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5-15-10

Intro: Martha-Helene Stapleton, graduate of PLTI, homeowner, library volunteer at Duncan library, and mother of 2 toddlers

Friday I walked into my neighborhood library and learned that effective June 1st, all library branches will have their hours cut substantially. I am here to ask that you reconsider the funding cut of \$170,000 to the libraries and reinstate the funds needed to maintain the current hours of operation

I recognize that you have made tough choices regarding this year's budget. The library budget is 2% of the city budget, but funding cuts resulting in reduced hours of operation have the effect of reducing the number of library programs and services that can be offered; they dramatically affect children's programs, adult literacy and education programs, and make library materials more difficult to access for working families.

The later start time will disrupt scheduling of programs for children, the effects of which will be disproportionately felt by children under age 6, as 85% of children's programs offered at Duncan Library support this age group<sup>1</sup>.

One of these programs, which will be affected at Duncan Library, is Spanish Storytime with Songs, a free program for children ages 0-5 that I started in October of 2009. This program, which meets every other week at 10 am, serves up to 24 children and 10-15 adults or caregivers. It is the only program in Spanish for children in the entire Alexandria library system.

Programs like mine, which are tailored to children in their native language, are **gateways to the English-speaking community**, as the majority of materials and programs available are in English. Attracting Latino kids and families to visit and use the public library – a free institution that is uncommon in many of their native countries or cultures – can be a first step toward greater participation in our community. Additionally, programs like mine are another way to support bilingual education, which many parents in Del Ray and Alexandria value. Through these programs, children learn early on that their neighborhood library is a haven that fosters learning and exploration. This is an investment in our kids' education - and we know that Alexandria Public Schools can use all the help they can get.

The earlier closing hour will also potentially disrupt evening storytimes for families, adult literacy and education programs, book clubs and author talks, and make inaccessible the meeting rooms for community groups and library events, as these activities typically begin at or after 7pm. Teens and adults who depend on the library for studying in the evenings will have to find somewhere else to go. [Computers and library materials will be more difficult to access for working families.] The library is a place where reading for recreation is supported, where residents can search for jobs using library computers or free Wi-Fi, where new residents can learn about city programs and events; soon after moving in to our home in Del Ray I visited the library to obtain information for my family. And this past winter, when schools were closed due to the blizzards, our libraries remained open. Is this worth a savings of \$170,000 annually? No, it is not. Now is not the time to cut hours. [As one of my PLTI classmates, Jennifer Wong put it, “communities thrive at our libraries,” and library usage and circulation has gone up in the past several years because of the recession.

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<sup>1</sup>So far this fiscal year (July 2009 through April 2010), the number of Children's Programs offered at Duncan Library was 196 (average about 26-28 per month). 167 were for children under age 6 (167/196 = 85%), 29 for ages 6-13. Total attendance was 8778 (5361 children, 3417 adults).

Of the nearly 2,000 patrons who filled out the last usage and satisfaction survey, 94% said they were “extremely” or “very satisfied” with Alexandria Library.

Our community is trying to do its part to support the libraries; it raised nearly \$5000 at the Friends of Duncan Library Book Sale, and at Beatley library, the west end community donated over 700 books to be sold at Beatley's book drive.

I ask that you reconsider the funding cut and reinstate the funds needed to maintain the current hours of operation.] Reduced hours mean terminating programs that contribute to the greater good of the community. There are likely other programs from which you could trim \$170K that would be less detrimental to the community, that would not hit families and children so hard. Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Effective Tuesday, June 1, 2010,  
the new hours will be the following:*

**BEATLEY LIBRARY, 5005 Duke Street**

Mon-Thurs 10am-9pm; Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 1pm-5pm

**BARRETT BRANCH, 717 Queen Street**

Mon 1pm-9pm; Tues-Thurs 10am-7pm; Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm

**DUNCAN BRANCH, 2501 Commonwealth Avenue**

Mon-Tues 10am-7pm; Wed 1pm-9pm; Thurs 10am-7pm; Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm

[currently Mon-Th 9am-9pm, Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm]

**BURKE BRANCH, 4701 Seminary Road**

Mon-Wed 10am-7pm; Thurs 1pm-9pm Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm

**LOCAL HISTORY / Special Collections, 717 Queen Street**

Mon 1pm-9pm; Tues 2pm-7pm; Wed 10am-7pm; Fri 10am-6pm; and the first Saturday of the month, 10am-5pm.

