

## A Message from the Wayne Library Board

Because of the current financial crisis in Wayne, the Wayne Public Library will be making some significant changes beginning April 1, 2014. The library will be closing four additional hours a week. This means we will be open thirty-one hours a week instead of the current 35 (down from a high of 58 hours a few years ago). Our new hours will be: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12:00 - 8:00 and Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 12:00 until 5:00. We will be closed Sunday and Monday.

Once again we will have no budget for new adult or childrens' books, CDs, nor DVDs. We will eliminate the following line items from our budget: Books, Professional Services, Contract Services, Community Promotion, Printing and Publication, Membership and Dues, and Miscellaneous. There will also be an additional savings by cancelling our current cleaning service beginning in April.

In addition, Paulette Medvecky, our library director, will be retiring as a full-time employee on June 30. We hope to bring her back part-time as a co-director to work with a new part-time person who would be the other co-director. These co-directors will receive an hourly wage and no benefits. Long-time employee, Ginny Cesarz, will also be leaving us on May 31. She will not be replaced.

There are various reasons for these cuts, and others in the past couple of years. The primary one is the loss of tax revenue due to falling property assessments in Wayne. The Wayne Library has a guaranteed, dedicated mil, but income from that mil has fallen as property values have dropped. A few years ago, one mil of taxes produced about \$700,000, and our budget was a little over \$900,000 (including money from the general fund and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA)). Today one mil brings in only \$360,000, and our 2014-2015 budget will be \$360,000 -- our dedicated one mil -- with no support from either General Fund or DDA. Another major factor is that the state has reduced Wayne's portion of revenue sharing by 41%; from \$3 million in 2000 to \$1.8 million now.

We apply for as many grants as possible, but these are usually restricted by the granting agency for specific uses, such as books, furniture, programs, etc., and cannot be used for general operations or anything else. We currently have a grant application pending for some new furniture, so if we're successful, and you see new furnishings in spite of the budget, keep in mind that the grant was limited to that specific use. The Ford Motor Company contributed \$20,000 specifically for books for the current fiscal year, and we are fortunate in getting that. Our recent budget for books, CDs, and DVDs has been \$65,000, it is now down to zero. Ford has also granted us some money for new computers to replace the out-of-date units we've been using. Although receiving grants is a hit-and-miss affair, we will continue to apply for as many as we can. The Friends of the Library provides money from their fund-raisers for some programs and an occasional special project, but we cannot build their contributions into the budget since they are a separate, independent organization, and their contributions may vary. Meeting room rentals have provided a small income, but that has also dropped because the reduced hours have made it inconvenient for many users.

The Board would like to praise our Director and all our great staff members for their dedication to this library and to our users, and for their hard work made more difficult by tough financial times.

A good public library is essential, for both adults and children. The library is the second most important education institution in any community and a major factor in promoting literacy. Our staff and Board are working hard to give you and your families the best library we can, given the amount of funding provided. Writing this note to you has not been fun, but we feel that you deserve to know what's happening and why.

Thank you for your patience, for your understanding, and for your continuing support.

Sincerely,  
Ed Marman, Board President  
on behalf of the Wayne Library Board