

Chelsea District Library
Director's Report
July 2014

Library Millage on August 5, 2014

- On August 5, 2014, you will be asked to make a decision about the library's future. The library has faced a decline in revenue since 2009; however, through judicious budget cutbacks the library has maintained the current level of services offered today. Unfortunately, with uncertainties surrounding the elimination of the Personal Property Tax revenues, additional revenue loss is imminent. To make up for this loss, an additional millage is being placed on the ballot. To learn more facts about the library's upcoming millage, please see the information attached to the back of this report.

Did You Know?

- If you work in Chelsea you are eligible for a library card, even if you live outside of our service area? To learn more about how to get a library card, give us a call at 734-475-8732.

Questions from Last Board Meeting

- None

Library Board

- Board of Trustee Vacancy
 - A board vacancy will be available at the end of 2014 when the term for Janis Miller, trustee from Dexter Township expires.

Budget & Finances

- 2015 Budget Planning Update
 - We have developed two budgets this year. One if the millage passes in August, which would reflect the additional revenue, and one if the millage doesn't pass.
 - The Finance Committee met for a final time to approve the preliminary 2015 budget proposals. The Library Board of Trustees will receive copies of the budgets at its July meeting and have a month to deliberate and provide feedback. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 26 at 6:45pm in the Library's McKune Room at which time the Board of Trustees and public may ask questions. Final budget approval will take place in September.
 - The budget will include a 2% raise for Library staff, which I will be asking the board to approve and support.

Staff

- Farewell Peg Greisberger
 - I am sad to announce that long-time staff member and librarian Peg Greisberger will be resigning later this month in order to move back home to Ohio to be closer to her family. Peg has been such a tremendous asset to this staff. We wish her much future happiness and success. Thank you Peg for your years of dedication and service to our library. We will miss you dearly!
- Staff Members Celebrating Anniversaries
 - Leslie Abcouwer, 3 years
 - Edith Donnell, 8 years
- RFID at the Chelsea District Library
 - The library has selected a vendor to upgrade its radio frequency identification (RFID) system, which is nearing the end of its shelf life. RFID is a data collection technology that relies on radio waves to automatically identify items – which in the case of the library includes books, CDs, DVDs, videos, etc. The technology transfers data from an RFID tag to a reader and then to the library's circulation database. An RFID tag is placed on every library item with the barcode number of that item stored on the tag. When the tagged item is placed near a reader, the barcode of that item is sent to the library's circulation system and the item is checked in or out. RFID technology is utilized to speed up the checkout process for library users, improve inventory

management and help automate the handling of library materials. With the new system, library users will be able to check out their own items more quickly and easily.

- Our plan is to roll out the new system beginning in January 2015.
- 5H Community Read Program
 - Approximately 2,000 copies of *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green, this year's 5H Community Read book were ordered. This year's 5H Community Read will support the Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation's *Connect with Others* initiative. The books will be distributed in increments to the 5 Healthy Towns of Chelsea, Manchester, Dexter, Stockbridge, and Grass Lake starting the end of August.
 - Join us at our special kick-off event this year. Celebrate the good old days, our history, and heritage by visiting us at our booth at the annual *Heritage Day Festival* in Grass Lake on Saturday, September 6 from 10am-2pm. Bring your family, pick up a copy of *Fault in Our Stars*, get a free pedometer to track your steps to lose or maintain weight, sample delicious healthy food, and take part as members from all 5 Healthy Towns gather together to promote health and wellness.
- Summer Reading Program for Children and Teens
 - The summer months are always our busiest, and this year, we've been busier than ever. We had an extraordinary turn-out for our June 10th kickoff event for the summer reading program.
 - This year the youth department sent home summer reading registration cards to children at North Creek and South Meadows schools. It made quite an impact as nearly 450 registration cards came back. As of this writing, nearly 1300 children have signed up for the summer reading program, surpassing last year's totals with another month left to go yet. Congratulations to Karen Persello, the Head of our Youth Department, and her team.

