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Mark Twain Library Branch to close for move to Hartford Public High School

HARTFORD CT (August 11, 2011) — Hartford Public Library announced today that the Mark Twain branch, located at 256 Farmington Avenue, will close on Saturday, August 13, 2011 to prepare for its move to the Lewis Fox Media Center at Hartford Public High School on 55 Forest Street. The library branch will reopen at the new location on September 1, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.

Matt Poland, the Library's chief executive officer, said, "The collaboration between the Library and Hartford Public Schools has solved a longstanding issue for staff and customers concerning the physical and operating conditions at the current location. Relocating a library branch to a school building is also consistent with the missions of both the Library and Hartford Public Schools as we work together for the benefit of the students at Hartford Public High School and the residents of the City of Hartford. The new branch location will expand library services during and after school for the students and will provide an incredibly comfortable and welcoming space for the public to access information and education. It's a great opportunity for everyone in the City."

Poland also said that the move was made possible in part by the generous financial support of The Hartford, a strong supporter of the City and the Asylum Hill and West End neighborhoods.

The Library and the School Board have agreed to a five year arrangement to operate the branch at Hartford Public High School. The long term plan is to move the Mark Twain Library branch to the renovated West Middle School on Asylum Avenue when that project is completed in 2016.

A grand opening is being planned for later in September. As of September 1, 2011, the Mark Twain Library branch will be open Monday, 12:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Friday, 12:30- 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

About Hartford Public Library:

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. www.hplct.org