

# A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

from the director of the Campbell County Public Library

**“May you live in exciting times.”**

**By JC Morgan**  
**Director**

This often-quoted Chinese curse interprets “exciting” as living in times without peace and tranquility. For the Library, this past year has certainly been “exciting times.”

### The Good

In a number of ways, the past year has been very good. All branches saw more visitors (629,000 total) than the year before. We circulated more than a million items. Use of our meeting rooms soared to new heights. Looking at statistical data, the Library had a happy year.

We improved our facilities. At Newport, we moved computers, rearranged furniture and divided the Kentucky Room to add a small study room. At Fort Thomas, we replaced the carpet, rearranged and reupholstered the furniture, and added two new study rooms. Our branches look great!

There were also some really wonderful programs at the Library. We had a series on surviving in tough times that focused on various issues of modern life. More than 400 people attended the celebration in Fort Thomas of El Dia de Los Ninos/ de los Libros, an international day of the child and libraries. Each fall we work with

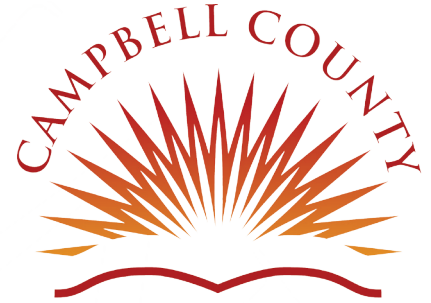
other Northern Kentucky library systems on One Book One Community. This series focuses on one book by a regional author, culminating with the author presentation and book signing.

It’s been a year of people gathering for book clubs, people connecting with friends and family on library computers through Facebook, and proud grandparents bringing their grandchildren to Story Times. Each day we see many smiles and know we are helping create many happy moments.

### The Bad

There were also troubles. Hoping to build a new library for the residents in the southern part of Campbell County, the Library conducted six public meetings last fall to gather information and determine public interest and support. A small group came to those meetings to challenge the Library. Fortunately, many others spoke about the worth and value of having a library in their community – and expressed support for building a library in southern Campbell County.

Opponents of the building project decided to sue the Library in January 2012. They claim the law governing tax rates that applies to Kentucky’s counties, cities and special taxing districts across the state does not apply to public libraries.



• PUBLIC LIBRARY •

## 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

The Kentucky statute the Campbell County Public Library has followed for the past 33 years is exactly what 80 libraries across the state use. This lawsuit seeks \$30 million dollars from the Library and aims to set the Library’s tax revenue back to 1978 levels. If successful, there is no possible way to sustain library service in Campbell County as we know it today.

The Library also has been challenged about the way its board is appointed. For years, open positions on the board have been advertised, all candidates are interviewed and the names of two capable people are provided to the State Library. The State Library ensures the names are valid, then forwards them to the County Judge-Executive to appoint one board member. It’s a fair system that has produced a solid governing board

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### Growth by the Numbers

	Five Years Ago FY 2006-2007	A Year Ago FY 2010- 2011	Most Recent FY FY 2011-2012
Items Circulated	933,941	1,059,728	1,027,137
Library Visitors	516,540	561,813	629,757
Programs Offered	692	1,646	1,961
Program Attendance	15,794	38,617	41,739
Reference Questions	90,690	165,334	163,345
Public Meeting Room Use	299	531	896

### 2012 – 2013

#### Library Board of Trustees

- Rebecca Kelm, President
- Angela Siddall, Vice President
- Paul Johnson, Treasurer
- Steven Trumbo, Secretary
- Cathy Howard, Trustee

[www.cc-pl.org](http://www.cc-pl.org)

