

# Director's Remarks, June 2011

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## **Performance**

Circulation is beginning to pick up again. The monthly circulation for May 2011 was over 2,500 more than the same month last year. The yearly total is still lower than the same time last year but less so than before.

## **Automation**

We have received the new computers and they will be deployed in a few weeks. I am waiting to be able to order the Microsoft Office software from TechSoup. TechSoup is an organization that distributes software to libraries and other non-profit organizations at a much reduced cost. However, there are stipulations on Microsoft software products that TechSoup distributes. We can only order once a year. We received software last year so we could not order anything again until after May 27<sup>th</sup>, which was too late for this year's fiscal budget.

The printers and touchscreen monitors have been received as well as the Coin/Bill Acceptors that will allow patrons to pay for printing through the Envisionware reservation/print release stations. The Automation staff are presently perfecting the software image on one of the Reservation Stations so that it can be cloned. This will allow Automation to set up the other three stations from the cloned copy without having to start from scratch on each computer.

## **Downtown Renovation and Repairs**

The elevator that goes to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor has now been upgraded to the new digital system. It has been inspected and with a few minor tweaks should be up and running before our Library Board meeting. Chattanooga Elevator is contracted to have the right hand elevator upgraded by July 15, 2011. The funds given by the City and County for the elevator upgrade will be carried forward into the next budget year to await final inspection of the completed system.

## **Ooltewah/Collegedale Branch & Staffing**

Our library service at the Ooltewah/Collegedale Branch will be discontinued on June 30, 2011. Ted Rogers, the Collegedale City Manager, has talked with Mayor Littlefield about taking over the branch and its assets. This will depend largely on whether Collegedale City officials vote to raise taxes to pay for the library. Mr. Rogers is also in negotiations with Hamilton County officials to relinquish any hold that Hamilton County might have on the branch.

If Collegedale votes to increase taxes then the library will be re-opened as the City of Collegedale Library. The administration of the library will be outsourced to a private library management company called Library Systems and Services, LLC (LSSI). Several logistics of the possible transfer have been ironed out but several others are still to be determined.

There are 6 full time staff and 4 part-time staff at the Ooltewah/Collegedale Branch library. They will be interviewed by LSSI for possible employment. The City of Chattanooga Personnel Department is presently looking at other positions within the City that the remaining staff members might be qualified for.

## **Policy Changes**

Throughout the last few weeks, I have been in touch by phone and email with Richard Beeland, Mayor Littlefield's Media Relations Director. Our communication has been concerning the Ooltewah/Collegedale Branch library as well as possible changes in library card policy. By request, I have been working with Ted Rogers, the City Manager of Collegedale, to make the transition of the Ooltewah/Collegedale Branch to the City of Collegedale run as smoothly as possible. Through communications with Mr Beeland, I have also learned that Mayor Littlefield would like to request that the Library Board hold off on any proposed change in library policy at this time.

Submitted by Eva M. Johnston, Interim Director