Dear Staff,

After returning from the July 4th break, the City, Library, and Department of City Development will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP), seeking development proposals for the East Library property. Our goal is to find a developer with a feasible and compatible idea for building a new library within a multi-use building. Similar to the Villard Square Development, the community will benefit from a new library, while taxable real estate is added to the city.

The process is designed to make all proposals available to staff and the public. Public comment will be invited and used by a review panel that will select up to three concept proposals for continuation to the next step. The finalists will present their detailed plans to the Library Board’s Building and Development Committee and residents.

It’s an exciting project that we expect to result in a new signature piece of architecture that invigorates the local economy, showcasing a new library where we will continue to offer excellent library services, collections, and programs.

Stay tuned for more information about the project later this summer. In the meantime, enjoy the upcoming Holiday and the beautiful summer ahead.

Paula Kiely named a “Woman of Influence”

Paula A. Kiely was named a 2011 Woman of Influence by The Business Journal Serving Greater Milwaukee. A luncheon sponsored by the weekly newspaper was held on Friday, June 10.

The annual Women of Influence awards recognize Milwaukee-area women who are making a difference in their communities and beyond. More than 130 nominations were received by The Business Journal this year, with only 29 winners chosen in 10 different categories of “influence.” Ms. Kiely was one of two winners in the Public Policy category.

“I’m humbled to be among this impressive group of Milwaukee leaders,” said Kiely. “This award recognizes the work of the public library, its importance within the community, and the excellent work of our staff.”

Pictured above: (standing, l-r) Crystal Sura, Kate Huston, Dawn Lauber, Paula Kiely, Chris Arkenberg (seated, l-r) Consuelo Hernandez, Taj Schoening, Meg Diaz.
An additional graduate on staff at MPL is **Tiffeny Hankins**, Custodial Worker II-City Laborer, Central, graduating from Concordia University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Healthcare Management. Congratulations, Tiffeny!

Compliments to **Tony Frausto** (Atkinson) who helped patron Linda Copeland with a resume that successfully landed her the job of a lead teacher position at a child care, with promotion to a director in six months when she improves her computer skills. Copeland will be taking MPL computer classes this summer for this purpose.

The Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) announced on June 7 that **Audrey Barbakoff** (Forest Home) is the fourth recipient of the Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship. The Conable Scholarship will provide for Barbakoff’s expenses to attend the 2011 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in New Orleans.


Dr. Ingrid Hicks, Executive Director of Transformation Services, Inc., sent a photo of her nieces Ryan and Sydney with librarian **Carolyn Colwell** (Humanities) on Central Library’s Green Roof. The children are curious and avid readers who live in Auburn Hills, but insist on visiting MPL every time they’re in town. Thanks to Carolyn Colwell for showing them a good time.

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**In Memoriam—Doug Geis**

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If we are fortunate at our place of employment, we might just experience the opportunity to work alongside someone who leaves a lasting impression, much larger and much more meaningful than the tasks the person performs on a day-to-day basis. Doug Geis was that kind of co-worker. I especially admired his strong work ethic. The quality of service we are able to provide at Mill Road Library was elevated by Doug’s thorough knowledge of current library circulation procedures. Doug’s attention to detail is always on display at Mill via his daily efforts to make the library an inviting place to visit as is evidenced by the beautiful plants he diligently maintained.

*It has been said that one way to measure friendship is to ask: “Are you any better off for having worked with or met that person? Moreover, did you learn anything positive that you could incorporate into your daily life, for having known that person?” I reply with a resounding YES. Douglas Geis enriched our lives in more ways than we could imagine.* - Acklen Banks, Jr.

The Milwaukee Public Library staff mourns the loss of its colleague, Douglas W. Geis (3/4/58-6/2/11). Doug was a respected and dedicated employee for seven years. During his tenure, Doug served at the Tippecanoe, East, Villard Avenue, Mill Road, and Capitol Libraries. He was well liked by colleagues and library patrons. Doug is survived by his loving wife Dell Marie Geis, his mother Joanne, son Kevin, grandson Gabriel, brothers Dave and Gary, as well as many in laws, nieces, and nephews. He will be greatly missed.

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Pictured are: (l-r) Kevin Atkinson, Thomas Rodriguez, Corey Megal, Danielle Rodriguez, Justin McCulla, Paula Kiely, Henry Teoh (friend of Walter Gay), Michelle Weber (wife of Michael), Walter Gay, Michael Weber, Bruce Gay, Brian Williams-VanKlooster, Jonathan Vnuk (Meredith Wittmann’s brother), Joan Johnson, Meredith Wittmann, Dennis Greve (friend of Joan Johnson).
Staff Anniversary Celebration

Staff received awards for years of service at the Third Thursday celebration on June 16 at Central Library. Staff honored included: 5 years - Thomas Piontek, John Sieracki, Kellie Myszkowski, Jamal Tisdale; 10 years - Clark Caughey, Brandie Rayford, Alejandra Salas; 15 years - Lucy Patin, Kim Johnson; 20 years - Judith Pinger; 25 years - Patricia DeFrain, Jacqueline Radtke; 30 years - Patrick Dayton, Christine Murphy; 35 years - Amy Finn; 45 years - Virginia Schwartz. Newly hired employees were also introduced.

Staff celebrating 20 years of service or more are pictured above (l-r) Patrick Dayton, Judith Pinger, Virginia Schwartz, Pat DeFrain, Amy Finn, Christine Murphy.

New Library Technology Specialists are pictured right (l-r) Laura Patiño, Bridget Murphy, Paula Mason, Alicia Groeschel, and Ayoka Huff-Johnson.

RFID at Central Begins with Library Director

Library Director Paula Kiely became the first person to check out materials at Central Library using the new RFID system that went live at Central on June 16. Work continues to make room for Central's new 15 bin sorter which will be located in the back area behind the Wisconsin Avenue checkout desk.

The Call Director has already been moved into new digs across from the LIC desk thanks to the work of Jim Kotras' facilities staff. His staff will also be creating an office suite for Michael Weber and his security team in the south portion of the current ILS office. A contractor will be hired to do most of the remaining work, including moving the security conference room closer to the Wisconsin Avenue checkout, building a new office for Mary Evans where the paperbacks are currently nestled outside Weber's existing office, and installing a new countertop at the Wisconsin Avenue checkout. Carpenter David Miller created the new divider located alongside the newly installed security gates.
New MPL Laptops “Get Skinned” by Staff

Database maintenance staff and the library’s newly hired Library Technology Specialists were some of the first people to handle the library’s newly acquired 240 public laptops. To begin getting the laptops ready for their July introduction to the public at Atkinson, Center Street, Forest Home, M.L. King, Villard Avenue, and Washington Park libraries, each laptop received a colorful “skin,” library tags, security tags, and were made an item in CountyCat. All 240 laptops were finished in just over two days!

Library Technology Specialists Paula Mason and Alicia Groeschel help Corey Megal and Kevin Cingatura (Automation) unload laptops.

Library Technology Specialists Laura Patino, Bridget Murphy, and Ayoka Huff-Johnson put skins on the laptops.

Patti Bajczyk, Joan Larson, Marge Wisniewski (hidden) and Rose Laack (Copy Cataloging) add other stickers and tags to the laptops.