

Chelsea District Library
Director's Report
April 2015

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.

Celebrating 9 Incredible Years

- On April 4, I celebrated my eighth year at the Chelsea District Library today! Thank you Chelsea for all of the generosity and support over the years! Coming to Chelsea was the best professional decision I ever made.

Questions from Last Board Meeting

- None

Library Board

- Board Retreat
 - The annual board retreat will be moved until sometime this fall. Staff members are busy at the beginning of the year with the audit, the next years' budget, Authors in Chelsea, Midwest Lit Walk and summer reading planning to work on items for the retreat. The management team for the next several months will be working on a wrap up of the current strategic plan and start formulating the new one. A couple of things that will be presented to the board to work on are: the library vision & mission statements, secession planning for both the director & board members.

Budget & Finances

- 2015 Audit Update
 - The auditors have completed the initial or rough draft of our 2014 financial statements. I was able to complete and submit my own management, discussion, and analysis of those figures, which will be included in the final presentation by the auditors. The board will receive a copy of the statements in this month's board packet. On May 19, the auditors from Andrews, Hooper, and Pavlik will present their findings to the Board.
- 2016 Budget Planning
 - Our management team will be busy during the next several weeks planning the operating budget for the 2016 fiscal year. Although we have not received any financial figures from Washtenaw County, we are anticipating that the economy will continue to grow and expect a slight increase in the tax base. Our first presentation of the budget to the Board's Finance Committee will be on June 5

Staff

- Please Welcome Our New Staff Member – Joanne Arnold
 - Joanne has started her training as our new library aide. She will be taking over the Thursday & Friday evening shifts. Joanne is a Chelsea resident and lives just a few blocks from the library.
- Staff Members Celebrating an Anniversary
 - Beth Easterwood, 11 years.
- Authors in Chelsea Smashing Success
 - Our 6th annual Authors in Chelsea event was certainly the highlight of March. The library hosted three nationally known authors, Johnathan Rand, Gary Schmidt, and Nancy Shaw, who presented writing workshops for students at North & South Elementary Schools, plus Beach Middle School. Nearly 900 students participated at the schools, and over 150 came to a special parent/child event at the Washington Street Education Center to listen the authors speak and have them sign books. Students, teachers, and parents enjoyed the chance to get “up close and personal” with famous authors.

- Authors in Chelsea is a joint venture of the Chelsea District Library and the Chelsea School District and made possible with grants from the Chelsea Education Foundation, and the Friends of Chelsea District Library.
- Midwest Literary Walk
 - Returning for its seventh year, the Midwest Literary Walk will bring award-winning novelists, poets, and musicians to downtown Chelsea. The free, all-day event begins at 11 am on Saturday, April 25 and will host readings at various venues throughout downtown. Visit our website to learn more by clicking <http://midwestliterarywalk.chelseadistrictlibrary.org/>
- 5H Community Read 2015
 - We remain on schedule in planning this year’s program, which again will emphasize our collaboration with the Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation and the five healthy towns the Foundation represents (Stockbridge, Dexter, Chelsea, Grass Lake, and Manchester).
 - We are close to identifying a book that we will encourage the entire community to read in order to stimulate discussion and dialogue on what it means to “move more,” one of the four aims of the Wellness Foundation. The book will have a reading level appropriate for a general audience, and we hope a wide-appeal to community members. A “Kick-Off” Event has been scheduled for September 12 as part of the Grass Lake Heritage Days festival.
- Professional Exchange Program
 - Flight arrangements have been made for Emily Meloche and for our exchange professional Nosiviwe Lutuli. Emily will be traveling from Detroit to Cape Town, South Africa at roughly the same time as her colleague, who will be traveling to the United States. Everyone is excited to welcome Nosiviwe to Chelsea.
 - Nosiviwe or “Vidie,” as she prefers to be called is a graduate of the Library and Information Science program at the University of the Western Cape. She’s been working at Masiphumelele Community Library for nearly three years as a librarian. Vidie is involved in standard library duties plus outreach programs for different age groups like story times for local nursery schools, running the annual Reading Competition, helping at Girls Group (aged 13-16) and the Job Readiness Program for unemployed adults. She also assist with the coordination of the many programs that take place at their library. Apart from being a Library and Information Science guru, Vidie is also a sport fanatic. Her special favorites are rugby and cricket.

