

Shaler North Hills Library

1822 Mt. Royal Boulevard • Glenshaw, PA 15116 • 412-486-0211

www.shalerlibrary.org

An important message to our library friends and supporters...

Effective Monday, January 4 our operating hours for 2010 will be as follows:

- Monday –Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (September—May)

As you are aware, the next few years will be challenging for the Shaler North Hills Library and public libraries in general. In 2010, SNHL will experience an \$83,600 reduction in state and RAD funds. In order to get to a balanced budget, we reduced expenses overall by 7%. This included reductions to the collection budget, supplies and operating hours.

While we transition, your support becomes even more critical in maintaining our quality programming, collection and services.

We are tremendously blessed to serve such a wonderful and supportive community. Our staff is extremely talented and dedicated. The changes are hard on them and I know, disappointing to you. As always, we remain committed to outstanding service, programs and materials. Thank you for your understanding, patience and your support. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

~Sharon McRae mcras@einetnetwork.net

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Further changes for 2010

- SNHL will continue to pursue grants, fundraising activities and cost saving measures to retain our programming levels and to fill-in funding gaps for the collection. It's likely you will experience longer lines at the checkout desk and less new materials. We will do our best and we ask for your patience. Thank you.
- Libraries across the state and here in the county, particularly the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh have been greatly impacted by the state cuts as well. CLP operates the county-wide delivery service, inter-library loan outside the county and manages subscription databases on our behalf. County-wide delivery has experienced unprecedented growth. Nearly 5 million items now pass through the West End hub. We estimate each item costs up to \$2.00 to ship around the county. CLP, with the approval of librarians across the county, eliminated databases, their reference materials budget that serves Western PA, new e-Book purchases and most of their ILL department, to hold the line on delivery service. However, demand has outpaced the revenue. Expect to see limits on requests, queue changes and longer waiting periods. We **don't** want to charge a fee—so please be patient and self-regulate your habits during this financial crunch. CLP is aggressively pursuing grants to increase technology options so that we can continue to provide this outstanding service.
- The County-wide reserve program that provided additional copies of high demand materials has been eliminated. There will be longer waiting periods for high demand materials.
- The inter-library loan program and the ACCESS PA program have virtually been decimated by state cuts. CLP will continue to borrow and lend for free within PA. But they will charge up to \$20.00 for items that are borrowed from outside of PA.
- Those residents living outside of Allegheny County will at some point in 2010 be required to pay a user fee, and vice-versa. The state-wide reciprocal borrowing program has been decimated by lawmakers, setting library service back to the seventies.
- The fate of POWER Library remains unknown as of 11-09. These incredible resources are priceless, but have an estimated value of \$40,000 to **every** public and school library across the state. Libraries won't be able to replicate these resources. We will do our best to retain at least one online magazine index, even if that means giving up numerous print subscriptions to magazines.