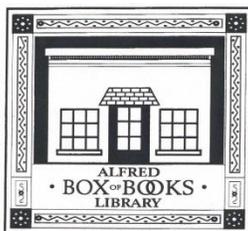


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## ALFRED BOX OF BOOKS LIBRARY

November 10, 2015

I took over the director position of the Alfred Box of Books in April. In the whirlwind of the past few months, I have had many goals. However two words can sum these goals as director: *Community* and *Collaboration*. First, I want to strive to serve the community and meet their needs. As a library, that means providing materials and programs that meet the needs of a diverse population. Secondly, I want to build collaborations within the community in order to meet those needs. My goal is to create a place where the library is a welcoming, warm environment for everyone, a place where we utilize local resources to maximize service back to you, our users.

One exciting area where collaboration and meeting needs intersect is hearing from our teen population. We had a Teen Advisory Board in place and I was eager to meet with them to hear what they had to say. Our teens are filled with great ideas! One idea they wanted to try out was a teen book club that they called *Turning Pages*. Rather than reading the same book, they wanted to read the same genre then share with each other what they'd read and have a thematic discussion. These teens are thoughtful, articulate and book club is one of the things I look forward to most every month.

*Did you know...The Alfred Box of Books serves the largest chartered population in Allegany County?*

Most people remember the movie *Field of Dreams* and the famous line, "Build it and they will come." This is my approach to meeting the needs of our teens. Build the collection and they will come. Give them materials and they will come. Give them things to do and they will come. One of our most urgent needs is developing the Young Adult collection- building it up so they will come. Our teens have an interest in the library, now I want to develop the YA collection to make it more modern and welcoming.

*Did you know...the Box of Books Library has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of circulation transactions in Allegany County?*

We are a small library with limited resources and space (Alfred has the smallest square footage in the county!). In addition to developing the YA collection, we have other goals and needs too.

- We would like to update our bathroom to replace the toilet and install a diaper changing station to serve the needs of our young story time crowd. This will make the library more accessible to parents with young children.
- We would like to update our lighting by installing more energy-efficient fixtures throughout the building. This will decrease annual electricity costs for the library.
- We need to replace out of date staff computers (you may have noticed delays while checking out materials!)

*Did you know...The Box of Books held over 100 programs for children, teens, and adults in 2014?*

Each year at this time, we ask our amazing patrons to show their support for their library by donating to one of these worthy projects.

Donations from our patrons allow us to continue to provide quality services and programs to our patrons and maximize our resources. Every donation matters. Even a gift of \$5 allows us to purchase one new children's book, or helps with the cost of programs.

*Did you know...The Box of Books has 9 public access computers? This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the county.*

Sincerely,



Melanie A. Miller, Director

Allison Snyder, President, Board of Trustees