



Southeast Steuben County Library
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SSC LIBRARY AMENDS 2014 BUDGET AFTER FAILED REFERENDUM

Due to the failed funding referendum last December, the Southeast Steuben County Library has amended its 2014 budget to absorb \$100,000 in necessary spending cuts including the loss of two full-time staff positions. Unavoidably, these cuts directly impact library services, programs and hours of operation.

- As of March 2, the library will no longer be open on Sundays. Sunday closure means that more than 63 programs and events organized by the library or civic and cultural groups will not take place in 2014.
- 25% reduction in library programming. Programs for children, teens and adults, including digital literacy programming for job-seekers and others will be markedly reduced.
- One-on-one training sessions limited. Individualized training for those learning to use tablets, smartphones, e-Readers and other devices will be limited by reduced staff availability.
- New books and other material acquisitions cut by 11%. The Southern Tier Library System's shared collection of downloadable e-books, audio books and other digital materials will continue to grow, but our library's acquisitions of books, DVDs, music CDs and other physical materials will be curtailed. Patrons may encounter a longer wait for newer titles and releases.
- Technology upgrades slashed. A 14% reduction in technology spending will have a magnified impact on planned upgrades to public access PCs. Aging library computers are adequate to run on outdated Windows XP, or Windows 7. Plans to upgrade all of our computers to Windows 8 compatible hard drives will be scaled back by half.

Due to the closure on Sundays, remaining library personnel have been contacting area agencies, civic and cultural organizations to cancel scheduled events on Sundays in the meeting rooms. As of March 2, library hours will be:

MWF 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
TTH 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sun Closed*

The Southeast Steuben County Library is dedicated to provide courteous, professional, helpful library services to all community members. We deeply regret the need to make these cutbacks.

Going forward, the library's Board of Trustees will renew its efforts to enlist public support for stable long term funding. Adequate public funding must cover basic operational expenses. The library's current contractual funding from six municipalities does not meet that minimum threshold.

*Under its NYS Charter, the Southeast Steuben County Library is mandated to open 55 hours each week. Consequently, staff reductions coupled with minimum departmental coverage requirements were the determining factors in the decision to reallocate Sunday hours to weekday mornings.

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*Programs made possible by the Friends of the Library
The library is handicapped accessible. If you require special accommodations, please call us in
advance: (607) 936-3713.*