The Franklin County Library System announces the impending closure of Fort Loudon Community Library. After fifty years of service, usage of this small rural library location has declined to the point that wise use of the library system’s resources can no longer justify maintaining it.

In 2018, an independent study was conducted to evaluate rural library services in the county. The study concluded that Fort Loudon Library should be closed. “No one ever wants to close the doors of a library, least of all me,” says FCLS Executive Director Bernice Crouse. “Unfortunately, the branch in Fort Loudon is now visited by fewer than thirty patrons per week. Active annual users have decreased to fewer than ninety.”

The Fort Loudon Community library is not without its champions. The FCLS would like to thank Gail Sacho, who has served the branch for four decades and retires at the end of this year. Many local residents, businesses, and organizations have given funds and time to improve and maintain the library, too.

Despite the branch closing, FCLS will continue to serve Fort Loudon and Peters Township with increased bookmobile services, storytimes, and outreach events. Meetings with local library users and donors, as well as online surveys, are planned to identify community priorities for additional services. “It is key that the residents of this beautiful community take part in framing the future of library services here,” said Crouse. “Above all, we intend to continue to develop new ways to serve our rural communities better.” Meanwhile, the library will be open through Saturday, December 28.

For questions, please contact FCLS Executive Director, Bernice Crouse, at bdcrouse@fclspa.org or 717.263.1054 ext 1212 or FCLS Director of Advancement and Publicity, Alice Elia, at aelia@fclspa.org or 717.709.0282 ext 1215