

Samantha Terrill  
Professor Waldman  
COMM 310  
July 15, 2024

### **Charleston County Public Library Closes Main Branch for Renovations Due to Health and Safety Issues**

Charleston, S.C. - July 22, 2024 - The Charleston County Public Library (CCPL) has announced that its main branch, at 68 Calhoun Street, Charleston, will be temporarily closed due to dangerous levels of asbestos and mold discovered during a recent health and safety inspection. During the closure, CCPL plans to extensively clean and refurbish the library, with plans to reopen to the public in approximately two months.

The staff of the CCPL main branch is taking several steps to ensure that their visitors, customers, and employees are well protected and supported. CCPL executive director Nicolle Davis announced, "Our customers are our number one priority, so we closed the building as soon as we could ascertain the dimensions of the problem." A fellow employee went on to state, "We will remain closed until the main branch is cleaned, inspected, and a healthy place for our staff to work and our patrons to learn, read, and enjoy." While many individuals frequently spend their time at the main branch library, there have been no reports of illnesses connected with the library's asbestos levels and mold discovery.

While the main branch is being renovated, patrons can access books and information from CCPL's other locations. In downtown Charleston, The John Dart Library is located at 1067 King Street. In West Ashley, the Cynthia Hurd West Ashley Library is located at 45 Windermere Blvd. Both libraries are conveniently located on bus lines within 3.4 miles of the main branch library.

While the other two library locations do not offer all the information available at the main branch, all branches offer a wide range of services, resources, and books. Additionally, CCPL announced that their bookmobile will now be stationed at the main branch library's parking lot on Calhoun Street to administer book rentals and returns. However, some technology services will not be available from outside of the main branch library.

All events scheduled at the main branch have been canceled for the foreseeable future, although CCPL was able to reschedule and move events to other locations and venues. As the main branch undergoes renovations, each book's condition will be examined, and its fate will be decided. Many books may be thrown out due to infestations, but some may be salvaged.

The main branch, a 104,000-square-foot, three-story concrete and steel-frame building, was built in 1998. Now, it is scheduled to be fully renovated following the relocation of the Administration as they move into the support services building. The renovation will address the health and safety issues and upgrade its facilities.

\*\*\*

The Charleston County Public Library is dedicated to providing enriching information, access to books, digital resources, educational programs, and events. CCPL's mission is to "connect our diverse community to information, foster lifelong learning, and enrich lives." For more information, visit, <https://www.ccpl.org/#> or contact them at [info@ccpl.org](mailto:info@ccpl.org).