

Staff:

- On February 12, Veronica Reynolds, Brian Jennings, and the Director attended “Understanding Absentee Ballots,” the second in a series of RCLS-sponsored webinars on Civic Engagement and Education.
- Head of Adult Services Brian Jennings met with two Clarkstown North students and members of Clarkstown North’s 8-bit RAMs robotics team to plan a series of programs they’d like to have at the Library related to helping seniors with technology entitled, “Connected Generations.”

Patrons:

- Nothing to report.

Collections:

- Librarian and Library Assistant staff continue to research and explore using the Acquisitions module of the Koha ILS. We’re hoping that by adopting the module we can cut down some bottlenecks occurring at the receiving level of materials.
- Librarian Karen Ostertag created curated displays in February on Microhistories (single-subject niche histories) and Celebrating Black Joy (fiction and non-fiction about Black culture, success, and personalities).

Programs:

- Local History Librarian Joe Barbieri hosted local historian Bill Batson for a presentation on the Mount Moor African-American Cemetery, highlighting its history, the efforts to save it during the construction of the Palisades Mall, and a look at some of the veterans buried there.
- The Children’s Department had a lovely patron-created display of “Love Your Library” that drew many compliments from visitors.
- The Dr. Seuss Magical Birthday Party was a success. Family Bingo drew a happy crowd.
- The annual baking competition was themed “Very Vanilla.” Nine competitors vied for first place which was ultimately won by last year’s second place winner. Second and third place were won by siblings of the appropriately-named Baker family.

Building and Facilities:

- Trane performed quarterly maintenance on the RTUs. They also did a flush of the coils on RTU-1 to remove any sedimentary debris within.
- A leak was discovered within a boiler that resulted in pressure drops that negatively impacted the heat output.
- The quarterly fire alarm inspection was conducted.
- The annual inspection of fire extinguishers was performed on February 12.
- We received many compliments on the seasonal room decorations in the Children’s Room.

Technology:

- USIS came to investigate why the projector in Little Tor had stopped working. They suspected overheating and cleaned the filter (which was not very dirty); recommendation was to keep an eye on it and be sure to turn off when not in use.

Miscellaneous:

- The development of the new website continues apace with regularly-scheduled meetings of the team with Library Market.
- The Library was closed on Monday, February 16, for Presidents’ Day.
- The Library was closed on Sunday, February 22, and Monday, February 23, due to over a foot of snowfall.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
March 18, 2026

MG/kc