

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

**Did You Know?**

- You can get a sneak peek at upcoming Purple Rose Concert productions and share feedback with performers at the Purple Rose Concert Reading series hosted here at the library. To learn more, visit our website at <http://www.chelsea.lib.mi.us/>

**Questions from Last Board Meeting**

- None

**Library Board**

- Upcoming Meetings
  - Board of Trustees
    - September 16
    - October 21
    - November 18
- Budget Approval
  - On August 26, 2014, the Chelsea District Library board held a budget hearing on the 2015 FY Budget. The budget is ready for approval by the CDL board.

**Budget & Finances**

- Operating Budget
  - The budget continues to perform well with expenditures remaining on target and revenues tracking at or near expected levels.
- Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation Grant
  - The library received a grant for approximately \$6000 from the CWF to support this year's 5H Community Read program.

**Staff**

- Welcome Keegan Sulecki
  - It is my great pleasure to welcome Keegan Sulecki who will be joining our library team as the new Head of the Adult Services Department. Keegan comes to us with ten years of experience working in public libraries. For the past five years, she has led the Clarkston Independence Library as both the Head of Teen Services and Technical Services Departments. She has valuable experience with integrated library systems, designing content management based web pages, collection development, and E-reader technology, where she led The Library Network's E-Content Users' Group.
  - Keegan has been an active and visible leader in her community and understands that the library's role reaches far outside of the library's walls. We are all looking forward to sharing her expertise and skills here in Chelsea. Please join me in welcoming her.
- Staff Members Celebrating Anniversaries
  - Melanie Bell, 2 years
  - Julie Doman, 8 years
  - Linda Ballard, 19 years
  - Cathy Kamil, 8 years
  - Mindy Kinner, 8 years
  - Deborah Pilarz, 8 years
  - Debbie McBride, 18 years
  - Amy Zoran, 2 years
- 5H Community Read Program
  - Kick Off
    - All five libraries from the 5 Healthy Towns of Chelsea, Dexter, Grass Lake, Manchester, and Stockbridge were on hand to celebrate the kick-off of the 2014 5H Community Read Program on September 6. Over 500 people visited the booths that we

had set up at the Grass Lake Heritage Day Festival. We gave away copies of the 5H book, walking journals, and other incentives in an effort to encourage community members to “connect with others” this fall and get healthy.

- The Fault in Our Stars
  - Starting in late August, staff members have been distributing copies of *The Fault in Our Stars*, by John Green. Over 400 books have been distributed to date at locations throughout Chelsea– from the Wellness Center, to the Chamber–and everywhere else in between. The response has been truly positive. We are encouraging people to read the book and pass it on to a friend or family member after reading.
- Community Read Display in Library Lobby
  - The Library’s front lobby was turned into a giant Scrabble board, thanks to the creativity of our staff, led by Ron Andrews. I strongly encourage the public to come check it out. Our idea is for people entering the library to connect with each other through friendly games of Scrabble. People can play a complete game or just come up with a single word. They can also keep their own score too if they wish. To learn more about this and other exciting 5H Community Read events, please visit our special website by clicking <http://5hcommunityread.wordpress.com/>
- Launch of new website
- New free tutoring service available to Chelsea students!
  - The library has added a free online tutoring system to help students with their homework. Students can use their school-issued iPads or personal computers to access HelpNow, from Brainfuse.com. The service is computer-based and provides a variety of homework support, from live tutoring to skills building exercises and essay review. To use the service, families need to have a CDL library card. They’ll also need to setup an account. HelpNow’s live tutors are available to chat via keyboard with students in grades K-12 from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Students can get help in English, math, science and social studies for elementary students, and, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, biology, chemistry, physics, English and social studies for middle and high school students. SAT, ACT and GED test prep is also available. Students can go to the Chelsea District Library’s home page at <http://www.chelsea.lib.mi.us/>, click on HelpNow, and receive the live support needed to work through the problem.
  - To learn more visit our website or call us at 475-8732.

## Friends of the Library

- The Friends and staff are working to create a “Walking Dead” program. The Friends and the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce are planning a “Business after Hours” at the library. The Friends are collaborating with the city of Chelsea to fabricate and install “Little Libraries” around the city. The Friends next meeting is October 4 and all are welcome.

## Professional

- Michigan Library Association (MLA): Legislator of the Year Award
  - Michigan Library Association has recognized Senator Jack Brandenburg (R-Harrison Township) as the 2014 MLA Legislator of the Year for his leadership in promoting libraries and supporting legislation and initiatives advancing the library community’s goals. “Senator Brandenburg understands the many ways libraries add value to their communities,” said Gail Madziar, MLA Executive Director. “He was instrumental this past year in supporting solutions to help keep our libraries adequately funded and supported.”
  - Many Michigan residents depend on libraries for resources including Internet access to government web sites, job search and applications, early childhood reading classes, after school programs and small business information and assistance. Sen. Brandenburg will receive his award at a special reception at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library’s North Branch on Friday, September 12, 2014.

## **Outreach**

- Rotary Club of Chelsea
  - Our club had an excellent year at the fair. We raised a couple thousand dollars through sales of cold beverages at our booth near the fairground stands. Money raised by our club goes right back into the community to help fund several key community projects.
- Lions Club of Chelsea
  - I also volunteered to help the Lions Club at the fair by helping manage and sit in their dunk tank.
- Ann Arbor Community Observer: Fall Guide
  - Be sure to check out a nice feature about the Chelsea District Library in the Community Observer's fall guide.

## **Meetings/Conferences Attended**

- Vacation, Aug 7-15
- Rotary Meetings, 8/19, 8/26
- Management Meetings, 8/19, 8/26
- Meeting with Community Observer, 8/20
- Lyndon Township Board Meeting, 8/20
- Chelsea Community Fair, 8/20, 21, 22, 23
- All staff meeting, 8/22
- Interviews for department head position, 8/25, 8/27
- River Galley, 8/29
- Lions Club of Chelsea, 9/2
- Rotary Foundation Meeting, 9/4
- 5H Community Read Kick-Off Event (Heritage Festival in Grass Lake), 9/6
- Michigan Library Association Board Meeting, 9/12

Respectfully,

*William Harmer*