

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

**Did You Know?**

- Zinio Digital Magazine Service: Sign up Now!
  - Chelsea District Library has added digital magazines to our online digital collection. The service, launched May 1, 2014, is offered through a program called Zinio For Libraries, which recreates each magazine page-for-page, including high quality, full-color pictures, while adding interactive components such as key word searches, hyperlinks, and audio and video components. It is free to Chelsea District Library account holders and allows them to download magazines to their computer or favorite digital device from the Library website.
  - To access Zinio digital magazines, library card holders can visit <http://www.chelsea.lib.mi.us/zinio> or click on the Zinio button on the Chelsea District Library homepage <http://www.chelsea.lib.mi.us>. Step-by-step instructions are also available by clicking the Zinio help link from the homepage.

**Questions from Last Board Meeting**

- None

**Library Board**

- Finance Committee
  - Will be meeting several times during the month of June to review the plan for the Library's 2015 budget.

**Budget & Finances**

- 2015 Operating Budget Planning
  - My priority in the coming weeks will be working with staff to plan the 2015 operating budget. Staff will be ready to present the first draft of the 2015 budget to the Finance Committee at its June 3rd meeting.
  - Budget hearing for the public is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19 and final approval of the FY 2015 will be scheduled for the Board of Trustees Tuesday, September 16 meeting.
- Audit
  - The Library's administrative team has worked successfully with the auditing firm of Andrews Hooper Pavlik to complete the 2013 annual audit of the Library's financial statements. Representatives from the firm will present their findings and answer questions to the Board of Trustees at their May meeting.

**Staff**

- Staff Members Celebrating an Anniversary
  - Ron Andrews, 12 years
  - Beth Easterwood, 10 years
  - Emily Meloche, 2 years
- Welcome aboard summer interns!
  - This summer, we will be working with two library student interns. Meghan Truskowski, from Wayne State University, who lives in Gregory and knows the area and uses the library, so she is really excited to be working with us for her internship. Also joining our team is the youth department's summer intern, Emily Krueger. She will be interning here until September. Emily has just finished her 1st year at the University of Michigan and we're glad to have her here.
- Library Newsletter – Summer Issue
  - I strongly encourage the board and public to read my column in the upcoming Library newsletter. In my article, I draw upon recent findings that tie summer reading programs at public libraries with improved academic performance in children. The summer reading program at the Chelsea Library is an annual program that brings children and families into the library for

reading and events. Nearly 1400 of the students in the Chelsea School District participated in the program in 2013.

- Midwest Literary Walk
  - The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Literary Walk took place on April 26. Great weather helped contribute to another excellent event, featuring a wide-range of poets, writers, and performers for all ages. There was a little something for everyone.
  - The success of the event is the result of our exceptional planning team, which includes our friends at the River Gallery (Deb Greer & Patti Schwarz), Sue Whitmarsh, Sandra Xenakis, ML Liebler (our former artist-in-resident), Sara Wedell, and Emily Meloche. Congratulations to them.

## **Friends of the Library**

- Star Wars Day
  - The Friends had a stellar turn out for their 2nd annual International Star Wars Day! Young and old alike had fun and enjoyed all the many games, crafts, refreshments and prizes. Special thanks Friends' President Marie Brooks and to all of our Friends (and their families) who planned this event, baked dozens of "Wookiee" Cookies, and donated tons of prizes.

## **Professional**

- Michigan Library Association (MLA) Board of Directors
  - Attending the MLA Board Retreat on Thursday, June 12 and Friday, June 13 at the Radisson Hotel Lansing at the Capitol.
  - *Penal Fines*  
New discussion has circulated regarding an attempt by some to siphon library funding. Certain penal fines are mandated by the state constitution to fund libraries. These fines make up on average 10% of library funding. A large number of libraries rely on this source of income for 30% or more of their budgets. The elimination of this funding stream would have immediate and severe effect on dozens of libraries. It would cause the elimination of programs, staff, hours and the closure of numerous libraries. Local schools already strapped for resources are closing down school libraries. As public libraries step up to serve those students, further reduction in funding would place many of those efforts in jeopardy.
- New State Librarian
  - Congratulations to Randy Riley on his appointment to the State Librarian position. Randy is a 24-year veteran at the Library of Michigan and will succeed Nancy Robertson, who retired in April. Riley is recognized as a leading family historian and has been the Michigan eLibrary coordinator and also coordinated the Notable Books program and Center for the Book.

## **Outreach**

- Rotary District Conference
  - I will be attending this year's District Conference on May 16-18. I will be joined at the conference by fellow Rotarian and board member Gary Zenz. This is a chance for us to learn more about how Rotary can help our community by meeting with other colleagues from around the state and Canada.
- Lions "White Cane" Drive
  - Participated in the annual white cane donation drive in May. The club collected donations at Chelsea State Bank, the post office and Country Market. Donations to the white cane drive go toward supporting projects like the Low Vision Support Center at the Chelsea District Library, the shelter at Timber Town Park, awards for outstanding students at Chelsea School District and eye screening for preschoolers within the Chelsea School District as well as providing support for the Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express transportation system.

## **Meetings/Conferences Attended**

- Annual Board Retreat, 4/12
- Rotary Meetings, 4/15, 22, 29, 5/6
- Staff Meetings, 4/16, 5/7, 5/8

- Kiwanis, 4/17
- Rotary Foundation, 4/17
- Chelsea Expo, 4/19
- Climate Change Program, 4/21
- Management Meetings, 4/22, 4/29, 5/6
- Budget Planning Meetings, 4/22
- Finance Committee, 4/23
- Chelsea Senior Center screen of Vietnam Documentary, 4/25
- Midwest Literary Walk, 4/26
- Board of Trustees, 4/29
- Star Wars Day, 5/4
- Lions Club White Cane Drive, 5/4
- Doug Worthington, 5/5

Respectfully,

*William Harmer*