

# Get the Facts

Use your  
library voice!

**FACT:** The library is currently funded at \$120,000 less than it was eight years ago. The cost of operating a library has increased significantly during those eight years. The library has cut, scrimped, and saved in every possible area. Without increased funding, a balanced 2015 budget will require the library to cut operating hours further.

**FACT:** In December, the library's Board of Trustees submitted a proposal to Oradell's Mayor and Council requesting a \$36,000 budget increase for 2015. With this increase, the library would be able to avoid new service hour reductions, re-open 42 Sundays per year, and restore materials acquisition budgets to proposed levels.

**FACT:** The \$36,000 increase requested for 2015 amounts to approximately \$1 per household per month. Since 2008, the Borough budget has increased \$1.8 million, while library funding has decreased \$120,000. That's a 17% decrease in a library budget that represents only about 4% of the borough's overall spending, excluding schools.

**FACT:** The Mayor and Council denied the library's request for additional funding and instead funded the library at the same level as 2014. As a result of rising costs due to employee healthcare, utilities, materials, insurance, and Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS) membership fees, flat funding will now force the library to eliminate an additional 10 hours per week (mornings and all day Thursday) from its opening hours. The library will also remain closed on Sundays and have to cut materials budgets in all areas.

**FACT:** The library's collections include more than 69,000 books, e-books, DVDs, CDs, and periodicals, not to mention access to many thousands of additional titles through membership in BCCLS. Nearly 5,000 of Oradell's 8,000 residents have library cards. More than 500 households belong to the Friends of the Library. All of these library users will continue to feel the effects of inadequate library funding.

**FACT:** Last year, the library held more than 750 programs for adults and children—an average of 14 per week. The library also houses Oradell's local history archives and provides a unique multi-generational year-round community center for all residents.

**FACT:** A vibrant public library is vital to the Borough of Oradell. It adds beauty and charm to an increasingly dilapidated-looking downtown and is an important adjunct resource to Oradell Public School. Both functions contribute to a quality of life that has historically enhanced Oradell's property values.

**This is urgent. Please sign the Friends of the Oradell Library's *Change.org* petition to Oradell's Mayor and Council. Simply click on the "Use your library voice!" logo that appears at <http://oradell.bccls.org/>. Once you're there, you can fill in your name and contact information where it indicates, leave a message if you wish, and click the red "SIGN" button to "virtually" sign the petition.**

**Visit <http://oradell.bccls.org> to learn how to support Oradell Free Public Library's request to restore library funding.**