



**As of Feb. 1, 2008,  
Henderson Libraries will be closed on Sundays.**

*This has been a difficult decision for everyone at Henderson Libraries as it represents a step backwards in the growth needed to serve our community of readers. However, various economic conditions have led us to this decision.*

**Why has the library district's revenue declined?**

- In 2005, tax caps were put in place by the legislature that limited the library district's ability to leverage growth revenues and recover from negative economic conditions such as those experienced throughout the state this year.
- In fiscal year 2007, the library district saw an initial decline in revenue. As of fiscal year 2008's first quarter, the library district projects a drop in revenue of over \$500,000 for the remaining months of the fiscal year. The slowdown in new residential construction, the collapse of the mortgage market, the tightening of the lending market and the related decline in retail purchasing have caused a decrease in revenue for the library district. All fiscal projections anticipate lower than normal revenues for the next 24 to 30 months.
- The library district's ballot questions in 2001 and 2002 to provide operating revenue to accommodate increased usage were defeated by the voting public. Today the library's low tax rate is inadequate to fund the growing volume of library use.

**Why reduce the library's hours?**

- In the last five years, the library district has seen a nearly 100 percent increase in use in almost every category. However, staff has increased only 20 percent. With Sunday closed, all staff will be scheduled Monday through Saturday to provide better customer service and avoid staffing shortages.
- Utility costs will be reduced as buildings are shut down for an entire 37 hour period spanning Saturday from 5 p.m. until Monday morning at 7a.m. The estimated cost savings in utilities is approximately \$20-25,000 annually.
- Janitorial services will be reduced to a six day work week, allowing for further savings.
- Closing Sunday will save the library money that will be needed over upcoming years due to lower revenues.

**What else is the library doing to save money?**

- The library continually recruits volunteers. Last year volunteers contributed over 10,000 hours to library operations.
- The Friends of Henderson Libraries raised over \$50,000 last year to benefit the library.
- Self-service checkout and online renewals allows patrons to avoid long lines and frees staff to help people in other ways. Over 50% of the library's circulation is now self-service.
- Sending notices through email saves thousands of dollars on postage every month. Give the library your email address next time you visit.
- We welcome donations of books, audiobooks, and DVDs in good condition. Donated materials valued at almost \$200,000 were added to the library's collection last year. Also, the Friends made over \$20,000 through sales of donated materials.
- The library actively pursues grants. Last year the library district received nearly \$250,000 in federal and state grants. The district also seeks personal and corporate donations throughout the year. Last year, the district received nearly \$150,000 in cash donations and numerous in-kind donations.

### **How can you help?**

See [www.mypubliclibrary.com/libinfo/support.html](http://www.mypubliclibrary.com/libinfo/support.html) for information on volunteering, donating, and joining the Friends of Henderson Libraries.