TOWN OF MOUNT JACKSON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Mount Jackson Community Library Becomes Town Department, Expanding Services and Opportunities!

Mount Jackson, VA – November 7, 2024 – The Town of Mount Jackson is thrilled to announce that the Mount Jackson Community Library is now officially a town department. This exciting development follows a collaborative agreement recently reached with the Shenandoah County Library System.

"We are incredibly proud to welcome the Mount Jackson Community Library as a town department," says Town Manager Olivia Hilton. "This move signifies our deep commitment to fostering a vibrant and well-resourced library that serves the needs of our entire community. By taking a more active role in the library's operations, we aim to significantly expand hours, introduce exciting new programs, and make the library a truly central hub for learning and engagement."

Enhanced Services and Opportunities

Under the new structure, the Mount Jackson Community Library will continue its valuable partnership with the Shenandoah County Library System, maintaining access to the county-wide collection of resources and staff development programs. However, the Town of Mount Jackson will now directly manage the library's daily operations, including staffing, programming, and budgeting.

This transition will bring several exciting changes:

- **Increased Accessibility:** The library will expand its operating hours to at least 20 hours weekly, providing greater access to the community.
- **Enhanced Staff Support:** The Town will hire a part-time Community Library Manager, a crucial position dedicated to overseeing library operations, curating collections, developing engaging programs, and managing volunteers.
- **Volunteer Power:** Volunteers remain a vital part of the library's success, and the Town is committed to expanding the volunteer base to further support library initiatives.
- **Exciting New Programs:** Look forward to a fresh wave of programs and events designed to cater to diverse interests and age groups.
- **Modernization and Updates**: The library will undergo updates to create a more welcoming and functional space.

Investing in Our Community

The Town Council has allocated $10,000 in the upcoming fiscal year to support the library's transition and ongoing operations. Additional funding is expected to be considered in future budgets, with ongoing annual support anticipated in the range of $10,000 to $15,000. Previously, Mount Jackson provided indirect support by covering rent, utilities, and maintenance within the

town hall building. This move to a town department signifies a significant financial investment in the library's future.

Part-Time Library Manager Position Open
The Town of Mount Jackson is actively seeking an enthusiastic and passionate individual to fill the newly created part-time Community Library Manager position. This role plays a critical role in facilitating access to information and resources, fostering a stimulating environment, and spearheading innovative programs for the community.

"The Town of Mount Jackson is excited to embark on this new chapter with the Mount Jackson Community Library," says Assistant Town Manager Greg Beam. "We believe this transition will create a library that is even more cherished and utilized by our residents, solidifying its position as a cornerstone of our community."

Applications are now being accepted!
Learn more about the position and apply online at: www.mountjackson.com/employment
Completed applications should be emailed to gbeam@mountjackson.com

For more information about the Mount Jackson Community Library or the Town of Mount Jackson please visit www.mountjackson.com or contact Ms. Olivia Hilton, Town Manager at 540-477-2121

(Pictured L-R in Town of Mount Jackson's Library, October 2024) Sandy Whitesides (Director, Shenandoah County Library System), Olivia Hilton, (Town Manager, Town of Mount Jackson), Rhonda Zingraff (Volunteer/Board Member Mt. Jackson Community Library), Donnie Pifer (Mayor, Town of Mount Jackson)