

Chelsea District Library
Director's Report
August 2014

Thank You for Supporting the Library Millage!

- On behalf of the Chelsea District Library, thank you for your support at the polls on Tuesday, August 5, 2014. Passing the millage will ensure that the library continue to deepen its role as an essential part of community life, maintain its current hours of operation and continue to provide classes, materials, and technology for all ages.
- I am indebted to so many dedicated and gifted members of our community who helped plan and execute the library's successful millage. I offer my thanks to them for demonstrating to our staff, board of trustees and patrons that they are not alone in their quest for excellence. I am especially grateful to the following members of the citizen's campaign who worked so diligently:
 - Anne Merkel, Chair
 - Kristin van Reesema, Treasurer
 - Marie Brooks, President of the Friends of Chelsea District Library
 - Sue Whitmarsh, Incoming President of the Friends of Chelsea District Library
 - Mary Budzinski
 - Nancy Neff
 - Katie Klink
 - Gary Zenz
 - Robin Wagner
 - Diane Kyte
 - Julia Strimer
 - Lois DeLeon
 - Burrill Strong
 - Charlie Taylor
 - Jennifer Kundak
 - John Budinger
 - Gary & Joann Munce

Did You Know?

- In 2006, Chelsea District Library offered internet service with a connection of 1.5MB/s. We now offer a high-speed connection of 50MB/s.

Questions from Last Board Meeting

- None

Library Board

- Board of Trustee Vacancy
 - A board vacancy will be available at the end of 2014 when the term for Janis Miller, trustee from Dexter Township expires.

Budget & Finances

- 2015 Budget Planning Update
 - Final preparations are being made for the budget hearing on August 26. Terri Lancaster published the annual hearing notice in the Chelsea Standard at the beginning of August. The staff and I will be prepared to answer questions and respond to feedback from the Board of Trustees and the public about the 2015 budget.
- Donations
 - Jiffy Mix
 - The library was the recipient of a substantial donation from Jiffy Mix, receiving \$10,000 a year over the next three years. I am grateful to Howdy Holmes and his ongoing support to this library and the community of Chelsea.
 - 3D Printer Donation

- The Chelsea District Library is now the proud owner of a 3D printer, courtesy of a generous donation by long-time library volunteer and computer teacher Scott Baird. I believe we may have the first 3D printer in all of Chelsea. We will be spending the next month or so learning how to operate and play with our new tool, then we will plan a special public launch in late September. Our goal is to share this extraordinary tool with the community, so look for us to be doing lots of programming and demos all around Chelsea in the very near future. For all of your makers and tinkerers out there, we want to hear from you. Thank you Scott Baird for your generosity.

Staff

- Farewell Sara Wedell
 - It is with a heavy heart that I announce the departure of Sara Wedell, the library's Head of Adult Services. Sara has accepted a new position at the Ann Arbor District Library as a Production Librarian. A major part of her duties will be managing the fiction collection for AADL, and anyone who has ever talked to Sara about books knows how incredibly proficient she is at doing that!

Sara is a tremendously gifted and talented professional who has worked with great passion, dedication, and a heavy dose of integrity to help move the Chelsea District Library toward greatness. In her five years at the library, Sara has been an agent for progress. She set the bar high as someone who is deeply rooted in the library philosophy of providing customer service that is second to none.

Her job duties far exceeded her job description. She juggled numerous responsibilities with seemingly little effort. Sara has been an invaluable resource to the adult services department. She has been at the forefront in community building, civic engagement, and helping engage the library in numerous collaborative efforts with key players and agencies in Chelsea.

Despite these and many more achievements, Sara provided support and credit generously to others and was overly modest about her own contributions. Yet, without her expertise, this library could not have continued to be at the pinnacle of this profession.

For all of these reasons and so many more, I know that she will be a smashing success in her future role and prove to be a great asset to the Ann Arbor District Library.

Although I am incredibly sad about losing her, Sara is family and will always be. We'll welcome her, Andrew, and little Ben with open arms every time she comes back to visit us. I am very proud and happy for her. Please join me in congratulating her!

- Staff Members Celebrating Anniversaries
 - Leslie Abcouwer, 3 years
 - Edith Donnell, 8 years
 - Debbie McBride, 16 years
- Summer Reading Program (SRP)
 - Participation in the Library's Summer Reading Program continues to dazzle. Once again, our exceptionally talented staff dedicated themselves all summer to stress the importance of reading while school is not in session. With support from our partners at the Chelsea School District, the summer reading program has helped students stay academically committed for the next school year. Working together, the library was able to realize many of its goals:
 - Make reading for fun a top priority for families this summer.
 - Improve literacy and academic performance by involving children and teens in reading and reading-related activities during the summer months.
 - Foster a love of reading through our programs and services.
 - Increase children's access to library materials and activities, which will encourage them to become lifelong library users.
 - Increase the number of children and teens participating in public library Summer Reading Programs.

