

## Ideas Become Reality at Your Library

By Jill Owens

Columbus Public Library staff, especially the Leadership Committee, continues to work hard to address the public's wants and needs identified during the strategic planning process.

I'd like to share some of the things staff will be tackling in 2013 as we begin implementing our five year plan. Broadly speaking, there will be changes in the following areas: technology, staffing, building/physical plant including use of space, programming, and a stronger web presence.

With those areas in mind, the Leadership Committee laid out the work for this first year. Behind the scenes work such as finding funds, time, labor, budgeting, and detail planning, is a big piece of what it takes to make progress on the strategic plan.

In our effort to be responsive, we already have made a few policy changes which are awaiting approval by the Library Board and City Council before they can be announced.

Other things that City and Library staff have been working on include: Making open WiFi available in the library, improving electronic infrastructure, enlarging the downloadable books collection, making e-readers available for lending, mini-makeovers in our current space, making available downloadable magazines, and investigating the feasibility of making downloadable music available.

A new furniture and window covering makeover is being planned by a committee of staff and Friends of the Library, who have also pledged funds for this project. You will begin to see some new pieces in the library this year, though the whole plan may need to be implemented in phases.

The new logo is expected to be rolled out and the Friends of the Library sponsored contest winner announced during National Library Week (April 14-20). You'll see the logo incorporated on new signage planned for this year as well.

Staff is planning to offer more programming and outreach, including preparing a program to take 'on the road' to service clubs and other community groups.

Of course we'll continue to offer an excellent Summer Reading Program, which will include at least one adult event this year. Brainstorming on programs, including Spanish language programming, will be unceasing.

Additionally the Leadership Committee is committed to reviewing, updating, and creating policies to make our patrons' experiences more friendly and welcoming, and the policies more clear. We plan to explore ways to customize our online catalog and website to make it more user-friendly and interactive.

There are plans to add to our collections in the fall, including Spanish language materials, as patrons indicated they wanted more of everything.

And speaking of more, you will see much more patron-use technology later in the year.

Please make a note on your calendars for Tech Tuesday on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 in the reference area. Patrons will be introduced to e-reader borrowing.

As you can see, we have a pretty ambitious 2013 in the works. Stop in often to watch ideas become reality.

Recent memorials came in as follows: Keith and Denise Gilmore donated to Columbus Public Library in memory of Albert Ernst. Mary Norton gave a memorial to the Columbus Library Foundation in memory of Larry Kuncl. Robert and Teresa Hausmann gave in memory of Isabella Grace Keller, and Willis and Irene Chesnut remembered Lucille Ellison.