



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual 2025

The year 2025 kicked off with the experienced leadership of a veteran Board; three incumbents, Bob Axelrod, Mindy Rader, and Patricia Ranieri were re-elected in the trustee election held in December 2024.

Two longtime staff members retired in 2025. Adult Services Librarian II Nancy Moskowitz retired after 34 years of service. Nanor Pogolian was hired to fill her spot on December 1. Part-time Library Assistant I Stella Law retired after 32 years. Emily Lopez replaced her on October 27. Part-time Custodian I Larry Johnson joined us on January 24.

Three staffers celebrated significant milestones of service with the library: part-time Custodian I Travis Seward and Administrative Assistant Kelly Corrado both marked ten years. Head of Support Services Stephanie Roberts celebrated five years with the Library.

Circulation of physical materials enjoyed a 10.5% boost over 2024. Digital circulation grew by only 1.8%. Both of these statistics are surprising changes to the trends we've been witnessing over the last several years, so may very well be an aberration. Only time will tell.

Program attendance continues to climb at a solid rate: 7% over the year 2024. Visits to the library dropped a statistically insignificant 1.8%. It may be some time before we return to pre-COVID levels. While it is difficult to quantify without surveying or tracking patrons, it may very well be that visitors are spending longer periods of time in the new space; most days the library seems busy and well-populated.

Notable adult programs included Digital Drop-In Fridays for tech assistance, the annual bakeoff in February, Bob Ross-ish and Picasso-style painting instruction, the Arbor Day seedling giveaway, a jigsaw puzzle competition, beginner embroidery, Tai Chi Chih, open game play on Thursdays, and a resurgent interest in adult summer reading and the One Town, One Book program. Attendance at our indoor and outdoor concerts (twelve in all this year), remains strong.

Children's programming highlights were Never Stop Moving 365, monthly scavenger hunts, Shamrock Shenanigans, the Stuffie Animal Sleepover, Jawonio preschool visits, the annual Garden Tea Party, a strong showing for summer reading with a Color My World theme, 25 concerts, performances by Comic Rich Potter, Wallaby Tales, and Master Storyteller Jonathan Kruk, Owls of the World, Fall-o-ween, a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, and old standbys like Bendy Bookworm, Romper Room, and Family Storytime.

Teen programming featured embroidery classes, makerspace instruction, trivia contests, painting parties, blackout poetry sessions, college admissions workshops, an escape room, and creative food challenges. Ten book discussions for the annual, library system-wide Battle of the Books competition yielded a first-place championship for our New City Library Teens.

A few events this year put us in the news. A Jawonio art exhibit entitled, "Empowering Through Art" in May was featured on News12. Local History Librarian Joe Barbieri attended a press conference for the acquisition of the historic Storms Tavern by the Town of Clarkstown. He was also interviewed by CBS news about the discovery of a 100-year-old pharmaceutical bottle unearthed by road construction crews. Three successful blood drives were held this year.

Building and grounds work included completion of the drainage projects on the western and eastern side of the building. A staff patio was installed. An electrical engineering consultant was selected to begin the drawings for the switch panel and generator installations (a Division of Library Development construction aid project). A pollinator garden was created near the lower parking lot by children’s librarian Kathy Bachor with the assistance of volunteers.

Board Secretary James Ferguson was elected to the RCLS Board at their annual meeting in September for a five-year term.

Incumbents James Ferguson and Jeffrey Sasson were re-elected in December’s trustee election. Antonio Reda was welcomed aboard. We bid a fond farewell to Patricia Voce, who served two terms and was our Board President in 2025.

The annual budget vote in December passed with an 83% approval rate, the highest seen in over ten years. The Library Board and staff thank our patrons for their continued support and renew their pledge to provide superior library service in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
January 8, 2026

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