

Chelsea District Library
Director's Report
June 2009

Finance

- Spending is continuing at acceptable levels. We have received 95% of our district revenue; still no word on the remaining 50% of our State Aid.
- The management staff has finished their preliminary budget work and the finance committee will have had two budget review meetings by the time you read this. The third (and hopefully last) budget meeting for the Finance committee is set for July 6th. The board can expect to get the budget for review at the July meeting.
- After one more meeting with our insurance agent, we have determined what we believe is the proper level of coverage for the library, and are awaiting final documents from the insurance company.

Building Updates

- I have requested two quotes for some signage at the circ desk to indicate "Check Out". I asked both vendors to show me what it would look like on the desk and hanging from the ceiling.
- We have had our first two light bulbs go out in major (read: high and hard to reach) light fixtures. One in the main stairwell artichoke light and the other is in the area above the adult reference desk. We are exploring what kind of bulbs we need and how to replace them.

Library Operations

- The Friends book sale in May brought in \$705. This is lower than recent sales but the weather that day was so gorgeous, we assume people were out playing and not thinking about reading. In May we were also treated to a wonderful appreciation event sponsored by the Friends. They feed us, said really nice things about us, gave us gift certificates to local eateries, and then surprised us with a fantastic picnic table just outside the staff entrance. We are confident we have the BEST Friends group in the world!
- The website redesign is proceeding on schedule. Please see Ron's report for further details.

- Bill submitted a proposal to PLA for a presentation about our one-room schoolhouse project and it was accepted. It will be presented at the annual conference in Portland in 2010. This is ground-breaking programming for libraries and is being very well received wherever he presents it.
- We have ordered the software and tags for the inventory project. Linda Sayers, Ron, and I met to outline the process and staff responsibilities. We hope to start building the database by the end of June and have the project finished by the end of the year.
- The 175th celebration is proceeding as planned. We will host the kick-off ceremony on Thursday, June 25th, at 5PM, art and crafts at noon on Friday the 26th, and sheep shearing, pie eating, and quilting on Saturday the 27th starting at 9AM.
- We will dedicate the southwest corner at 11:30 AM on Saturday, June 27th in honor of Katie Fox. What we now refer to as the “amphitheater” will be known as Katie’s Korner from that day on.
- We are in tornado season and will review our tornado procedure at the all staff meeting this month.

TLN and State News

I did not attend the May TLN SASUG meeting due to being sick for a few days this month but did review the minutes from the meeting. TLN has finally hired a new director, Jim Pletz. He began on June 1st.

It is time for TLN to start looking at new ILS systems and they are forming a committee to review products. They are also starting a new virtual reference service on August 1st and our staff attended an informational meeting. TLN will pick up the cost of the service this year with state aid funds and will have to re-assess for next year.

TLN is also looking into group pricing for RFID technology. Many TLN libraries already use some form of RFID but from several different vendors. They are hoping to find products that will be compatible with those existing library’s systems.

The state legislature has not finalized the budget yet so I have nothing new to report on state aid for 2010. I continue to check the MLA and Library of Michigan websites and will let you know as soon as we get the word.

Linda

Linda Ballard
Interim Director