



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 2023

Staff and Volunteers:

The annual staff meeting was held on Friday, February 24.

Head of Adult Services Brian Jennings and Librarian IIs Karen Ostertag and Matthew Aull continue their work with the Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley. We hope to put more librarian staff through this useful training.

Administrative Assistant Kelly Corrado returned to hearty welcomes after an extended leave.

Collections:

We have begun to ease off the leased titles method of collection development in favor of returning to our standard purchasing model. We opted for leasing due to the space crunch of the Express location.

Patrons using the original Overdrive app for e-content lending were notified that it would be sunsetted soon. Most patrons had already switched to using Libby which will remain the official app.

Programs:

Children's programming attendance remains steady at remote locations.

Adult programming continues apace. Concert turnout at the Congers Learning Center is at pre-COVID levels and Zoom presentations are doing well. A talk on comedian Robin Williams was particularly popular.

Building and Facilities:

One year has elapsed since the New City Library Express opened. It still seems to have been the most advantageous option for continuing to offer library services during construction. But the close quarters are making us all eager to return to our old digs!

A final contract was signed with Environmental Graphics and Design firm Iconograph in Charlottesville, Virginia. An RFP was sent out late in the month to five firms: two in Virginia and three in Rockland County.

Technology:

We have had minor hiccups since the transition to IT independence from RCLS. The time server information for the VOIP system had been reset to the default and resulted in some of the phones losing connection to the server. Phone service was not lost.

We are working with Verizon to get fiber to the 220 North Main location in advance of the move back in. Fiber will most likely become our primary internet access with cable as a backup.

Miscellaneous:

The NYS Annual Report was submitted to RCLS one day ahead of the deadline of February 28. Head of Community Relations Veronica Reynolds, Head of Children’s Services Janet Makoujy, and Facilities and Finance Manager Shibu Abraham attended the requisite workshops at RCLS to assist with submitting the data.

Trustee James Ferguson attended Advocacy Day with State Senator Bill Weber on February 24.

The Library closed at 7 p.m. on Monday evening, February 27, and reopened on February 28 at 1 p.m. due to significant snowfall.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
March 10, 2023