

ST. CLAIR BRANCH

Annual Report 2016

Julie Alef

Priorities/Goals

- ✦ *To empower staff to bring their talents and passions to the community.*
- ✦ *Be responsive to community requests for services and programming.*
- ✦ *Hand-sell services and programs and individually educate patrons on how to make best use of Library services, databases and web resources.*

Library Usage

- ✦ *We've put an increased emphasis on programming for adults and skill share/maker space. Classes have included crochet, cross-stitch, ceramic painting and altered books. The Wednesday Knitting Group from Sweet Pea's joined us here in the library when that wonderful shop closed.*



- ✦ *Monday Cribbage and Wednesday Euchre are community programs for seniors that have been well attended. Such gatherings allow seniors to refresh their circle of acquaintances. Games stimulate the learning centers of the mind and help keep sharp memory and decision-making and fellowship assists the brain develop long-term memory. But the seniors who attend just appreciate them as a good time.*
- ✦ *Originally, the monthly Dinner and a Movie at the library was cooperation between the library and local restaurants. We gave them PR and they gave us food. Reservations were maxing out at 15. So we turned to our Friends who gave us a do-not-exceed dollar amount per program and we're now registering between 20 and 25.*

- ✚ *Story time offers a broad base of stimulating activities for pre-school children. Offered on Tuesday and Wednesdays to accommodate children who attend formal pre-schools in the town.*
- ✚ *Teens are notoriously difficult to reach. We are thrilled to have an active group of teens join our Teen Advisory Group to help us plan programs that they want to attend and help promote our programs and services, teen to teen.*
- ✚ *The St. Clair Branch processed over 1500 books from MELCAT representing about 14% of the System total and 47% of that which the Main Library circulates.*
- ✚ *Seed Library trial program for seed sharing and seed saving was not self-sustaining in St. Clair so we sent our supplies and catalog to Glynn Campbell and Yale to see if it takes root there.*



Facility

- ✚ *We're so grateful for our new drop box but it's shocking how long it has taken patrons to get used to the new location*



- ✚ *Our patrons find the St. Clair Branch a comfortable place to be.*



Friends of the Library

- ✚ *The lecture series called First Thursday offers a variety of speakers on a wide variety of interesting topics: October to April.*



- ✚ *The Friends Board is looking forward to the 150 Year Anniversary of the St. Clair County Library System.*
- ✚ *The Friends have agreed to underwrite our monthly and very popular Dinner and a Movie program.*

Staff – St. Clair

- ✚ *Both of our Pages, Janice Costa and GeorgAnn Tierney, have been with us since 2014 and do a tremendous job.*
- ✚ *Lisa Fountain started as a Page and was promoted to LBA in 2013.*
- ✚ *Rebecca Casey, was initially a Page, became an LBA in 2011 and handles teen programming.*
- ✚ *Kathleen O'Mara rides herd on the wild ponies that represent our seniors and adult programming, she, too, started as a Page has been an LBA since 2010.*
- ✚ *Joni Leroy started in 2003 and does our children's and other programming proud always but particularly in STEAM innovation.*
- ✚ *The gracious Mary Kelly has have been here since 2001 and handles patrons with aplomb and handles the processing of new materials and donations.*
- ✚ *Julie Alef, Branch Lead, started in 1999 but came to St. Clair in 2003 after having been a children's programmer in Algonac and teen programmer and material processor in Ira.*
- ✚ *We are much relieved to have an experienced staff as it takes about 1000 hours of on the job training for branch staff to be confident in the breadth of branch functionality.*
- ✚ *With that much experience, staff is encouraged to contribute creatively to innovations in patron service and meaningful reader advisory and effective reference. We direct three books clubs: Classic Books, Cook book and "Joni's Book Club" and support The Friends Book Club and a dozen more informal, neighborhood, church and work book groups.*