

Chelsea District Library
Director's Report
October/November 2014

Did You Know?

- You can borrow energy meters and thermal leak detectors to help you save money and be more energy-efficient at home.

Questions from Last Board Meeting

- None

Library Board

- Upcoming Meetings
 - Board of Trustees Meeting on December 16, which will be the final board meeting of the fiscal year.
- Finance Committee
 - Met in October to review retirement plan options. The committee's recommendations will be discussed at the November board meeting.

Budget & Finances

- Year-end Budget Projections
 - Staff and I have been working on year-end budget projections to benchmark year-to-date income and spending against the approved budget.
- Debt service payment on the building was made in October.
- Kapnick Insurance
 - Met with the library's insurance agents in October to review changes to the library's health care plan. As of this writing, we are expecting rates to increase by about 13%.

Staff

- Staff Members Celebrating Anniversaries
 - Lucie Smith, 13 years
 - Amy Zoran, 2 years
 - Allison Winters, 8 years
- 134 years of Chelsea newspapers are now available online
 - For the first time, years 1873 through 2012 of Chelsea newspapers are now available online and fully text searchable through the library. Exploring Chelsea's history or researching a family member is now fast and easy and can be accessed from the comfort of your own home!
 - To access the database, visit us online at www.chelsea.lib.mi.us/
- Training New Staff
 - Staff and I have been busy training new staff member Keegan Sulecki, the head of the library's adult services department. We've been working with Keegan to help her become more comfortable with the organization and focusing on the particular skills and knowledge needed for the position.
- 5H Community Read Program Update
 - The program came to an exciting conclusion at the Chelsea Alehouse on Nov. 5 with our *Smarty Pants Trivia Program*, which featured question and answers about this year's book, *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green
 - The Community Read program was presented as a joint project between the Chelsea District Library, Dexter District Library, Grass Lake branch of the Jackson District Library, the Manchester District Library and the Stockbridge branch of the Capitol Area District Library with generous support from the Dexter Wellness Coalition and the Chelsea-Area Wellness Foundation.

- The planning committee will meet in early December to examine the program's success stories and take a closer look at areas for improvement. The committee will then reconvene after the New Year to plan events for 2015.
- I would like to once again give my gratitude and thanks to the Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation. We simply would not be able to produce the Community Read without their generous support!
- HelpNow from Brainfuse
 - In October, our staff held a special training session to help parents and students get started with the library's new online homework resource, HelpNow from Brainfuse. Participants learned how to get the most out of this comprehensive suite of services designed to accommodate a range of homework needs, including live, one-to-one homework help, Michigan-aligned skills building, test preparation, and writing assistance. To check out the new homework help service, please visit us online at www.chelsea.lib.mi.us/.

Friends of the Library

- National Friends of the Library Week
 - The annual event took place from October 19-25. This year our Friends hosted a table in the library's front lobby. In addition to raising awareness about what the Friends contribute to the library every year, the group signed up over 20 new members. Congratulations Friends. Thanks for all of your ongoing efforts on behalf of the library.
- Monthly Board Meeting
 - The Friends held their monthly meeting on Saturday, November 1 in the McKune Room of the library.
- Chamber After Hours Event
 - The Friends held its first Chamber After Hours Event in the McKune Room in October. About 40 people attended.

Professional

- Michigan Library Association Annual Conference
 - Emily Meloche, adult services librarian, gave a stellar presentation to librarians from all over the state of Michigan about the library's newspaper digitization project. Using the library's experiences working with collections of photo negatives and newspapers as examples, her presentation covered how libraries can make the most of their local history, even with limited resources.
 - I attended the conference from October 15-17, which was held this year on Grand Rapids.
- The Library Network (TLN)
 - TLN Executive Director visited the library in November for a special tour.
 - The Suburban Library Cooperative is interested in establishing cooperative wide reciprocal borrowing for print materials between SLC and TLN. TLN will conduct a non-binding survey of all members in November to see how many members are interested in establishing a new relationship.
 - For the fiscal year 2014, CDL received \$853,775 in savings on an investment of \$57,640 in the following cooperative library services provided by TLN:

TLN Cooperative Service	Cost to Library	Savings	Notes
Free Museum Pass	\$0	\$20	4 MAP passes checked out
ILL Delivery	\$4,750	\$422,520	52,815 items received (\$8 per item)
Cataloging & Records	\$6,737	\$133,485	8,889 items
Reciprocal borrowing	\$24,585	\$208,750	8,350 items borrowed (\$25 per item)
eBooks borrowed from Overdrive	\$4000	\$81,972	6,831 items checked out
Internet	\$17,568	\$7,028	eRate & Internet reimbursement and TLN WAN Group Discount
Totals	\$57,640	\$853,775	

