Romeo District Library
Summer 2016
Hello Everyone,

Brief history of and update on lawsuit
The Romeo District Library (RDL) was established in 1969. The Village of Romeo and the townships of Bruce and Washington have been sharing controversy-free enjoyment of the library and its services until recently.

In July of 2014, Washington Township filed a lawsuit. You can read the facts of the case here: http://romeodistrictlibrary.org (under “library information / Board of Trustees”). Judge Caretti ruled in favor of the Library in February of 2015. Five days later Washington Township voted to appeal that decision. On Tuesday, May 3rd the Michigan Court of Appeals heard oral arguments from both sides. We are still waiting on a decision.

The lawsuit centers on control over RDL’s budget, which is largely funded by a perpetual millage.

RDL is very fortunate to have a voter-approved millage. However, you may not know that the amount of our millage has decreased over the years due to the State of Michigan’s Headlee Rollback Amendment. When annual growth on existing district property is greater than the rate of inflation, Headlee requires a permanent reduction in our millage. When this happens, our millage rate is “rolled back” for that fiscal year. We never recover what is lost. In the last 20 years, we have seen a drop from 1.3025 mils to our current rate of 1.1512 and this rate will only continue to go down.

Every year, the budget is drafted by the Director with input from the staff before it is brought to the RDL Board of Trustees (made up of two appointed members from each municipality) for approval. Then it is distributed in draft form to all three municipalities for input before it is approved by the RDL board in a posted, public hearing.

RDL's numbers are also thoroughly audited annually by an outside company. The audit results are presented both to the public in a posted open session and to the individual municipalities. Since I have been with the Library, we have had outstanding audit reviews. We have made recent changes to reduce operational and staffing costs, ensuring that we are moving forward with great services while executing a conservative budget. All of this is public record. Our fiscal year ends on June 30th and a draft of our new budget will be available shortly.

I cannot address everything that may have occurred at RDL historically. I can say, with utmost confidence, that substantial positive change has occurred since my start with RDL. I, my staff, and the Board have worked very hard to ensure that we are providing excellent customer service while listening to every tax payer concern that comes to our attention.

Services
We have entirely new children’s department staff who have really hit the ground running! Under the direction of Team Lead Deborah Motley, the department has increased their weekly program offerings. We now have separate programs aimed at toddlers and pre-schoolers, and story times for kids up to 3rd grade with more new programming to come. We have wonderful new puppets, a play kitchen area, a great train table, and tons of new books for all ages.

I’m also excited about our new Teen librarian, Therese Bulszewicz. This is the first time since I’ve been the director here at RDL that we’ve had a librarian solely to focus on Young Adult programming and collection needs. You will find some of her exciting new programs in this newsletter.

We are in the planning stages for some renovations to the Graubner branch lobby which will make it more customer friendly. We are discussing an information desk at the front door, more comfortable seating, and some study rooms, which are currently very well-used at the Kezar branch.

Finally, the library recently acquired the entire Romeo Observer archive collection, generously donated by Mel Bleich. We are still sorting through the boxes, but we are anticipating a complete collection of the full run of the newspaper. We’re discovering new things every day such as original historical photographs of our area and of events such as the Romeo Peach Festival. Once the dust clears we will be sharing these treasures with the public. This is the first step in making the Kezar branch, which already is a beautiful historical landmark, into a local history and genealogy hub.

It is an exciting time for the Romeo District Library! We have a dedicated staff and Board of Trustees that are working very hard to make this great library system even better and we can't wait to share these projects and programs with you. You, after all, are the reason we are here. Please drop by and see us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you and have a wonderful summer!
John McNaughton, Director
john@romeodistrictlibrary.org
586-752-0603 ext. 1018
Summer Reading for Teens & Adults

Make your Summer make a difference! Join us for a fantastic new take on Summer Reading! This year we will be having a Read-a-Thon to support local animal shelters and rescues. The program begins on Saturday, June 18 and will run through August 13th. Prizes will be awarded to top reader and top earner for both adult and teens. Join us for our closing program, a Pet Expo, on August 13th to meet with other readers and animal lovers.

