

**Chelsea District Library
Director's Report
April 2009**

Finance

- Spending is continuing at acceptable levels.
- The 2008 audit has been completed and Dave Fisher of Rehmann Robson will make a presentation and answer questions at the April Board meeting.
- The Finance committee has completed their meetings with financial advisor candidates and will make their recommendation at the April board meeting.
- Per a request from the board, we have added a new financial report to the packet entitled Profit & Loss Previous Year's Comparison.

Building Updates

- All problematic recessed can lighting issues have been resolved with the exception of one light in the volunteer sign-in area and it is on order.
- Brick work has been completed in the south portico area.
- Bruce from Fuller Heating was out this week to look over several outstanding issues. They were not able to determine exactly why the louver in the basement stuck open last December, causing the water pipe above to freeze, but they have decided that it would be best if it opened the other direction so have removed it and turned it around at no cost to us. They did determine that the settings in Kidspot were set opposite of what they should be, so when we turned the temp down, it was going up, and vice versa. They have fixed that problem. Bruce thinks they can direct more air flow into the staff lounge and staff bathroom from the existing system to get those rooms warmer, so we will try that next. My goal was to get these last three nagging issues solved before a new director takes over and we are two thirds there. I feel confident we will get this last one done soon.
- All of the benches made from the walnut tree we removed from the south yard are now complete and in place in the library. Not only are they a beautiful addition to our building, they are already getting lots of use!

Library Operations

- Ron, Linda Sayers, and myself have decided on inventory software and barcodes, and they are on the way. Our next meeting will focus on developing a plan to tag and record our assets.

- The Friends has another great sale in March- making \$1523 from the actual sale and another \$622 off the lobby book cart in February- amazing! At their

April meeting, the Friends approved more of our Wish List items, including a new camera and tripod for the Adult department, a new playhouse for Kidspot, and a picnic table for staff, totaling another \$2645. They also approved funding for the window well troll requested by the art committee. Including funding for the base, that was another \$1000. That only leaves one item on the list and it is only April!

- We now have a brand new wheelchair to help our physically challenged patrons. This was a Wish List item and when Terri was calling around to get local pricing, the pharmacy volunteered to donate one to us! We took a picture of me and Tom McKernan from Chelsea Pharmacy with the wheelchair to put in the newsletter.

From the February 15th issue of *Library Journal*-

“How bad is the economy? Bad enough that in *LJ*’s annual book-buying survey of public libraries, circulation took the biggest leap recorded since the survey was launched in 1999. Historically, circulation goes up when the economy founders, and this year’s whopping 5.16 percent increase overall suggests just how many people are saving pennies by borrowing materials instead of buying them. In fact, libraries are being swamped; nearly eight in ten respondents report increased circulation. In this regard, at least, the library business is booming.”

TLN and State News

At this point, House and Senate budgets differ on funding for libraries. The Senate budget calls for a \$1.5 million cut, while the House budget holds it harmless at \$10 million. From MLA- “The House and Senate are on vacation until April 17th. Upon return, they will begin negotiations to reconcile budget differences in late April and May. Key issues for the library community are the future of the Library of Michigan and state aid to public libraries.” With the Senate on record to maintain the LOM whole in another state agency, it appears the real issue will be state aid. Considering sales tax revenues were down 19% in February, and the Senate Fiscal Agency is projecting a \$1 billion deficit for next year, it seems prudent not plan on any state aid in our 2010 budget. If we get better news in May, we can make an adjustment before we finalize it.

Linda

Linda Ballard
Interim Director