

Chelsea District Library
Director's Report
December 2014

Did You Know?

- For those who cannot physically visit the library, Chelsea District Library offers Book Delivery service to your home along with personalized book recommendations at no charge.

Questions from Last Board Meeting

- None

Library Board

- Upcoming Meetings
 - Board of Trustees meeting on January 20
 - Finance Committee on December 15
- Finance Committee
 - Continues to meet to work out details of the library's retirement benefits plan. Committee's goal is to have a proposal ready in time for either the December or January board meeting.
- Nominating Committee
 - Met in November to present a slate of officers and propose members to serve on board committees in 2015. Board will vote on officers and committee selections at its January meeting.
- Sylvan Township Board Position
 - I am pleased to announce that Jan Carr has been appointed to the Library Board by the Sylvan Township Board. Jan's term will officially begin in January of 2015 and end in December of 2018.
- Dexter Township
 - The Dexter Township Board of Trustees will appoint a member to replace Janis Miller at its meeting on December 16.

Budget & Finances

- 2014 Operating Budget Status
 - As we near the end of the fiscal year, our expenditures continue to track under budget and I anticipate that we will end the fiscal year with a surplus of between \$7000 and \$10,000.

Staff

- Staff Member Celebrating an Anniversary
 - Jennie Medeiros, 9 years.
 - Mary Tobin, 1 year.
- Midwest Literary Walk
 - Planning for the 7th annual Midwest Literary Walk is progressing nicely. The event will take place on Saturday, April 25. Venues will include the library, Chelsea Alehouse, Purple Rose Theater, the Chelsea Train Depot, and potentially Jiffy Mix. Edward Hirsch, American poet and President of the Guggenheim Foundation, will be one of our featured authors. The library is negotiating with several other diverse, nationally-known authors as well.
- Makerspace Program Status Update
 - The library is working with a group of stakeholders who are interested in an offsite, potentially dedicated location for our new maker space program. The space is the Heller Electric & Supply Building.

Friends of the Library

- Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party
 - Celebrated our legion of library volunteers at the library's annual volunteer appreciation party on December 6.
- 2014 Volunteers of the Year

- Congratulations to long-time computer volunteers Scott Baird, Ed Riske, Margaret Doub, and Nancy Van Blaricum. Each of them has contributed countless hours over the years working one on one with patrons in helping to resolve their individual computer needs. We remain grateful for their ongoing commitment to the library.
- 2014 Friend of the Year
 - Nancy Neff was recognized by the Friends of the Library as their “Friend of the Year.” Nancy has served as the Friend’s treasurer for a number of years. In 2014, she also contributed hours of her time and resources to the library’s successful millage campaign.

Professional

- Michigan Library Association (MLA)
 - I am serving on the MLA’s nominating committee this year and working to seek candidates for the 2015 Board election. In April members will vote for a MLA President-Elect and four member-at-large board positions. The at-large positions will each serve for a three-year term beginning July 2015 and ending June 2018.
- HB 5453 could jeopardize library funding
 - HB 5453 is a new state bill that could potentially divert some penal fines garnered from overweight trucks from libraries to road funding. Analysis of the bill is unable to show that this will hold libraries revenue neutral. One portion of the bill’s language places a \$500 limit on a fine without an understanding of what the fines are currently. Additionally, if the new fines result in fewer violations, revenue to libraries will diminish.

Outreach

- Chelsea Area Lions Club
 - White Cane Fundraising Drive
 - This is an annual fundraising event that I participated in again this year to support programs and services for the blind or visually impaired as well as the many other projects Lions support in Chelsea.
- Rotary
 - Annual Giving Letter
 - Designed an annual giving letter, which the club sent out to the community to request donations to support our mission and goals. Over 1000 letters were mailed out.
 - Each year our club adopts several families on behalf of Faith in Action for the holidays. My family provided support by purchasing several gifts for family members in need this holiday season.
- St. Joseph Mercy of Chelsea Cancer Center Ebook Program
 - The library is excited to be partnering with the hospital on a new ebook program. The hospital will be purchasing tablets and providing funds to load the tablets with ebooks and emagazines. The library’s role in the partnership will be management of the devices and content. The new program will launch before the end of the year.
- Hometown Holidays
 - Attended tree lighting ceremony at Pierce Park and welcomed Santa to town.

Meetings/Conferences Attended

- Interview, Library Intern, 11/14
- Meeting, Mary Budzinski, Bookkeeper, 11/17
- Monthly Meetings with staff, 11/17
- Rotary Meetings, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2
- Management Meetings, 11/18, 12/2, 12/9
- Rotary Board Meetings, 11/19
- Kapnick Insurance Meeting, 11/19
- All Staff Meeting, 11/21
- Clayton Eshleman, Author, 11/21
- Finance Committee Meeting, 12/1
- Panera Run Food Rescue Program, 12/1
- Sandra Xenakis, grant writer, 12/3
- Conlin/Flintoft holiday party, 12/4

- Chelsea Wellness Coalition, 12/4
- Lions White Cane fundraiser, 12/5, 12/7
- Adult Service Department Annual Meeting, 12/5
- Rotary Holiday Party, 12/5
- Volunteer Appreciation Party, 12/6
- Makerspace Meeting, 12/9
- Midwest Literary Walk Meeting, 12/11
- Michigan Library Association Board Meeting, 12/12
- Library staff holiday party, 12/13

Respectfully,

William Harmer