place Thursday, July 2, 2009 – a painful, yet necessary cut needed to balance the budget. The possibility that all remaining staff may be furloughed for 10 days on a rolling basis remains through the remainder of 2009, possibly extending into 2010.

Additionally, as of June 25, all non-essential purchases have been stopped. Services such as utilities, insurance, janitorial services, and repairs to facilities are the only approved expenditures.

Programming at the branches will continue only where there is no library expense involved, the public brings their own materials, or where volunteers are able to cover the cost of all expenses. The majority of outreach programming has been discontinued effective immediately. This includes Ready to Read workshops and the Homebound Delivery Service.

At the time CCPL passed a levy in November 2008, the library's guaranteed income from the state was \$6,157,000 plus \$3,868,000 from local property taxes totaling \$10,025,000. Using these figures CCPL passed a tentative 2009 budget for \$9,205,000. In June 2009, the revenue numbers were significantly reduced and projected to be \$4,779,000 received from the state and \$3,306,000 from local property taxes totaling \$8,085,000. This places the 2009 revenue shortfall at \$1,940,000.

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This is before Governor Strickland's proposed 30% additional cut. The Governor's proposed funding cuts come at a time when Ohio's public libraries are experiencing unprecedented increases in demands for services.

"The library is seeing huge demands for our services," offers David Mezack Executive Director. "Computer usage, resume & job hunting assistance, and free programming just to name a few. *The Ohio library community & public have strongly voiced their opposition to funding cuts and we simply must press on in recognition and appreciation of their support.*"

Funding Info:

The Governor's recommended cut to public library funding far exceeds the state's drop in revenue. According to Ohio Library Council analysis, if approved, the Governor's proposed budget cut would reduce library funding by at least 47 percent in 2010 and 45 percent in year 2011 as compared to year 2008 distributions. During the same 2010-2011 budget years, the state projects the General Revenue Fund will fall 18 and 16 percent, respectively.

The Ohio Senate has passed a continuing resolution and approved an interim budget to give them another week to work out an impasse over how to fill a \$3.2 billion hole in the \$54 billion budget. House concurrence is expected. **The interim budget would run through July 7**, giving legislators another week to balance the two-year spending plan that was to start Wednesday. The measure will fund state programs at 70% of the current level, and authorize Gov. Strickland to tap the state's rainy day fund to balance the 2009 budget that ends Tuesday. The aforementioned 30% reduction will not apply to the Public Library Fund and library funding will remain unchanged in the interim budget. **However, this is subject to change once the Ohio Senate approves the final budget.**

For more information visit www.clermontlibrary.org

The Clermont County Public Library strives to provide innovative access to information and services that stimulate the diverse educational, informational, and recreational needs and interests of the community. Further, the library seeks to be an integral part of the community in cooperation with other community organizations.

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