

For Immediate Release

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Ossining Library Trustees Approve 0% Tax Levy Hike for 2011-2012 Budget

Over \$700,000 in Cuts Causes Reduction in Service Hours

(Ossining, NY-May 23, 2011) - In acknowledgement of the decisive manner in which their earlier proposed budget (\$4,250,000) was turned down by Ossining school district voters last month, the Ossining Public Library Board of Trustees has announced that it has approved a 2011-2012 budget for the library that is the same amount—\$3,822,016—approved by the voters for 2010-2011 and so will result in no change in the tax levy of \$3,522,000 from last year.

To create the necessary \$700,000-plus savings from the earlier proposed budget's tax levy request and achieve the present budget figure, however, the [Ossining Public Library](#) will lose its distinction of being open more hours than any other library in Westchester County. For the time being, the OPL will need to reduce from its weekly operating schedule by 14 hours.

Starting July 1, 2011 the new hours of the Ossining Public Library are as follows:

For July and August

- Monday: 9 AM-9 PM
- Tuesday: 10 AM-6 PM
- Wednesday: 1 PM-9 PM
- Thursday: 9 AM-9 PM
- Friday: 10 AM-6 PM
- Saturday: 1 PM-5 PM
- Closed on Sunday.

For September through and including June,

- Monday: 9 AM-9 PM
- Tuesday: 10 AM-6 PM
- Wednesday: 1 PM-9 PM
- Thursday: 9 AM-9 PM
- Friday: 10 AM-6 PM
- Saturday: 1 PM-5 PM
- Sunday: 1 PM-5PM.

The adoption of the budget came at a regular meeting of the Ossining library trustees on Monday night. Under New York State law, the library's trustees do not need voter approval for the same tax levy request as the preceding year. Rather than spend money on another vote for a budget with even a small tax levy increase, the Board of Trustees felt that adopting the 0% tax levy increase budget made the best sense.

A minimum of twenty percent reduction in the hours of part-time OPL library staffers will result in savings of \$448,000, including salary and benefits. In addition, operating

costs were reduced for cleaning services, library materials, programs, electricity, Westchester Library System automation, photocopies and equipment.

“To fashion this budget, we needed to realize these personnel and operational savings, which meant hours had to be cut,” said Tom Staudter, president of the OPL Board of Trustees. “In the end, we realized the importance of remaining open on Sundays while maintaining the excellent level of library services our patrons are accustomed to at the OPL all week long. We have made some difficult choices and hope our expected revenues can sustain these new hours of operation.”

About the Ossining Public Library

The [Ossining Public Library](#) is a School District Library chartered by the State of New York to serve all residents of the Ossining School District. As a member of the Westchester Library System, it also provides services to a larger community.

OPL’s mission is to provide easy and equal access to the broadest range of information and ideas of humanity in order to meet the educational and intellectual needs of the diverse members of our community, while enriching their social and cultural lives.

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