



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 2022

Staff and Volunteers:

Part-time Community Relations Assistant **Jerry Graham** has resigned to accept full-time employment elsewhere after having earned his MLS degree in May.

Librarian staff have been taking webinars that address the increasing occurrence of challenged titles nationwide.

Collections:

Our entire **Books-on-CD** and **CD music collections** are currently in storage. Not many patrons are asking for them. The availability of music online, the decline in release of entire music albums, and the increasing popularity of digital audiobooks seem to be indicating an approaching end of the line for these physical formats.

Hoopla, the downloadable pay-per-use digital collection of books, films, and audiobooks, had its best month ever at 947 circs. Digital audiobooks were the highest circulating format last month.

Overdrive, the ebook and audiobook collection, also experienced its best month with 1,488 checkouts.

Programs:

New City Cinemas closed their doors abruptly mid-month, forcing us to cancel our August showing and dashing our hopes to continue our successful **monthly afternoon film festival**. A sign proclaiming, "Main Street Cinemas," has been hung on its façade but we have no further details. In the interim, we are looking for other venues such as the Street School to show our films. This will involve extending our movie license for off-premise showings.

Teen Summer Reading participation was its lowest ever at thirteen. Part of the challenge may be the lack of mandatory summer reading required by the schools.

Adult Summer Reading had a strong showing with 45 participants. Jean C., one of our regular patrons, won the Kindle Fire raffle prize at the end.

Children’s Summer Reading attracted 147 participants, yet only half the children reported on books read.

The annual **Battle of the Books** competition saw New City Library take fourth place. We had a strong team of nine teens who each read nine books and answered trivia questions about them. The event was held at Orange Community College at the end of the month.

In-person adult programming attendance appears to be on a gentle rise, but it appears that Zoom programming will always draw a good crowd. A talk on American Pop Music of the 60s at the VMA in Congers left attendees wanting more. A virtual tour of the Jackson Pollack-Lee Krasner House in East Hampton was a hit.

Building and Facilities:

The Director and Facilities and Finance Manager met with Stephen Hoefer, Fiscal Officer of RCLS, and John Arciuolo, Project Manager with Consigli Construction, to define the portions of the project we’ll submit for the NYS DLD construction aid application.

Progress continues apace at the **construction** site. The concrete slab and footings for the addition have been poured, and metal framing for interior walls has been erected. Tours for staff will be conducted soon.

An **inspection of the electrical switchgear** must be performed to satisfy the town inspector. I will provide an update when received.

Technology:

We’ve had some **connectivity issues** lately, and Optimum came to replace our router. I’ve spoken to several other directors who have had the same issues, and we suspect it may be changes that Optimum is currently making to its network.

Miscellaneous:

A **new library card application** has been created to take advantage of the Preferred Name field in the ILS. The application also offers the opportunity for patrons to designate authorized family or friends to pick up their materials on reserve.

Baker & Taylor, our wholesale book distributor, experienced a ransomware attack that affected our deliveries of new books for nearly three weeks.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
September 9, 2022

MG/kc