- To demonstrate that we are meeting the goals:
 - Youth Department
 - 1,383 children and teens registered for SRP, a 9% increase over 2013.
 - Adult Department
 - 281 registered for the Adult Program, a 48% increase over 2013!
- 5H Community Read Program
 - The staff and I have been busy making final preparations in anticipation of this year's 5H Community Read. Books will be available to the community for free at several locations, including the Wellness Center, the Library, Zou Zou's, Chelsea Retirement Community, Chelsea Community Hospital, and many more.
 - **What is the 5H Community Read?**
 - Collaboration with the Chelsea-Area Wellness Foundation and Chelsea District Library, Dexter District Library, Jackson District Library in Grass Lake, Manchester District Library, and Capital Area District Library in Stockbridge.
 - Multi-year community project focused on engaging, learning, and connecting in healthy ways.
 - **What book are we reading?**
 - *The Fault in Our Stars*, by John Green.
 - **What is the goal?**
 - Bring communities together in dialogue on the topic of wellness.
 - Increased knowledge of how to connect with others in healthy ways.
 - **How does it work?**
 - Communities participate by reading the same book to stimulate dialogue and the exchange of ideas.
 - Read the book; look for a series of fun and creative programs to encourage community interaction through healthy activities.
 - **Where can I find more information?**
 - Check out our website to learn more: <http://5hcommunityread.wordpress.com/>

Friends of the Library

- Barn Bash – Second Annual Party
 - Our amazing Friends of the Library led a team of library volunteers in successfully planning the second annual Barn Bash on behalf of the library. The Barn Bash was hosted by Tony and Elizabeth Sensoli at their farm on July 19. Nearly 100 supporters came out to enjoy a fine BBQ and live music from Chelsea's very own Cadillac Cowboys. The library was privileged and honored that so many of our supporters were able to join us. The event was a very rewarding evening for the library.
 - This work could not be done without the generosity of our donors, or without the goodwill of our supporters, especially Toni and Elizabeth Sensoli and the Friends of the Library, led by President Marie Brooks. Thank you all so much for a truly remarkable evening to remember.

Professional

- Michigan Library Association (MLA)
 - This year's annual conference will be held in Grand Rapids and feature renowned keynotes, jury-selected programming for all library professionals, an exhibition, and an ideal environment to network with colleagues.
 - Dates are October 14 through October 17 at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids. Thus far, only one library staff member, Emily Meloche, will be attending. Emily is one of the keynote presenters at this year's conference. Congratulation Emily!

Vacation

- I will be on vacation starting on August 7 and returning on August 18

Outreach

- Chelsea Area Lions Club
 - The library is proud to partner with the Lions for a program called “Flags across Liberty.” Flags across Liberty is both a major fundraiser and an opportunity to promote both community unity and patriotic unity. The holidays include President’s Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day. Each holiday, 3 x 5-foot American flags will be placed in front of the memorial benches near Merkel Furniture.

Meetings/Conferences Attended

- All Staff Meeting, 7/11
- Lima Township Board Meeting, 7/14
- Nancy Paul, Faith in Action, 7/15
- Management Meetings, 7/15, 7/22
- Chelsea Retirement Community, 7/15
- Katie Brisson, Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan, 7/16
- Lisa Allmendinger, Chelsea Update, 7/16
- DDA Meeting, 7/17
- Cheri Albertson, City Council, 7/17
- Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting, 7/17
- Jim Pruitt, Washtenaw Now, 7/17
- Melissa Johnson, City Council, 7/17
- All Staff Meeting, 7/18
- Silver Maples of Chelsea, 7/18
- Howdy Holmes, Jiffy Mix, 7/18
- 2nd Annual Barn Bash Event, 7/19
- City Council Meeting, 7/21
- Rotary Meetings, 7/22, 7/29, 8/5
- Chelsea Area Lions Club Board Meeting, 7/22
- Chelsea Update Anniversary Party, 7/23
- Chelsea State Bank Sounds & Sights Reception, 7/24
- Sounds & Sights Festival, 7/24
- Scott Baird, 7/25
- Summer Reading Program Finale, 7/30
- Peg Greisberger, Exit Interview, 7/30
- Nirit Glazer, 7/31
- Sara Wedell, Exit Interview, 8/1
- 5H Community Read Meeting, 8/6
- Part-time adult services job interview, 8/6
- Chelsea Senior Center Ice Cream Social, 8/6

Respectfully,

William Harmer