- Deployment of the new public and staff desktop computers is finished. Some of the machines rotating out will now be placed as catalog machines. The remainder will be cleaned up and offered for sale later this year. Deployment of the networking gear has begun. The old networking gear will also be put in with this sale.

- You will see two large-ish bills this month: $1014.30 for our annual Syndetics subscription. This is for the extra information in our catalog, like excerpts, reviews, and tables of contents. Also, our annual hosting fee for our Evergreen library system: $8762.25.

- The Coldwater Branch Surveillance System is mostly operational. Finishing the job will require me to finish some network upgrades at the Coldwater branch. We will also need to have an upgrade to the elevator in order to get a camera in there. Which brings me to…

- … the Coldwater Branch Elevator. 3 weeks after the first optical sensor failed, the 2nd one failed, too. This time, Otis covered the repair, since we are looking to be modernizing the elevator. We sought quotes for modernizing the elevator from Otis and Schindler, two of the biggest elevator companies in the world, as well as from McNally Elevator, a Michigan company based in Kalamazoo. The Building and Finance committees will be evaluating the quotes and how best to finance the project. We may have a recommendation by the board meeting. If not, look for this in July.

- Coldwater Branch Gutter Repair: the City approved the matching funds to start this project. We have signed the proposal and should be getting under way soon.

- Kimberly Feltner is proving to be a valuable member of the IT department team. She is providing excellent support to patrons and staff in the afternoons and evenings. She has also done an excellent job in creating promotional materials for library programs.

- May 13-16, I attended the 2015 Evergreen International Conference in Hood River, Oregon. As usual, this was a highly informative series of sessions, and a good opportunity to meet others in the Evergreen community. There are over 1500 library systems in the world using Evergreen.

  I attended sessions on: directly querying the Evergreen database for reporting, modifying circulation policies, deploying home-built self-checkout stations, writing reports, customizing receipt templates, learning the framework to customize the future staff client interface, and other general Evergreen update sessions. The upcoming staff client, possibly appearing in production next spring, will be a major change, but a positive one that I'm looking forward to.

Submitted by John Rucker