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## Cherokee Regional Library System Enters Building Mode

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children, teen and adult services. A soft seating area overlooking the woodland and outdoor porch seating areas will convey the intention of the library to be a welcoming destination. The building design and finishes invoke the warmth and functionality created at the Coweta Public Library's Central Library. Interior finishes of earth tones complement the exterior natural woodland surroundings.

The library entrance is the entry point for the library meeting room and public restrooms. The library's interior entrance is designed to draw the library customer to a centrally positioned circular customer service desk. Specific features include a retail merchandised area of recently released titles, popular magazines, a self-checkout machine, print release stations, chairs at tables and soft seating with side tables. These elements will

continue Coweta Public Library system's goal of customer engagement. The vision for the Grantville branch library follows the overarching goal for Coweta Public Library system services: We envision a space filled with people, some relaxing in chairs, reading or working at desktops or laptops, others browsing the shelves of books on display, others talking with library staff, engaged in discussions about their favorite book or current community topic.

"The vision has always been to create a library that facilitates, in many ways, vibrant, energetic and interactive learning," said Barbara Osborne-Harris, Coweta County Library director. "Our philosophy is that the customer should be engaged, and focusing on that engagement is one of the most important things we can do to ensure we offer quality library services." ❧

## Cherokee Regional Library system enters building mode

The LaFayette-Walker County Public Library is number two on the list of state capital outlay building projects pending approval this year — yea! So with nerves of steel and many a cup of coffee, Director Lecia Eubanks and the staff at the Cherokee Regional Library system will move forward with our predesign planning for this regional headquarters library.

The communities served by this library have responded robustly to an online survey. This survey allows respondents an opportunity to communicate library and information service needs to the building team. The response to the survey has reinforced many of the needs staff members listed in meetings with consultant architects Jack Killian and David Cameron of Killian Clark Partnership. The information gathered also has shown a large gap in programming and services for the young adult and teen population. And survey respondents overwhelmingly have supported the inclusion of a coffee

shop area within the newly planned library space.

Library staff members, along with the consultants, visited the Cartersville Main Street Library and the Catoosa County Public Library on a "library design ideas" field trip. With notepads and cameras in hand, we toured these well-designed spaces to see what ideas we might want to incorporate into our future building plan. Library Directors Carmen Sims and Bridgid Broderick gave us informative and honest information about what works and does not work so well in their libraries. We left these libraries with many ideas, photographs and good, solid advice.

gatherings, virtually nose to nose and knee to knee. The teen and children's spaces in our library need to be updated, expanded and better designed to meet the needs of young children, teens, parents and caregivers using this section of the library.

The LaFayette-Walker County Public Library renovation and addition will add much-needed square footage to allow technology upgrades and provide a larger space to support the ever-increasing programming and information demands of the community.

The ideas for the newly updated library structure are many and the budget limited. However, this library system is gearing up to provide services from spaces that are environmentally smart and technologically efficient with room to grow — while being aesthetically inviting to our patrons.

In next year's *GLQ* construction issue, I hope to have photos of work in progress and beautiful architectural renderings to share with readers. ❧

— Darla Chambliss