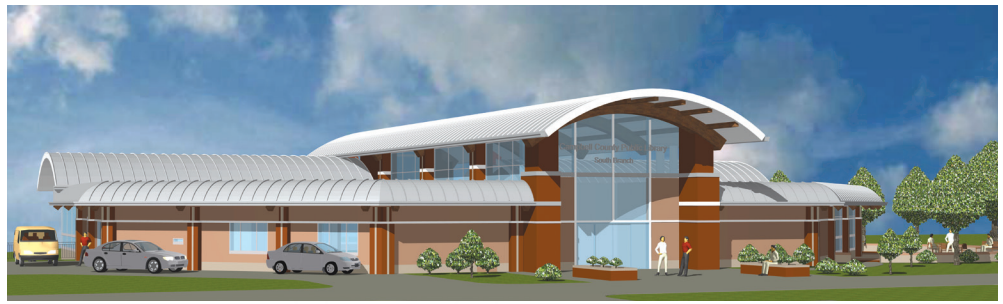
that works hard for a successful library system. This past year, the Board of the Campbell County Public Library received the Kentucky Public Library Association's "Outstanding Board of Trustees" award. The Board is proud of this recognition and proud of the work the Library does on behalf of the citizens of our county.

## The Hopeful

Now, the Library stands at a crossroad. Last December, the Library conducted a feasibility study to determine if a capital campaign could produce funds to help with the construction and ongoing operation of a new facility in southern Campbell County. The study was overwhelmingly positive. We have started a capital campaign, called "A Place of YES." At present, we're in the neighborhood of \$500,000 in commitments. It's a great start.

This is, however, a pledge campaign, and funds will come in over a five-year period. Recognizing the current advantages in costs and financing, the Board believes building a southern location now is the right thing to do. As pledges come in, the debt of building now will be repaid.

In July, the Board adopted a tax rate that would produce enough income to construct and operate the southern location. It's a difference of about \$20 per year on a \$100,000 property. In 2011, the tax rate was \$74 per year for a \$100,000 property. As proposed, it would be \$94 per year. The Board also recognized the right thing to do was to ask voters about the worth of libraries in their community. With that in mind, the Board waived the petition process and asked the County



**Voters will get their say Nov. 6 on a ballot issue asking whether they approve a tax increase that would support construction and operation of a Library at 1045 Parkside Drive on US 27 in southern Campbell County. A vote for would increase taxes from 7.4 to 9.4 percent. This is \$20 a year on a \$100,000 property.**

Clerk to place the proposed tax increase on the November 2012 ballot.

## The Future

On Nov. 6, voters will have their say about the future of the Library.

There is much at stake.

Should the ballot issue fail, hard discussions will take place. The need for a library facility in southern Campbell County will not disappear. The residents there pay the same tax as the residents in the northern areas of the county, and they do not, at present, have equal access. Options are stark. Possibilities include shutting down an existing location, reducing service across all four locations, or do nothing and wait to see if funding becomes available in the future. There are no easy decisions.

## Cradle to Grave

Libraries add much to any community. People want to build homes near libraries and schools. Young parents bring their children to the library before the



child can even walk. They don't go to that effort without reason. They want to give their child the best possible chance at a successful future.

For many, the golden years are some of the best

in life. Seniors come to the library for lifelong learning that keeps minds sharp and feeds active interests. They come to book clubs and events to socialize and enjoy new experiences.

We live in an exciting time, yes we do. In these "exciting times," we ask that you support your library, and use your library. Your library can provide programs, services and a quality place for people to visit far into the future. We're currently here seven days a week for you. Hopefully, that will be case for many years to come.



### Actual Revenue – FY 2011-2012

Donations	\$31,510.79
Fees and Services	\$119,180.44
Grants & State Aid	\$216,995.17
Miscellaneous	\$1,996.47
Interest Income	\$4,311.33
Tax Income	\$4,436,105.58

**Total \$4,810,099.78**

### Actual Expenditures – FY 2011-2012

Capital	\$558,641.98
Collection	\$581,479.37
Operating	\$918,457.77
Personnel	\$2,622,891.16

**Total \$4,681,470.28**



*Written by JC Morgan, who has been director of the Library since 2003.*