

**Chelsea District Library  
Interim Director's Report  
August 2015**

**Questions from Last Board Meeting**

- None

**Library Board**

- Director Search
  - Update to be given during committee reports. I can report that I met with John Keister when he visited Chelsea, and I was contacted by Beth Keister and sent her the information she requested for the search website.
- Board vacancies
  - Susan Brown has notified Mayor Jason Lindauer of her decision not to seek another term on the board when her current term expires at the end of this year.

**Budget & Finances**

- TLN Budget
  - At its annual budget hearing in July, we got our first look at TLN's new budgeting formula. In response to the dissolution of the Wayne County library system, TLN has revised the way they charge for their services, which includes the shared automation system, cataloging, and the capital reserve fund. Instead of charging each library a "per building" fee, a flat fee will be charged equally to all library systems, regardless of the number of buildings they have. That accounts for 75% of the total charge, and the remaining 25% is based on each library's number of simultaneous log-ons. This would have resulted in a little over 7% increase for us *this year* starting in October. Understanding that most libraries can't absorb this kind of increase mid-year, the executive committee voted to supplement any member library whose increase was over 3%, so we will receive a "credit" from the capital reserve of about \$2300 this year but next year will have to absorb the whole increase.
- PPT reimbursement
  - The Legislature has put in place a process for reimbursing taxing units for losses due to the small taxpayer exemption that went into effect in 2014 for commercial and industrial personal property. We are working with our consultant from PFM to submit the proper forms to get our 2014 and 2015 reimbursements. Those monies are required to be applied against our bond debt retirement.

**Programming**

- 5H Community Read
  - Book: Jack Ganto's *Hole in My Life* for the communities of Chelsea, Dexter, Grass Lake, Manchester, and Stockbridge as its 2015 community read.
  - The kick-off event will take place after Labor Day on Saturday, September 12 as part of the Heritage Day festivities in Grass Lake. *See <https://5hcommunityread.wordpress.com/>*
  - *Drum roll please....author Jack Gantos may be joining us for this event! We don't have all the details at this point but are working with his agent and committee members to finalize an acceptable schedule for him. We will keep you posted!*
- Summer Reading Programs
  - We had another great year of promoting reading during the summer months, and our first ever teen finale! It was an evening event at the Zap Zone in AA and was very well attended. Please refer to the youth/teen and adult department reports for full updates.

- Oral History Project
  - I attended the debut of Landmarks Mini-Documentaries at the Chelsea Senior Center presented by Adult Librarian Emily Meloche. It the final installment of the original oral history documentaries funded by the Chelsea Community Foundation. The presentation was well attended and Emily did a fantastic job leading the presentation and discussion.

## **Staffing**

- We had no anniversaries in June but several in July: YthTn Librarian Edith Donnell nine years, Library Asst. Leslie Abcouwer four years, Substitute Librarians Betsy Baier and Meghan Truskowski one year. We value our long-time staff and our subs as we couldn't provide the excellent service we are known for without them!
- Not only did we say good-bye our director Bill Harmer in July, but Emily Brock, one of our two part-time adult librarians, moved with her husband to Bend, OR for his new job. We miss her already and are hoping to have her replacement in place by early September.
- Our all-staff meeting for July was a first aid refresher taught by the Chelsea Area Fire department. We broke into groups and rotated through three stations.
- We are working on plans for our annual all-staff in-service to be held in October this year. It will involve some department project time, some yoga, lunch in Dexter and a tour of their library, then if time permits, a walk along their very cool river walk, just outside the library's back door.

## **Outreach**

- Keegan, Patty, Terri and I volunteered for the Sounds & Sights festival as the bounce house area in the Kid Zone. This event needs a large group of volunteers to be successful and they are often short-handed at the bounce house. We had a good time on a very hot afternoon staffing two of the three houses!

## **Facility**

- My elation over finishing the first phase of the LED project was short lived when staff reported that two of the five large hanging lights on the second floor had gone off! I hope to be able to report that they have been repaired by the August board meeting.

## **Volunteers**

- We had 638 non-book sale volunteer hours in July, second only to June, and both large numbers due to Edith's extraordinary efforts at the middle school to increase our YSG volunteer help with the summer reading program. Total volunteer hours, including 285 book sale hours, were an ALL TIME HIGH of 923.25 hours!
- The Friends had two book sales in July and brought in \$1521, in addition to the Friendly Book Shelves in the lobby that made another \$538, and \$433 from our online sellers. A very good used book sales month!

Respectfully,  
Linda Ballard  
Interim Director