Friends of the Library

- March Booksale
 - Over 150 patrons came to the March booksale, and the Friends raised nearly \$800 for the library.
 - Online booksales continue to progress as well. For more information about how to purchase books that benefit the library, please click Stores.ebay.com/Encore-Online-Resale
 - The Friends have a number of community engagement activities in the coming weeks, including the following: Community Center Open Days, Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Chelsea Expo, Midwest Lit Walk, Star Wars day. All of these events raise visibility for the Friends and for the Library.
 - The Friends Board passed a motion to donate \$200 towards the Professional Exchange Program for spending money for our guest Vidie, and will be glad to help out in any other way if required.
 - Thank you Friends! You are so good to us.

Strategic Plan

- Odilo E-Book Lending Program
 - The library is planning a “soft” launch of a new e-book lending program called Odilo. Odilo will complement the library’s e-book platforms by offering more digital content to our patrons and community. Check the library’s website for more details in the coming weeks.

Professional

- Library of Michigan
 - The State Library did a feature on our library in its monthly newsletter. The feature focused on CDL’s winning the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce Business Leadership Award. If you would like to read the article, please click the following link:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/libraryofmichigan/lm_2015_MarchLMDispatch_485575_7.pdf

- Library Journal
 - Later this spring, Library Journal will be doing a ten-year retrospective of all the past Best Small Library in American award winners. In March, I spent some time talking to one of the Journal's editors about the impact of the award on our library and what progress the library has made since winning the award in 2008.
- Public Library Association Annual (PLA) Conference 2016
 - I have submitted a program proposal to present at the PLA Conference, which will take place in April of 2016. My proposal will focus on the library's new professional exchange program.
- Michigan Library Association (MLA) – Advocacy Updates
 - **Good News as the State Budget Process Continues – House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees Support Increase to Libraries**

The next step in the state's budgeting process is now complete. The good news is both the House and Senate K-12, School Aid, Education Subcommittees concurred with the Executive Budget Recommendation and approved Gov. Snyder's proposed additional library funding. MLA asked legislators to support the governor's budget recommendation increasing state aid to libraries by \$1 million and Ren zones by \$600,000. The budgets now go to the full appropriations committees for consideration.
 - **MLA Board of Directors and President-Elect Elections**
 - I will be running for President-Elect this year against another candidate from the Howell Public Library.
 - MLA will hold elections for the board of directors April 14 - 27. This year MLA members will vote for one of two President-Elect candidates, one Treasurer, one ALA Councilor and two of six Member-at-Large candidates. Elections will be held by online vote; members will receive election information via email on April 6; those without email addresses on file at MLA will receive election information via mail. Voting will close at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 27.

Outreach

- Faith in Action (FIA) Annual Fundraiser
 - I will be attending the FIA fundraiser on Saturday, April 25 at the Hospital. This year, I am going to help facilitate the event by volunteering to co-host the auction. Benefits from the fundraiser support the work of the organization which provides residents with an emergency food pantry, free clothing room, financial help with utilities and lodging, counseling, and a free health clinic, among others.
- Chelsea Education Foundation (CEF) Annual Fundraiser
 - I am planning on attending the annual FIA fundraiser on Friday, April 24 at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. I attend this event every year since it provides such a wide-array of support of educational activities to benefit the residents of the Chelsea School District.

Meetings/Conferences Attended

- Chelsea Area Wellness Coalition Meetings, 3/5
- Rotary Club of Chelsea Meetings, 3/10, 3/17, 3/18, 3/24, 3/31
- Management Meetings, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24
- Karen Persello, Head of Youth & Teen Services, 3/12
- Chelsea River Gallery, 3/12
- Michigan Library Association Board of Directors, 3/13
- Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce Family Bowling Event & Fundraiser, 3/14
- Gerie Greenspan, Purple Rose Theater, 3/16
- Finance Committee, 3/16
- Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 3/17
- New Center of Ann Arbor, 3/18
- Panera Bread Food Rescue Program, 3/23
- Authors in Chelsea Events, 3/25, 3/26
- American Legion, 3/26
- City Council – Economic Development Kick Off Meeting, 3/30

- Charlie Taylor, 4/2
- Will Johnson, 4/2

Respectfully,

William Harmer