



MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: December 9, 2010

FROM: Toni M. McPherson, Community Relations Coordinator, 529-1685

Branch Library Cut From Muni Budget

Saturday, Dec. 11, is the last day that the Samson-Diamond Branch Library will be open to the public. Funding for the branch was eliminated from the 2011 municipal budget, approved by the Assembly on Tuesday.

“Anchorage Public Library is disappointed that we have to close the Samson-Diamond Branch,” said Laura Baldwin, head of APL Collection Management. “Samson-Diamond is our oldest branch, open since 1977. An estimated 40,000 South Anchorage residents will no longer have a neighborhood branch and will be required to go elsewhere for library services.

“We anticipate increased business at Loussac and our other locations, which will result in longer lines, demand for youth events beyond capacity and increased wait times for computers,” she said.

Samson-Diamond patrons will be able to pick up their holds at Samson-Diamond through Saturday, December 11, and then at Loussac beginning Wednesday, Dec. 15. They can return checked out items to the branch until Friday, Dec. 24. The branch property will be incorporated into other Anchorage Public Library locations.

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

NOTE: Laura Baldwin is serving as Library Director while Karen Keller is on leave. Her contact number is 343-2980.

Elizabeth Haskett, Samson-Diamond Branch Manager, 343-4031