Friends of the Library

- Barn Bash – Second Annual Party
 - The Friends of Chelsea District Library believe that they have something pretty special to crow about in this town. In a celebration of the Library, and all the many wonderful services and programs it provides, they've invited you to join them at their 2nd annual Barn Bash held on Saturday, July 19th from 7pm, at Bel Liberty Farm. The evening offers guests a gourmet BBQ cookout, a Jam Jar Bar, music courtesy of the Cadillac Cowboys, giveaways and an impressive bonfire.

More than 120 guests are expected to enjoy the beautiful midsummer setting of Bel Liberty Farm, which is the home of Event Committee Chair and Library Board Member Elizabeth Sensoli and her husband Tony. Says Sensoli, "I'm looking forward to a relaxed get-together, to see old friends, meet new, and celebrate our library. Our library is so involved in the community it's easy to take it for granted and forget how it benefits all of us. It supports the great work our schools do, is a social hub for kids and seniors, and everyone in between. In the difficult economic times we've been through, the library is consistently there to provide people with so many services beyond books, such as internet service, access to quality information, job search and small businesses assistance. It's also the proud steward of our community's history, restoring and archiving local photos and documents, and bringing history alive through the amazing local history documentary series. I do hope you'll join us."

As an organization, the Friends of Chelsea District Library exists in order to offer support - both financial and moral - to the library and the many programs that they as patrons have come to enjoy, such as the Summer Reading Program, the Comedy Series, the Midwest Literary Walk and Authors in Chelsea. Its purpose is also to increase visibility for the library as an invaluable community resource, and this year's Barn Bash will serve as a means of heightening awareness of the upcoming Millage vote on August 5th.

Tickets cost just \$25 per person, and can be purchased online from the Friends' new and updated website: friends.chelseadistrictlibrary.org.

Professional

- Michigan Library Association (MLA)
 - The Michigan Library Association has relocated its administrative offices. Located only a couple miles east of the previous office, the new space provides a more collaborative environment for MLA staff to support and continue the association's growth. A ribbon cutting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 8. The address of the new space is 3410 Belle Chase Way, Lansing, Michigan. For more information, visit them on the web at <http://www.milibraries.org/>

Outreach

- Rotary Club of Chelsea
 - My term as president of the club officially came to an end in June. It was a great honor and privilege for me to serve such a great group of dedicated men and women. I want to offer my congratulations to Gary Zenz, the new president of the club, and wish him much success and support.

Meetings/Conferences Attended

- Michigan Library Association, 6/13
- E-content meeting, 6/16
- Pat Conlin, 6/17
- Rotary Meetings, 6/17, 6/24, 7/1, 7/8
- 2015 Budget Meetings, 6/17,
- Library Board of Trustees, 6/17
- Rotary Board, 6/18
- Chelsea Area Business Leaders Luncheon, 6/18
- Chelsea Area School District Board Meeting, 6/23
- Julia Strimer, Chelsea Area Retirement Community, 6/23
- Finance Committee, 6/24
- Bob Pierce, Executive Director, Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce, 6/25
- Kevin Frahm, Global Marketplace, 6/25
- Community Read, 6/25
- Craig Maier, Lima Township Supervisor, 6/30
- RFID Meeting, 7/1
- Ron Andrews, Technology Librarian, 7/1
- Sylvan Township Board Meeting, 7/1
- Chris Martinson, Chelsea Alehouse, 7/2
- Judy Stratman, Chelsea Community Hospital, 7/2
- John Hanifan, Chelsea City Manager, 7/2
- Marcus Kaemming, Principal, North Creek Elementary, 7/7
- Steve Rolston, Director, Silver Maples of Chelsea, 7/7
- Linda Meloche, 7/7
- Jon Van Hoek, Chelsea Monitors, 7/7
- Janis Miller, Library Board of Trustees, 7/7
- Kiwanis Club of Chelsea Board Meeting, 7/7
- Jennifer Kundak, Friends of Michigan Libraries, 7/8
- Lyndon Township Board Meeting, 7/8
- Burrill Strong, 7/9
- Lisa Allmendinger, Chelsea Update, 7/9
- Trinh Pifer, Director, Chelsea Senior Center, 7/10
- All Staff Meeting, 7/11

Respectfully,

William Harmer