

Staff and Volunteers:

Adult Services librarian Nancy Moskowitz provided exceptional customer service to a homebound patron who had moved to New Jersey by directly contacting her new library to help continue services in her new locale. The Homebound Program works like a personal shopping experience: patrons fill out forms indicating their genre and author preferences, and Nancy keeps them well-supplied with reading material. **Library Assistant II Theresa Dolch** packs up the items for mailing and handles the returns. Postage for Homebound packages is subsidized by the Library Association of Rockland County (LARC).

Staff have been readily complying with mask-wearing and filling out a daily questionnaire to monitor their own health. Remote work continues for those whose job responsibilities can be executed in that fashion.

Collections:

New **releases of films have slowed down** significantly due to the pandemic. Adult Services Librarian Matthew Aull has been focusing on developing more “binge boxes” (sets of DVDs sharing a theme) and providing curated selections for the public. Matthew has also been busy creating signage for the stacks on the vinyl cutter.

Programs:

Patrons young and old are still taking advantage of the “**Surprise Bags**” service for kids. Surprise Bags comprise books, DVDs, videogames, and other library materials in a ready-to-go bag; application forms are on the website.

“**Take and Make**” bags are being offered to both children and adults. They contain the supplies needed to complete a simple craft and are a nice diversion or treat for anyone looking for a creative way to occupy some time.

Dinosaurs Rock, a virtual children’s program, was very informative and generated a lot of questions from attendees. **Zumbini** (dance/aerobic program for parents

and toddlers) got off to a slow start but finished with participants asking if we would do it again.

Art by African Americans from the Great Migration to Black Lives Matter was a two-part lecture that went over very well. Attendance increased from 30 to 36 at the second lecture, which doesn’t happen very often.

We teamed up with our neighbor Atria, an assisted-living facility, to present a lecture on **Dementia: What It Is and What It Is Not**. Twenty-four attendees provided positive feedback.

Building and Facilities:

Trane repaired a **leak in one of the rooftop units** above the Children’s Department. The leak was caused by condensation from the unit.

Custodians continue to maintain a **disinfection of all high-touch surfaces** throughout the building every three hours.

The **study tables** were returned to their regular positions; however, the chairs remain in storage as long as extended work/study by patrons is not allowed in the building.

The **patio has been busy** accommodating patrons who wish to take advantage of our wifi and a place to work. After Tropical Storm Isaias, many local residents lost power and came to the patio to charge their phones and use the internet. Power strips were set up to accommodate the crowd.

The final **architect interview**, with David Niemotko, took place early in the month on Zoom. The Building & Grounds committee met to review the four applicants and narrowed the selection to VMDO and Lothrop Associates. In-person interviews with the two firms were scheduled for early September.

Technology:

A lease for a **new color public copier** and retention of the existing B/W public copier has resulted in a \$2,013 savings per year.

All **internet and phone lines were out** for most of the day on June 17. A security update to our firewall performed by RCLS remotely was the reason. RCLS sent a

technician immediately to resolve the issue, and Optimum had to perform a reboot of the phone lines to complete the repair.

We continue to outfit a **small production studio** in the Storytime Room for our prodigious online content creation. A green screen, new video camera, and umbrella lighting are really upping our video game.

Miscellaneous:

Compliance with the **face covering requirement** has been challenging but most patrons comply in a non-confrontational manner when asked. The Director has been called a couple of times to deal with patrons who refuse to comply. There is an issue with mask slippage and nose exposure but staff offer gentle reminders.

The Library closed at 5pm on Tuesday, August 4, due to **Tropical Storm Isaias**. The Library remained closed on August 5 due to loss of cable and telephones. When the Library re-opened on the 6th, the internet was slow due to total reliance on our fiber connection.

The Director and Finance and Facilities Manager Shibu Abraham met with Sheldon Horowitz, our insurance agent from Safe Harbor Group, Ltd., to review the Library’s **insurance schedule**.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
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MG/kc