



CHELSEA DISTRICT LIBRARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Title: Chelsea District Library Connects with Community During Closure

Chelsea District Library's (CDL) mission is to engage, inspire, and equip our community with evolving materials and resources. The COVID-19 pandemic is requiring us to envision this mission differently as our building remains closed in the interest of public health. In keeping with the recommendations of Governor Whitmer and the CDC, all programs are canceled through May 30. Library business continues to take place from the homes of our dedicated team though. As we prepared to shut down the library in an effort to combat the spread of the coronavirus, we focused our energies on answering the question: "How Can We Help You?" and this has become our theme as we work from our homes to fulfill our mission. To that end, CDL has several ways to connect:

1 - Have a question about how to download books, music, and movies? Do you need help getting current tax information? Maybe you wonder about the best way to fill out your census survey. Whatever your question, our reference staff are available by phone from 10am-2pm Mondays-Fridays. Call 734-475-8732 x.219.

2 - Don't have a library card? We are offering online applications for library cards. Email checkoutdesk@chelseadistrictlibrary.org and a friendly staff member will walk you through the process and issue a library card number to use for digital content while the library is closed.

3 - Do you follow CDL on social media? We are offering video updates, live storytimes and read-alouds, entertaining trivia games, and more via the Chelsea District Library Facebook page.

4 - Are you passing the Stay Safe at Home directive by binge reading? We have expanded the subscription to Hoopla (hoopladigital.com) to allow each library cardholder 15 titles per month. Additionally, Hoopla has added a "bonus borrows"

collection with ebooks and audiobooks available to borrow that do not count against the 15 title limit.

5 - Additional online resources are frequently added to the chelseadistrictlibrary.org/covid-19 website. These resources include helpful links for parents navigating teaching from home like TumbleBooks, Junior Library Guild, and Scholastic Learn from Home. There are also useful links for small business owners looking for grant and loan programs to navigate these uncertain financial times.

6 - CDL is joining the fight against COVID-19 by using our 3D printer to help make face guards for medical facilities. Our Jellybox is small so we are limited to producing face shields for the UM Hospitals. Our teen librarian Stacey Comfort is a local guru who is actually producing these masks while working at home. We are so excited to join this cause and put our equipment to use. Here is what one of our local residents, Kathie Gourlay, had to say, "I think it's amazing that there are so many ways the common person can contribute, and is contributing, to this fight. It makes me happy to know that at this time, while we are all separated, we are also all working together for a common cause."

The entire staff of the library looks forward to the day we can reopen the building and welcome our community back through its doors. Until that time, we remain dedicated to providing accurate, unbiased answers to questions; entertaining and educational online resources; and endless goodwill toward the community.

About Us: Chelsea District Library is a not for profit organization whose mission is engage, inspire, and equip through evolving services and resources. The Library currently serves 15,010 residents in the Chelsea area including the City of Chelsea plus Dexter, Lima, Lyndon and Sylvan townships. More than 16,000 individuals visit the Library each month. For more information visit chelseadistrictlibrary.org.

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