Pet First Aid
Tuesday, June 28th 7:00 pm
Join us for an informative evening with Laura from Wilson’s Veterinary Hospital. She will be teaching basic first aid for your animals.

Make Your Own Healthy Dog Treats
Thursday, July 21st 7:00 pm
Learn how to make a healthy treat for your furry friends. These recipes will give you the ability to make cheaper and healthier treats for your own pets. Materials will be provided. Registration is suggested.

Craft Your Own Pet Toys
Tuesday, July 26, 7:00 pm
Enjoy a fun night crafting with other animal lovers as we make cat and dogs toys for our furry friends! Materials will be provided. Registration is suggested.

Feathered Friends Feeder Craft
Thursday, August 11th 6:00 pm
Birds need love and food too! We will be making fun and colorful bird feeders that will brighten up any yard and make a feathered friend’s day! Materials will be provided. Registration is suggested.

Pet Food for Fines
July 11th – July 15th
This year our food for fines program will help out our furry friends. Please bring in donations of food, litter, toys, blankets, cleaning supplies, carriers, cages or any other needed pet supplies and we will be donating them to local shelters. You in turn can pay off your fines and feel good about your contribution!

Pet Expo
Saturday, August 13th 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Join us for our first ever pet expo to round out our Summer Reading Read-A-Thon! You can visit with adoptable pets, meet with Leader Dogs for the Blind, get your pets some new toys or treats, grab a snack for yourself, get your pet micro-chipped and more!

Technology

LinkedIn Basics
Thursday, June 9 6:30 pm
We will cover setting up an account, presenting an effective profile, making connections, giving recommendations, and interacting for professional gain with other users! Registration requested but not required.

Cutting the Cord: Getting Your Content Without the Pricey Cable Package
Tuesday, July 12th 7:00 pm
Roku Streaming Stick, Apple TV, PlayStation TV, Amazon Fire TV, Sling, etc. Discussion of HBO Go, Netflix, Hulu, Youtube, Showtime Anytime, etc.

Tech Privacy and Security: An Overview
Thursday, August 25th 7:00 pm
Like to improve your security for browsing websites or email? Demonstration of choosing browsers (e.g. Firefox with extensions), tightening up email, PortableApps.com, apps on mobile devices, discussions of VPNs, etc.
Adult Programs

Beekeeping and Honey Making
Thursday June 2nd 7:00 pm
Join us as local beekeeper Neil McMillan discusses the art and skill of the beekeeping trade. Come try different homemade honey samples and learn a few things you never knew about bees. Guaranteed fun. Honey will also be available for purchase as well. No registration required.

Klezmephonic
Thursday July 14th 7:00 pm
The Romeo District Library is proud to bring to you the unique and entertaining sound of Klezmephonic. They are a MI based band who is rich in sound and tradition. Drawing on Jewish folklore and history, they provide their audiences with a rich blend of melody and memory. Come enjoy their charming style. No registration required. Note: If the weather is decent, this event will be outdoors.

5TH MI Regiment Civil War Band
Saturday July 30th 1:00 pm
Come join us for an afternoon of fun as members of the 5th MI Regiment Civil War Band provide us with an outdoor concert of historical and entertaining music. Members will be dressed in period clothing and will be discussing the history and meaning behind the various songs as well. Women will also be attending in period clothing. So, history buffs and music lovers, break out a lawn chair grab a blanket and make a picnic out of it.

My War in Afghanistan
Thursday July 4th 7:00 pm
SFC Steven Mrozek (Ret) of the 82nd Airborne Division will be presenting an exciting talk on his own combat experiences while fighting in Afghanistan. Come find out what it was like to be there.

Teen Programs

Dungeons & Dragons
Wednesday June 15th 6:30 pm
Come join us as we continue our exciting adventure in Dungeons & Dragons! The fifth edition of the book will be used for gameplay. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Registration is not required. For teens age 12-18.