- Michigan Broadband Hero Awards
 - State Rep. Gretchen Driskell (D-Saline) and Melanie Bell, network administrator for the Chelsea District Library, were recipients of 2014 Broadband Hero Awards from Connect Michigan.
 - The awards were presented at the annual Michigan Broadband Conference in Lansing. Bell and Driskell helped organize the Washtenaw County Broadband Committee in 2013 to improve the access, adoption and use of broadband in rural areas of the county. Partnering with Connect Michigan through its Community Enabled Broadband program, the group has identified specific areas in need of new or improved service, shared this information with local providers to pursue solutions, and are now exploring opportunities for local stakeholders to combine their resources to enhance services to residents and local businesses.

Outreach

- Maker Space Chelsea Program Launch
 - Over 60 tinkerer's and maker's participated in the library's launch of its new maker space on November 5. The successful launch showcased new equipment such as a 3D printer and the public was encouraged to share ideas about programs and projects for the library to work on.
- Chelsea Standard
 - The library hosted a special meet & greet with the new editor of the Chelsea Standard, Austen Smith, on November 12. Members of the public were able to join an open discussion about the transition from the Chelsea Standard to Washtenaw Now, and find out what to expect regarding local news coverage both online and in print.
 - @ Your Library: Weekly Column
 - Starting in October, the library will have a regular, weekly feature in the Chelsea Standard call "@ Your Library." Our goals for the column are to share thoughts about new directions and possibilities for the library, solutions to community challenges, ideas for community engagement outside the library walls, new programs and services, tidbits about our staff and an occasion recommendation for that must read book. We promise our column will be fresh, relevant and filled with all the great things happening. Be sure to check it out.
- Veteran's Day 2014
 - The library once again collaborated with the City of Chelsea on a special ceremony at Veteran's Park to pay tribute to all who served and sacrificed in war. The public was invited to the Chelsea Comfort Inn after the event at the park for a special program featuring Teresa Irish, author of *A Thousand Letters Home*. The book was inspired by the author's father who sent nearly 1000 letters home from World War II. Over 100 people attended the program.

Meetings/Conferences Attended

- Friends Used Book Sale, 9/13, 10/11
- Monthly Meetings w/Staff, 9/15, 9/17, 9/22, 9/26, 11/7
- Rotary Food Rescue Program, 9/15
- Library Board of Trustees, 9/16
- Rotary Meetings, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/8, 10/21
- Management Team Meetings, 9/9, 9/16, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21
- Chelsea Senior Center Breakfast Fundraiser, 9/17
- Rotary Board Meetings, 9/17, 11/6
- Jim Pruitt, Austen Smith, Chelsea Standard, 9/17
- Patty Roberts, Annual Review, 9/18
- All Staff Meetings, 9/19
- Hawkes Electric, 9/19, 9/30
- Gary Munce, 9/19
- Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS), 9/22
- Chamber of Commerce Business After-Hours, 9/23
- Mary Budzinski, Library Bookkeeper, 9/24
- MakerSpace Meeting, 9/24
- Kapnick Insurance, 9/26, 10/20

- Retirement Planners & Administrators (RPA), 9/26
- Finance Committee, 9/29, 10/20, 11/12
- 5H Community Read: First Loves Program, Silver Maples, 9/29
- SRSLY Coalition Chelsea, 9/30
- Will Johnson, 10/3
- Linda Ballard, Annual Review, 10/3
- Midwest Literary Walk Planning Meetings, 10/3, 10/21
- 5H Community Read, Healing Harvest Program, 10/4
- Sculpture Walk, 10/5
- 5H Community Read, Bushel Basket Program, 10/8
- Melanie Bell, Annual Review, 10/10
- Michigan Library Association Annual Conference, 10/15-10/17
- Jane Pacheco, 10/20
- Smarty Pants Trivia Program, 10/21
- Chamber Citizen of the Year Banquet, 10/23
- Chelsea River Gallery, 10/23
- Andy Ingall, Chelsea School District Superintendent, 10/24
- 5H Community Read, Fault in Our Stars Film Premiere, 11/4
- MakerSpace Chelsea Kick-off, 11/5
- Veteran's Day Event, 11/11
- Chelsea Standard Meet & Greet Program, 11/12
- Historic Newspaper Digitization Project Launch, 11/13
- SRSLY Youth Empowerment Program Panel Discussion, 11/13

Respectfully,

William Harmer