



For Immediate Release
September 10, 2009

Contact: Chris Poynter, 502-574-1908
chris.poynter@louisvilleky.gov
Susan McNeese Lynch, 836-5347
smlcomm@att.net

Main Library Continues to Extend Public Access in the Wake of Historic Flood Damage

Second Floor to Reopen Tomorrow

LOUISVILLE, KY (September 10, 2009) --- Two weeks after regaining public access to the Main Library branch's first floor, Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL) staff will reopen its second floor to patrons beginning Friday, September 11 at 9 am. The closures were the result of extensive flood damage following torrential rains that caused flash flooding in the area on August 4th.

The second floor provides access to the library's extensive non-fiction collection as well as the Kentucky History and Business collections, reference materials, genealogical resources and the computer learning center, among other services. Elevators to the second floor remain inoperable so patrons will need to be able to use one of four stairways that access the area. Patrons unable to use the stairs will continue to have access to second floor materials through a staff retrieval system.

"The library continues to be an inspiration," said Mayor Jerry Abramson. "The energy and tenacity that have gone into reconnecting this central branch with our citizens has been confirmation of what a tremendous community asset our libraries are for our hometown."

The reopening includes the library's mezzanine which houses the LFPL's administrative staff and additional offices. Ongoing repairs to the lower level operations center, HVAC system and elevators are expected to be completed later in the year. In all, the Main library sustained an estimated \$5 million worth of damage, including the loss of nearly 60,000 books and more than 50 computers.



“This is a labor of love,” said Library Director Craig Buthod. “Our contractors, vendors, staff and volunteers continue to astound us with their dedication to this branch and their willingness to push to get us back full tilt into the library business. It’s important to our customers and it is important to our staff to experience such generosity.”

Contributions continue to pour in to the Library Flood Recovery Fund, which has generated nearly \$100,000 to date. In addition, Louisville’s two Barnes & Noble Booksellers locations will donate a percentage of sales made September 18-20 and 25-27 as well as provide lists of books that customers may buy to replace some of those that were lost. The Greater Louisville U.K. Alumni Club has made the library recovery fund its annual Cats for a Cause service project this October, which includes collecting funds at its Annual Basketball Tip-Off Luncheon October 7.

For more information about the Louisville Free Public Library Foundation, go to www.lfplfoundation.org. Donations can be made to the Library Foundation, 301 York Street Louisville, KY, 40203, Attn: Flood.

The Main Library was built in 1908 and the north side section added in 1969. The library on York Street sees an average of 2,200 visitors per day. It is open Monday through Thursday from 9 am until 9pm and Friday and Saturday from 9 am until 5 pm. For more information, go to www.flpl.org or call 502-574-1611.

###