Duncan Library facts

Fiscal Year 2009 (July 2008-June 2009)

Hours of operation	3,200
Circulation	289,292
Patron Count	254,563
Meeting Room Attendance	11,251
Children's Programs Offered	226
Attendance at Children's Programs	9,195



Tune into *Stories Alive*  
on Comcast Cable Channel 69  
Mondays at 5 pm and Wednesdays at 6 pm

# MAY 2010

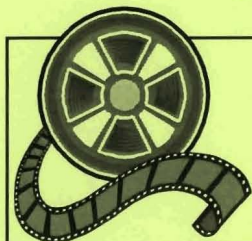
Signing is available at library sponsored  
programs if it is requested and  
five days notice is provided



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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## Duncan Library

2501 Commonwealth Avenue - 703.838.4566



2	<p><b>Stories &amp; Songs</b> in Spanish for ages 0 - 5 w/ adult @ 10 am</p> <p><b>*Baby Time @ 11 am</b> Ages 0 - 11 months Sign-up half hour before. Limited to 20 children.</p> <p>The Movie "Up" @ 7 pm</p>	3	<p><b>*Stories &amp; Songs</b> Ages 1 to 4 10 or 11 am Sign-up half hour before Story Time.</p>	4	<p><b>*Stories &amp; Songs</b> Ages 1 to 4 10 or 11 AM Sign-up half hour before Story Time.</p>	5	<p><b>*Mother Goose Time</b> Ages 12 - 24 mos. @ 10 am Sign-up half hour before. Limited to 20 children.</p> <p>Story Time for ages 3 to 5 without adult @ 11 am</p>	6	<p><b>*Mother Goose Time</b> Ages 12 - 24 mos. @ 10 am Sign-up half hour before. Limited to 20 children.</p> <p>Story Time for ages 3 to 5 without adult @ 11 am and 2 pm</p>	7	<p><b>*Mother Goose Time</b> Ages 12 - 24 mos. @ 10 am Sign-up half hour before. Limited to 20 children.</p> <p>Story Time for ages 3 to 5 without adult @ 11 am</p>	8	<p><b>Family Program</b> Peter McCory One-Man Band @ 2 pm for all ages</p>
9	<p><b>*Baby Time</b> Ages 0 - 11 months with adult @ 11 am Sign-up half hour before Story Time. Limited to 20 children.</p>	10	<p><b>*Stories &amp; Songs</b> Ages 1 to 4 10 or 11 AM Sign-up half hour before Story Time.</p>	11	<p><b>*Stories &amp; Songs</b> Ages 1 to 4 10 or 11 am Jazz Beginnings with Project Natale @ 7 pm for all ages</p>	12	<p><b>Nature Program</b> For Elementary School Kids Only 3:30 - 4:30 PM</p> <p>Pajama Story Time @ 7 pm Ages 3 - 6 w/out adult</p>	13	<p><b>*Mother Goose Time</b> Ages 12 - 24 mos. @ 10 am Sign-up half hour before. Limited to 20 children.</p> <p>Story Time for ages 3 to 5 without adult @ 11 am</p>	14	<p><b>Family Program</b> Bill Jenkins World of Music @ 2 pm for all ages</p>	15	<p><b>Family Program</b> Bill Jenkins World of Music @ 2 pm for all ages</p>
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30 **All Libraries** 31  
**Closed**  
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Memorial Day

**\*Sign-up a half hour before Baby Time, Stories & Songs, and Mother Goose Time. Baby Time and Mother Goose are limited to 20 children. Please come to only one program per week.**





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on Comcast Cable Channel 69  
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# MAY 2010

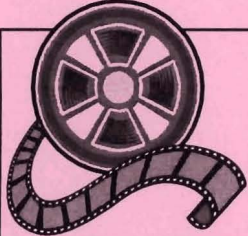





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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2501 Commonwealth Avenue - 703.838.4566

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30	31 All Libraries Closed ----- Memorial Day	<p><b>*Sign-up a half hour before Baby Time, Stories &amp; Songs, and Mother Goose Time. Baby Time and Mother Goose are limited to 20 children. Please come to only one program per week.</b></p>					

BRANCH : James Duncan

LIBRARY-SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND ATTENDANCE  
 BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY  
 FOR THE MONTH : April 2010

