

Staff:

- Adult Services Librarian II Karen Ostertag had several bookings in August with patrons needing her Digital Navigator assistance. Many were seniors who were grateful for the help and expressed their appreciation to her supervisor, Brian Jennings.

Patrons:

- Twenty-six teen volunteers donated a total of 217.5 hours to help us with administration of the children's summer reading program.

Collections:

- The transition to the new ILS, Koha, went as well as could be expected for a data migration of this size. Staff are keeping abreast of resulting changes to procedures and sharing tips and best practices for the new software. There was no significant change to the patron experience except for a few indexing issues that were resolved by RCLS and Bywater, the company that is paid to manage the open-source software.
- Digital circulation continues to climb and should be a serious consideration in preparing future budgets. Our historical lending model for physical materials takes advantage of the "first sale" doctrine of copyright. But digital works are essentially leased to us; there is no ownership. Individual titles are much more expensive than print; they expire and must be repurchased, if necessary, to meet demand.

Programs:

- Eight people attended the hands-on Ancestry.com introductory class led by Local History Librarian Joe Barbieri. The session was held in the makerspace to accommodate laptop use.
- New City Library teens won second place in the annual Battle of the Books challenge. BOTB is a college bowl-type program for teens entering 6th through the 12th grade. Participants in the RCLS program read eight preselected titles and then participate in trivia battles based on the books. Trustee Nick Longo's daughter was a part of this winning team!
- There were 15 participants in the Teen Summer Reading program this year. Eight teens attended the end-of-summer-reading escape room party.

- Regular performer Mr. Kurt conducted an outdoor concert at the Congers Train Station and was a big hit. Jester Jim, a self-described “Juggler Beatbox Comedian,” entertained a crowd in the Little Tor Meeting room.
- Music, bubbles from the Bubble Bus, lawn games and ice cream were enjoyed by the 172 attendees of the end-of-summer-reading-program party.

Building and Facilities:

- All of the sections of the parking lot that were not replaced in the renovation were repaired, seal coated, and newly striped. Two handicapped parking spaces were added; there are now eight in total. The Library closed on Friday-Saturday, August 2-3, to facilitate the work, as this was the migration period of the ILS, as well.
- The application to the NYS Library Construction Aid program was submitted on August 1. The project is replacement of the main electrical switchboard and the installation of a whole building generator.
- The chairs of the B&G and P&F committees met with Library attorney Brian Nugent to discuss the settlement offered by Consigli Construction to resolve the outstanding issues of sidewalk repair, contingency transfer, and subcontractor default payments. The final settlement was brought to the entire Board at its August 15 meeting.
- The Fire Inspector visited to confirm the contents of the Knox Box outside on the portico. Knox Boxes are small lockers outside the building that contain the keys to exterior and interior doors in the event of an emergency. Only the local fire department has access.
- The outstanding counter millwork was finally installed in the café. This has become an incredibly popular room so every bit of patron space is appreciated.

Technology:

- The damaged HDMI and audio port in Little Tor was repaired and a locking cover installed over it.
- A new color copier was leased for public usage. There are two copiers available to the patrons.

Miscellaneous:

- Nothing to report.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
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