**­­­­Rutland Free Library announces new hours**

Rutland Free Library will be reducing its hours of operation beginning July 1, 2017. The library will close at 7 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The library, like many nonprofits in the area, has been tightening its belt for many years in order to cope with the rising costs of materials, technology and health insurance. The reduction in hours is to enable us to better manage finances due to the level-funding we received from taxes.

In an effort to not overly rely on tax support, we have received grants to defer the costs of essential work in the city-owned building. For example, the subflooring in the circulation area had rotted, causing the floor tiles to curl and trip patrons. Also the lobby restroom plumbing was no longer functional for the number of patrons using the facilities and we got a grant to help pay for that.

Additionally, the trustees have stepped up our fundraising efforts and outreach. Staff has found creative and intelligent ways to cut our overhead costs. And the Friends of the Library have been terrifically supportive with their book sales and sponsorship. Many patrons have shown a great deal of support with their time and generosity. But the bottom line is your library cannot function as it does currently without consistent financial municipal support. Something has to be cut. This is why the Board of Trustees and I agree although it is a difficult step, it is necessary to reduce our hours of operation.

-- Abby Noland, Director