

**Chelsea District Library**  
**Director's Report**  
*April 2014*

**Did You Know?**

- If you work in Chelsea, you are eligible for a free library card, even if you live outside of our service area.

**Celebrating 8 Incredible Years**

- On April 4, I celebrated my eighth year at the Chelsea District Library today! Thank you Chelsea for all of the generosity and support over the years! Coming to Chelsea was the best professional decision I ever made.

**Questions from Last Board Meeting**

- None

**Library Board**

- Board Retreat
  - The Library Board met on April 12 for its annual in-service day. The board received reports from the management team regarding progress on the library's strategic plan.
    - Some key performance indicators from 2013:
      - Circulation: 345,883. 8% increase over 2012.
      - Attendance at library programs: 24,872. 8% increase over 2012.
      - Reference transactions: 23,079. 15% increase over 2012.
      - Volunteer hours: 8,095. 4% increase over 2012.

**Budget & Finances**

- 2014 Audit Update
  - The auditors have completed the initial or rough draft of our 2013 financial statements. I was able to complete and submit my own management, discussion, and analysis of those figures, which will be included in the final presentation by the auditors. The board will receive a copy of the statements in this month's board packet. On May 20, the auditors from Andrews, Hooper, and Pavlik will present their findings to the Board.
- 2015 Budget Planning
  - Our management team will be busy during the next several weeks planning the operating budget for the 2015 fiscal year. Although we have not received any financial figures from Washtenaw County, we are not anticipating a significant increase in the tax base. Our first presentation of the budget to the Board's Finance Committee will be on June 5.

**Staff**

- Staff Members Celebrating an Anniversary
  - Beth Easterwood, 10 years
- Affordable Care – 1:1
  - Since ACA enrollment ended in March, the Library helped over 55 people get signed up for health insurance - and that includes at least a month of the Healthcare.gov website being broken! That number is entirely made up of people in our community who needed a hand with this complex process, and was able to get the support they needed at their library. My thanks to the Library's Sara Wedell for her exceptional work on this effort.
- Explore the Big 400 This Summer!
  - Once again, The Chelsea District Library will be partnering with the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce to continue promoting the Big 400 initiative. Throughout the summer, the library will offer various adult, youth and family activities at select Big 400 sites. Be sure to look for The Big 400 logo throughout the newsletter which identifies these programs and events.
  - The Big 400 is an area of about 400 square miles of Southern Michigan, which encompasses communities in Washtenaw, Jackson, Livingston, and Ingham counties and is connected by

- public lands, paths, and waterways. The Big 400 provides many opportunities for outdoor recreation in the forms of hiking, biking, kayaking, hunting, and fishing.
  - The Big 400 is a hidden treasure. To those who have yet to experience what the Big 400 is and has to offer, please visit the Big 400 at [thebig400.com](http://thebig400.com) or the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce at [chelseamichamber.org](http://chelseamichamber.org). Trail maps and other resources are also available at the library.
- Authors in Chelsea Smashing Success
  - Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Authors in Chelsea event was certainly the highlight of March. The library hosted three nationally known authors, Jennifer L. Holm, David Lubar and Sue Stauffacher, who presented writing workshops for students at North & South Elementary Schools, plus Beach Middle School. Nearly 900 students participated at the schools, and almost 100 came to the library evening event to hear the authors speak and have them sign books. Students, teachers, and parents enjoyed the chance to get “up close and personal” with famous authors.
  - Authors in Chelsea is a joint venture of the Chelsea District Library and the Chelsea School District and made possible with grants from the Chelsea Education Foundation, the Friends of Chelsea District Library, and the Worthington Foundation.
- Midwest Literary Walk
  - Returning for its sixth year, the Midwest Literary Walk will bring award-winning novelists, poets, and musicians to downtown Chelsea. The free, all-day event begins at 11 am on Saturday, April 26 and will host readings at various venues throughout downtown.

## Friends of the Library

- Little Libraries
  - Met with Lions Club of Chelsea as well as the Rotary Club of Chelsea to ask for their support in helping the Friends with their Little Free Library project. Little Libraries are essentially boxes full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share.
  - The Friends of the Chelsea District Library would like to build and install two Little Free Libraries in Chelsea, one in the proposed new Dog Park, and the other tentatively in Timber Town.
- Barn Bash
  - After the success of last year’s Barn Bash event, the Friends are working with members of the library board of trustees and the community to plan a second event. This time it will be slated for Saturday, July 19 and will be held again at the Sensoli Liberty Farm. The committee is looking at another BBQ-styled dinner and making sure that it is affordable for community members to attend and enjoy the fun.

## Strategic Plan

- Zinio eMagazines Program Launch
  - We are thrilled to roll out our new Zinio service, which provides library users with access to a library of popular magazines, such as Country Living, Newsweek, and Rolling Stone, to name just a few. No need to lug heavy magazines anymore. With Zinio, browsing your favorite magazines is now much more convenient. To learn more, please view <http://www.chelsea.lib.mi.us/ziniohelp.htm>

## Professional

- Michigan Library Association (MLA)
  - While our advocacy efforts to lobby for state aid to libraries has resulted in some progress the last couple of years, there may be a more troubling matter to contend with. There is an effort under way by legislators to erode Penal Fine funding for libraries and use those funds for road repair. Draft legislation has not yet been made available but expect an MLA “Call to Action” if lawmakers decide to move forward on this initiative.
  - The new MLA website [www.mibraries.org](http://www.mibraries.org) is scheduled for a soft launch on Tuesday, April 22. Please be sure to visit the site.
  - New MLA headquarters will be located at 3410 Belle Chase Way, Suite 100, Lansing. The location is approximately 1.5 miles southeast of their present office in a complex of professional office buildings.

- MLA Board of Director elections are open until April 25. We have an outstanding slate of candidates who have stepped up to serve their association and library community.
- I will be attending the annual MLA board retreat from June 12 to 13 in Lansing.

## **Outreach**

- Sheridan Books
  - Met with President Mike Seagram for a special tour of his facility last week, plus discussion about his operations.
- CCA Annual Fundraising Breakfast
  - Attended the annual CCA breakfast at the Silver Maples of Chelsea in April. I was joined by several of my fellow Rotarians.

## **Meetings/Conferences Attended**

- Public Library Association Annual Conference, 3/11-15
- School Superintendent, 3/17
- Chelsea State Bank, 3/17
- Susan Brown, Board President, 3/17
- Summer Reading Program, 3/18
- Rotary, 3/18, 4/1, 4/8
- Management Meetings, 3/18, 4/1, 4/8
- Library Board of Trustees, 3/18
- Meetings with Staff, 3/19, 3/28
- Rotary Board, 3/19
- Chelsea Senior Center, Trinh Pifer, 3/20
- Karen Persello, Annual Review, 3/24
- Lions Club of Chelsea Board Meeting, 3/25
- Sheridan Books, 3/26
- Authors in Chelsea Events, 3/26, 3/27
- Manchester District Library, James Miller, 3/27
- Pete Feeney, 3/27
- Silver Maples of Chelsea, Steve Rolston, 3/28
- Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, Red Wings event, 3/30
- 5H Community Read Meeting, 4/2
- Chelsea Center of the Arts Annual Breakfast Event, 4/3
- Friends of the Library Meetings, 4/4
- Friends of the Library Board, 4/5
- IHA, Bill Fileti, 4/7
- 2015 Budget Planning, 4/7
- Katie Klink, 4/10
- Library Board Annual Retreat, 4/12

Respectfully,

*William Harmer*