	No. Of Children's Programs Monthly/YTD	Children's Program Attendance Monthly/YTD	No. Of Other Programs Monthly*/ YTD	Other Program Attendance Monthly*/YTD
AGES 0-5	18/167	715/4596		
AGES 6-11	2/29	30/765	/	
AGES 12-14	/	/	/	/
AGES 15-18	/	/	/	/
ADULT	/	349/3417	/	
<b>TOTALS</b>	20/196	1094/8778	/	

**\*Please remember to include the following: training classes provided to patrons; library tours; lectures; book discussions; library-sponsored programs provided in the meeting, training, and story rooms. Please exclude homework assistance and other one-on-one assistance from this page; you may include these on the Monthly Activity Report if it occurred in your meeting room.**

LIST OF LIBRARY SPONSORED PROGRAMS (Please list only those not held in meeting rooms. You do not need to repeat those listed on Monthly Activity Report form.):

At the Friends' Book Sale, they had multiple entertainers for the children(numbers included above).

- Great Zucchini 200 (125 kids, 75 adults)
- Kids-N-Motion 175 (150 kids, 25 adults)
- Buford the Bear 100 (75 kids, 25 adults)
- Story Time 40 (30 kids, 10 adults)
- Arts on the Horizon 20 (15 kids, 5 adults)
- Face Painting 35 kids

*reduced hours is saving only about \$170,000  
 library budget is less than 2% of city budget*

SUNDAY PATRON COUNT: Central Library = Barrett Branch =

VOLUNTEER HOURS: Monthly: YTD:

7  
2f

SPEAKER'S FORM

DOCKET ITEM NO. 2

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND GIVE IT TO THE CITY CLERK  
BEFORE YOU SPEAK ON A DOCKET ITEM

PLEASE ANNOUNCE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED BELOW PRIOR TO SPEAKING.

1. NAME: Martha - helene Stapleton

2. ADDRESS: 5 W. Del ray

TELEPHONE NO. 202 257 6142 E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

3. WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT, IF OTHER THAN YOURSELF? RDH

4. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ITEM?  
FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

5. NATURE OF YOUR INTEREST IN ITEM (PROPERTY OWNER, ATTORNEY, LOBBYIST, CIVIC INTEREST, ETC.):  
new library hours - <sup>Duncan</sup> ~~Duncan~~ Branch

6. ARE YOU RECEIVING COMPENSATION FOR THIS APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL?  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO ✓

This form shall be kept as a part of the permanent record in those instances where financial interest or compensation is indicated by the speaker.

A maximum of three minutes will be allowed for your presentation, except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard on a docket item shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation. If you have a prepared statement, please leave a copy with the Clerk.

Additional time not to exceed 15 minutes may be obtained with the consent of the majority of the council present; provided notice requesting additional time with reasons stated is filed with the City Clerk in writing before 5:00 p.m. of the day preceding the meeting.

The public normally may speak on docket items only at public hearing meetings, and not at regular legislative meetings. Public hearing meetings are usually held on the Saturday following the second Tuesday in each month; regular legislative meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month. The rule with respect to when a person may speak to a docket item at a legislative meeting can be waived by a majority vote of council members present but such a waiver is not normal practice. When a speaker is recognized, the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply. If an item is docketed *for public hearing* at a regular legislative meeting, the public may speak to that item, and the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply.

In addition, the public may speak on matters which are not on the docket during the Public Discussion Period at public hearing meetings. The mayor may grant permission to a person, who is unable to participate in public discussion at a public hearing meeting for medical, religious, family emergency or other similarly substantial reasons, to speak at a regular legislative meeting. When such permission is granted, the rules of procedures for public discussion at public hearing meetings shall apply.

Guidelines for the Public Discussion Period

(a) All speaker request forms for the public discussion period must be submitted by the time the item is called by the city clerk.

(b) No speaker will be allowed more than three minutes; except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard during the public discussion period shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation.

(c) If more speakers are signed up than would be allotted for in 30 minutes, the mayor will organize speaker requests by subject or position, and allocated appropriate times, trying to ensure that speakers on unrelated subjects will also be allowed to speak during the 30 minute public discussion period.

(d) If speakers seeking to address council on the same subject cannot agree on a particular order or method that they would like the speakers to be called on, the speakers shall be called in the chronological order of their request forms' submission.

(e) Any speakers not called during the public discussion period will have the option to speak at the conclusion of the meeting, after all docketed items have been heard.