Teen Summer Reading Kickoff Movie Day
Saturday June 18th 12:00 pm
To celebrate the teen summer reading kick off, join us for an afternoon of movies! We will be showing two movies by Hayao Miyazaki: Howl’s Moving Castle (Rated PG) and My Neighbor Totoro (Rated G). Pizza and popcorn will be provided. Registration is not necessary. For teens age 12-18.

Teen Craft Night
Wednesday June 22nd 6:00 pm
To celebrate the summer reading theme of animals, we will be making dog (or cat or any other furry friend) treat jars for your favorite pet. Supplies will be provided, as well as snacks. Registration is not necessary. For teens age 12-18.

Teen Craft Night
Wednesday July 6th 6:00 pm
We will be making super awesome animal bookmarks. Supplies will be provided, just come with your imagination! We will also have snacks. Registration is not necessary. For teens age 12-18.

Pirate Cannon Shoot II
Saturday August 6th 1:00 pm
Arrrr, the pirates are back! Captain Mike Martin and his crew of pirates make a return landing to the Graubner Library. Captain Mike and his pirates will be shooting their battle cannon, discussing how it works and talking about the life of being a pirate.
Pajama Storytime
Mondays 7:00 pm
All ages welcome

Outdoor Storytime
Every other Wednesday, rain or shine 10:00 am
June 30th, July 7th and 21st, August 4th and 18th
All ages welcome
Storytimes generally include stories, rhymes, songs/music, movement and a craft.

Read to Rover
Every other Tuesday 6:30pm starting May 17th
If your child is shy reading to humans, let him or her read to a non-judgmental dog! Sign up for Read to Rover.

Summer Reading Program Kick-Off
Saturday June 11th from 2:00 -4:00 pm
We’re having a carnival to usher in summer reading. There will be sno-cones, music, an obstacle course for all ages and much more. Enjoy the day and sign up for summer reading!
To sign up for summer reading from home, log into http://romeodistrictlibrary.readsquared.com/
You can register as a family or an individual. Come back to log in minutes (or books for the pre-school crowd.) Play games on the site, read from our booklists, come to our programs and get badges. When you earn 5 badges, no more than one per week, come into the library to get a prize!

Yoga and Smoothies
Wednesday June 15th
Toddlers-2nd grade 10:00 am
3rd-6th grade 11:30 pm
Learn how to stretch and relax, then make a healthy smoothie to nourish your body!
**March of the Stuffed Animals**
Monday July 25th 7:00 pm
Bring your stuffed animal to story time and parade them around the library. Leave them overnight so they can have a library sleep-over. We'll show you pictures of the fun time they had while they were here.

**Lego Day**
Wednesday July 27th 7:00 pm
Bring your imagination to this fun-filled evening of Lego building. We'll give you an object to build and you'll make it with all the Lego you need. Projects will be on display in the Children's Department for the whole month of August!

**Toddler Drive-In**
Saturday August 6th
1:00 pm Make your cars,
2:00 pm watch the movie Cars
We'll help you make a car out of a cardboard box then you can watch the movie Cars while sitting in your car!

**Science Summer Camp**
Tuesday August 9th - Thursday August 11th
Grades K-2 10:00 am
Grades 3-5 2:00 pm
We're going to do science experiments and learn new things both indoors and out! It's science and lots of fun!

**Summer Reading Closing Ceremony**
ANIMAL MAGIC
Saturday August 20th
2 Shows: 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm
It's free, but come to the library to get tickets. Be entertained and educated about exotic animals, with a little magic and humor thrown in. Marc Rosenthal brings in exotic animals that have been rescued to share with everyone!

**Back to School Crafts**
Friday August 26th 2:00 pm
Maybe we'll make book marks or pencil toppers. But whatever we decide, it'll be fun and useful for back-to-school!
Adult Programs

Crochet Group
Every Tuesday 5:45 pm
Join us as we share patterns, problems and laughs! Beginners welcome!

