



Looking Back; Seeing the Way Ahead

If you are like me, you're wondering where 2017 went. Given the speed with which it seems to have flown by, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the past year.

2017 was a year of milestones, including:

- In March, the renovation project of the Walbridge Library was completed. The facility doubled in size, adding a dedicated meeting room with state of the art technology; ADA restrooms; energy efficient heating and cooling; expanded computer space; doubled space for children's activities; and a mural composed of photographs which capture moments in the town's history.
- April saw a record-breaking Community Reads which brought together over 650 area and out-of-state readers to hear National Book Award winning author, Sherman Alexie at the BGHS Performing Arts Center.
- Summer Reading Programs in Bowling Green, Walbridge, and on the Bookmobile registered 1,935 youth.
- Thanks to your overwhelming support and generosity, the Library Foundation's annual fundraiser at Schedel Gardens in July, again broke records by raising over \$110,000, which has been used to purchase books for WCDPL's collections.
- Over the summer the library developed and introduced a new logo, which you'll see being used in this issue of *Connect*.
- In October, the Library Board of Trustees voted unanimously to stop collecting fines for overdue materials.

As striking as these individual milestones are, they pale in comparison to the emphasis we at WCDPL put on serving you daily. From sharing story times to helping with new technology to finding the right book at the right time, library staff look forward to assisting you every day and continually seek to improve in the ways we do so.

Thus, in 2018, WCDPL and its Board of Trustees will approve the library's strategic plan for the next 3 years. The strategic plan will provide us with a blueprint for improving the ways in which we serve you and meet your needs.

This process began over the summer, when the Board reviewed and updated the library's vision, mission, core values, and core services statement. And, for the first time in many years, with the help of BGSU's Dr. Shannon Orr and graduate students from BGSU, the library sent surveys to over 2000 registered voters. We want to know what you think we're

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doing right, what new services you'd like to see, and what we could do better. We will use your responses to guide putting together the new strategic plan.

2018 promises new and exciting challenges for all of us. As we enter the new year, remember that WCDPL is your library, and we're eager to meet those challenges—large and small—with you.

Come to our physical facilities to find your next favorite book, to re-charge your batteries by attending a concert in the Atrium, to reconnect with your neighbors or encounter new ideas at a library program. Use the many online resources when our buildings are closed to peruse a popular magazine, download music or videos, research your family tree or even your next automobile purchase.

In 2018, I'm looking forward to seeing you at the library.

~Michael Penrod,
Director