



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Portsmouth's Main Library Closed for 90 Days During Building Repairs

Portsmouth, VA - As the process of damage assessment and restoration planning continues with the City's insurance adjuster this week, it is increasingly apparent that Main Library will not be suitable for re-opening for 90 days (April 1, 2011). This timetable is necessary to thoroughly clean most of the approximately 150,000 volumes of books and to repair and reconstruct the building components destroyed during a December 25th fire in the rear foyer and mezzanine area. A preliminary strategy to reopen only the front portion of the building was considered but rejected for reasons including safety of patrons, ADA compliance, and unhindered mobility of repair contractors.

The City recognizes and regrets the inconvenience that the temporary closing of Main Library causes for citizens and is working to restore the facility to its full operation, as soon as it is safely possible.

The following procedures are in place for citizen convenience during the reconstruction period:

- * Please feel free to access library services at the other library branches, Cradock, Manor, or Churchland, which are open and operating on a regular schedule.
- * Any books checked out of Main Library on or before December 23, 2010 may be returned to any of the other library branches and without fines
- * Book sales by the Friends of the Library will continue as scheduled and are accessed at the side entrance on Saturday, January 15, 2011
- * The Local History Room is currently unavailable
- * The Law Library is currently unavailable

Library patrons with questions about Library services during this period, should contact their nearest branch.