

**Director's Report to the Library Commission**  
**September 18, 2023**

**Library News:**

- I submitted the Libraries Transforming Communities grant midterm report which summarized the responses we received from the Community Conversations. I asked for a slight reallocation of funding because our Public Works team believes they will be able to handle the electrical project for the automatic door installation (saving us between \$1,000 - \$1,500). Another need that was discussed during the conversation was to increase our sensory friendly titles for youth. To do this, we would need to purchase an additional shelving unit that would be used to expand our board book collection at Gales Ferry.
  - I heard back from Lee Ann who is our Gales Ferry District contact. She did respond letting me know the District approved the automatic door for Gales Ferry Library.
- 2023 Summer Reading at a glance:
  - Adult summer reading registration was up 34%
  - Adventures and reading logged skyrocketed at 6,082
  - The number of programs offered almost doubled and the attendance at the programs more than doubled at 2,242 attendees
  - 100% of survey responders agreed or strongly agreed that they felt welcome at the library this summer
  - 97% of survey responders agreed or strongly agreed that they got help from the library
- We are anticipating having a FT staff member out for an extended period of time beginning next month. I am working with Human Resources to hire an additional Library Assistant and distribute the same amount of hours over seven people rather than just six. Most staff members would like to work more hours, but the schedule is becoming too tricky to fill all the gaps with only six people to call upon.

**Building News:**

- The basement at the Bill Library has flooded several times this summer due to all the rain. The Public Works team takes great care of us and has been responsive in the clean up effort.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer Smith  
Library Director