

BY WALTER ELLIOTT

## Orange Public Library Reduces Saturday Hours

**ORANGE** - The recently reopened Orange Public Library is to cut its Saturday hours from 4 p.m. to 1 p.m. as of Sept. 11.

"The library will close on Saturdays at 1 p.m.," said Acting Library Director Alice McMillan to Local Talk after faxing an announcement Aug. 18. "It is a matter of staffing. The 1 p.m. closing is for at least until the end of the year."

The library, which reopened after a 71-day lead paint and asbestos remediation, was last open on a Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. April 24. The 122-year-old institution had been on summer hours - and remains closed Saturdays - since it had quietly reopened 9 a.m. July 12.

It had been anticipated that OPL would resume 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday hours Sept. 11 since the date this year is the first Saturday after Labor Day. Orange's students are to return to the public schools Sept. 7 and St. John Grammar School Sept. 8.

Losing three public hours on Saturdays returns the library to its traditional 9 a.m.-1 p.m. hours. It was extended to 4 p.m. since 2006.

The Orange Health Department ordered the 1901 Stickler Building and its 1970s-era northwest wing closed April 30. Health Officer Vincent DeFilippo said he had pointed out wall paint peeling from the walls of the older building since March and had given the OPL Board of Trustees time to arrange for paint and asbestos remediation.

The trustees, headed by Bethel Baptist Church Pastor Rev. Verenander L. Hughes, awarded a \$495,000 remediation contract to a Paterson contractor. Although the remediation was completed on or by June 1, waiting for final airborne test results postponed reopening until July 12.

McMillan, the longtime head reference librarian, meanwhile said that she was named acting director since May 7. The trustees had decided to suspend 15-year director Doris Walker at about that time. Walker's hearing before the board - and a decision on her OPL future - may come with the trustee's Sept. 14 meeting.

That Sept. 14 meeting may also be when the trustees officially declare the reduced Saturday

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hours.

"I had a talk about staffing with Board President Hughes," said McMillan. "He granted permission to cut Saturday hours."

A noon Aug. 18 call to Rev. Hughes remains unanswered.

## Grove Street Overpass Closed for Repairs Aug. 16 - 30

**EAST ORANGE** - A city official said that the Grove Street overpass above Interstate 280 will be closed for repairs Aug. 16 - 30. Work on the approximately 40-year-old bridge between King Boulevard/Main Street and Freeway Drive East has prompted New Jersey Transit to reroute its No. 90 Grove Street buses.

Local Talk has seen almost daily work on the bridge, starting with the erection of neon orange "Bridge Closed Aug. 16" signs Aug. 5.

Contracted construction workers had placed concrete "Jersey Divider" barriers and metal chain link fences at each of the span's ends. A "United Rental" steam shovel was seen digging out a water main near the King/Main north side 10:30 a.m. Aug. 18 with workers shoring up the trench. A Shauger Group "emergency services" truck and a PSE&G van were present on the span.

The eastbound King/Main right lane, marked off by rubber cones, was temporarily closed. An East Orange Police officer, aboard a private SUV, was watching the work and for any traffic buildup.

An 8 p.m. northbound No. 90 run from the Irvington Bus Terminal to North Grove Street and Eaton Place Aug. 17. The bus detoured east from Grove Street onto Sussex Avenue, north onto Steuben Street and west on King/Main before resuming on North Grove.

Southbound No. 90s from Newark's Branch