



Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Union City *Clarion*, p. A1:

Branch District Library to request .5 mills August 5

by Donna Claar

Former Branch District Library board member Dorothy Cherry spoke to the Union City Village Council about the upcoming library millage, to be held August 5.

BDL has lost 20 percent of its yearly revenue since 2009, resulting in reduced hours, staff and materials.

The district is asking for .5 mills, the cost for the average Branch County household will be \$18.80 per year, lasting for eight years.

This is the first millage BDL has requested since the formation of the district library in 1991.

Cherry reported that 61 percent of Union City residents have cards and use the library. She went on to mention that libraries are the gateway to knowledge and resources throughout the world, and it is hard to have a public library if BDL does not have the funds to keep doors open.

"This millage is absolutely needed if you want the library to function," Cherry stated. "There just isn't any place left to go but back to the voters."

Council workshops - Council changed their workshop meetings on the first Monday of every month from 6 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Run water order - Village manager Jim Campfield announced that the run water order is no longer in effect as of

Monday.

One-way street - Village resident and business owner Bob Merchant addressed the council about his concerns over the unintended consequences resulting from the changing of the intersection of Broadway and West High streets to one-way.

"I agree that it is not the best intersection in town," said Merchant. "Coming from people coming into the store, 100 percent of the comments concerning the street are negative."

Merchant went on to say, "People are ignoring the directional sign. They have to make three to four stops to return to Broadway. Customers from the rental business have to make a very sharp turn pulling 15 foot trailers. The point is, from what I have observed, the unintended consequences have been severe."

Resignation - DPW supervisor Ron Perry submitted his resignation to the village. Campfield stated the village will be looking for a replacement shortly.

Parks and Recreation Committee - ~~Riverway Parks~~ will be open May 1. Union City resident Roy Wessel was appointed to the committee. One more vacancy for a Union City resident remains.

The committee accepted a \$1,500 donation for 10 sugar maple trees from a community member.



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Tuesday, April 29, 2014. Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A5:

BRANCH DISTRICT LIBRARY

Manchester extols WMU's Paper Engineering program

By Chris Worst

Twitter: @ChrisWorst_TDR

SHERWOOD — A modestly-sized group gathered at the Branch District Library-Sherwood Branch last week to listen to a local student share her knowledge.

Sherwood native Savanna Manchester, a senior at Western Michigan University who graduated this past weekend, studied environmental paper engineering, a subfield of chemical engineering.

"It (has) the same core classes (as chemical engineering) but it is a more specialized field of it," Manchester explained.

Library branch manager Gina Horn said Manchester's talk was part of a series she is conducting in which students from the Sherwood area talk about their fields of study to interested locals.

"I think it's important to support our local (students)," Horn said.

Manchester said there are many myths surrounding the paper industry.

"Trees make a lot of different things," she said. "They are used to make shatter-proof glass, vanilla flavoring



Savanna Manchester discusses several myths that surround the paper industry. CHRIS WORST PHOTO

... tons and tons of things. Everyone's saying that (the world) is going to be paper-free ... I challenge everyone to not use paper, even for four hours.

"You unconsciously use paper all the time," she added.

Manchester said harvesting trees to make paper products is not as harmful to the environment as many people believe.

"The paper industry treats forests as a crop, just like a farmer plants corn," she said.

"The paper industry plants trees; for every tree they cut down, the plant three ... the industry does plant more

than we do harvest.

"Paper is one of the only truly sustainable products that there is," she added. "For every ton of paper that is recycled, there's about 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space that is saved. Plastic bottles are exponentially worse than paper."

Manchester said the program at Western has been incredibly helpful in getting her internships throughout her college years and ensuring she will get a job upon graduation.

"I had a whole book of business cards of CEOs of companies, and they just email me," she said.

WMU Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering student recruitment and outreach officer Kate Miller was also on hand during the talk.

"(The program at Western) really puts the students in the position where they're doing the interviewing," Miller said "It's the exact opposite of what I've seen in any other program."

According to Miller, the program has a 100 percent job placement rate with minimum starting salaries of \$67,000 a year.

"There are just many more job openings than there are paper engineers," she said.

Manchester said she has already accepted a job in Arizona that will pay very well.

"It's been really nice," she said. "I accepted my job right before Thanksgiving ... I've had months of 'I know what I'm doing.' I don't have to be graduating and saying, 'Am I going to be able to find a job?'"

To learn more about Western Michigan University's Paper Engineering program, visit <http://www.wmich.edu/pci>.

Wednesday, April 30, 2014. Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A7:

COLDWATER LIBRARY

Eichler to discuss his new book

By Christy Hart-Harris

Twitter: @ChristyTDR

COLDWATER — Retired professor of biological sciences and author Vic Eichler will be at the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library on May 15 at 6:30 p.m.

He will be discussing his book “Passenger Pigeons: Gone Forever,” copies of which will be available for purchase after the event at a cost of \$10.

Eichler studied birds for much of his life, in the field and laboratory. The book is his 10th publication and was written in “recognition of the centennial of the death of the last individual of the species.”

According to Eichler, “The Passenger Pigeon, which resembled the living Mourning Dove, was the most abundant bird in North America up until the mid-1800s; an estimated 5 billion individual birds populated the eastern states and Canadian provinces and the flocks of birds were measured not in miles, but in hundreds of miles wide, darkening the sky in some cases for several days.

“Because they were so numerous they were easy to shoot and trap, and greed



and ignorance on the part of humans reduced their numbers dramatically until the flocks were too small to facilitate breeding,” Eichler continued. “The once gigantic flocks of wild birds were eventually reduced to some individual birds in zoos and nature parks, and in 1910 a nationwide search with a \$3,000 prize was offered for the discovery of a single wild pigeon, but the reward was never earned. The last living individual of this species died alone in her cage in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914 — 100 years ago this year. Several of the last large flocks reported were here in Michigan.”

The presentation will focus on the loss of the species and lessons learned in from that event. Comments or questions from the audience will conclude the presentation.

Wednesday, May 7, 2014. Coldwater *Daily Reporter*, page A7:

POETRY WINNER



Denise Yennie awards Richard Christensen with the top prize for the Coldwater branch of the Branch District Library's adult poetry contest. Christensen's poem is titled "Cygnus Olor." COURTESY PHOTO