Great Books Book Group
1st Thursday of the month 5:45 pm
Join us for a discussion of classic and modern & "Great Books". The “Great Books” book group meets the 1st Thursday of the month at the Kezar Library, unless otherwise indicated.
June 2: The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jaqueline Kelly
July 7: The Virgin of the Small Plains by Nancy Pickard
August 4: To Have and Have Not by Ernest Hemingway

History’s Mysteries Book Group
3rd Tuesday of the month 5:45 pm
Join us for a fascinating discussion about historical mysteries, suspense and thrillers!
June 21: Murder as a Fine Art by David Morrell
July 19: The Book of Speculation by Erika Swyler
August 16: The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane by Katherine Howe

Crochet Flip Flop Workshop
Tuesday June 14th 5:45 pm
Join us for a summertime fun workshop where we will create embellished flip flops. Basic crochet skills are helpful but not required. Please bring your own flip flops and crochet hooks. A limited supply of novelty yarns will be provided.

Children’s Programs

Drop In Story Time
Every Thursday 11:15 am
Fingerplays, music and stories to help young children develop an appreciation for and enjoyment of books and reading. Caregivers will learn how they can enjoy their roles as early literacy teachers and be more effective while reading at home.

Saturday STEAM
When kids explore, create and experiment in an informal learning environment like the library, they learn a lot - and have fun at the same time. Join us for activities that will inspire and motivate kids with fun, hands-on learning activities. The kids of today are the innovators of tomorrow. Let’s spark their passion and creativity for the sciences now.

Saturday June 11th 12:00 pm: Candy Construction
Saturday July 9th 12:00 pm: Ice Cream Challenge
Saturday August 13th 12:00 pm: Outdoor Egg Boats

Build and Break Lego Time
Join us at the Kezar Library for Build and Break Lego Time - You can join in the challenge or you can build whatever you like. All creations will be on display for the month!

Saturday June 18th 12:00 pm
Saturday July 9th 12:00 pm
Saturday August 20th 12:00 pm

Pictures from the Joan D. and Melvin E. Bleich Romeo Observer Newspaper Collection.
Staff is working diligently so that you can see these pictures and more soon!
Saturday, July 9, 2016
Tapper Garden - 4700 Raap Road, Bruce Township, MI 48065
Tickets - $10
Tickets go on sale June 1 at Graubner Library, Kezar Branch Library, Starkweather Arts Center (219 North Main in Romeo), or online
Visit romeodistrictlibrary.org/friends/ for more information

For many years, the Friends of the Romeo District Library have hosted the Romeo Area Garden Walk to raise funds for the Library. Garden Walk proceeds have helped to purchase furniture and computers and funded reading programs and special events at both Graubner Library and the Kezar Library.

This year the event has a new name – Celebration of Gardens and Art. The Celebration will take place at the Tapper Garden in Bruce Township, and will feature displays and how-to demonstrations from garden businesses and professionals. Topics will include herbs, pruning, bees, garden art, native plants, monarchs, and so much more. We will also have a book sale, a visit from a local author for young adults, and children will love the story walk hosted by the Library!

Our partners at Starkweather Arts Center will put the ‘Art’ into the Celebration, with live music throughout the day and artists painting and creating in the gardens.

Proceeds from the Celebration will support the future launch and long-term maintenance of a Romeo District Library bookmobile along with other projects to bring the Library out into our communities. This multi-year project will raise funds to kick-start the bookmobile project and leverage grants from other sources. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Starkweather Arts Center’s historic preservation fund.

We invite you and your business to become a sponsor of the Celebration. We are also looking for exhibitors - garden-related business that have terrific ideas, products, services, and knowledge. Applications are available on our website or contact us at friends@romeodistrictlibrary.org.

Attention: Gardeners! The Romeo Area Garden Walk will be back in 2017 as part of the Celebration of Gardens and Art. If you have a garden you would like to share with us in 2017, please contact us – we would love to talk with you and visit your garden this summer!