

Staff:

- Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (SENYLRC) gave the Library a \$1,500 grant for the work of Librarians Karen Ostertag, Matthew Aull, and Head of Adult Services Brian Jennings as Digital Navigators.
- Local History Librarian Joe Barbieri interviewed Congers resident Annette Raetz for our ongoing oral history collection.
- Brian Jennings met with Tomkins Cove Library staff to discuss their upcoming oral history project.
- Fifteen teen volunteers contributed 60 hours of service in July. Teen Librarian Mary Phillips employs them to assist with various teen programs.
- Teen volunteers also assisted with the Summer Reading Program for children's by helping young patrons record their hours and distribute prizes.

Patrons:

- Patrons were invited to participate in the second RCLS Road Trip program. Registrants received a passport to be stamped at every one of the 46 libraries visited within the two-month time frame. Prizes, too.

Collections:

- Nothing to report.

Programs:

- The recurring Tai Chi Chih class remains a strong draw.
- The VFS Jazz concert had to be held inside due to extreme heat.
- The Family Nature Walk had to be canceled due to thunderstorms.

Building and Facilities:

- Precision Roofing addressed the minor, occasional leak in the lobby.
- The Library was closed on Friday, July 4.
- The NYS Division of Library Development Construction Aid application was submitted by the July 31 deadline. This year's project is replacement of all the windows and the leaking skylight over the stairwell to the staff area.

- On July 29, electrical engineer Mike Lillis of OLA visited to meet with consulting architect Donald MacDonald, the Director, and Shibu Abraham to discuss the initial drawings for the switchgear replacement and generator installation project.

Technology:

- ByWater Solutions, the company that maintains our open-source ILS, has had to make a few adjustments to combat the problem of bots causing slowdowns of the catalog and SIP failures that began a few months ago. This caused problems for staff helping patrons at the front desk and made access to our databases and in-house verification systems inaccessible. Improvement has been apparent but we’re not 100% in the clear yet.
- The fiber connection for the building was lost at 6:10pm on Monday, July 14. After consulting the Optimum outage map and allowing a children’s program to finish, the Library was closed at 7:30pm. Service was restored by the next morning. There was a significant rain event that day that may have been the cause.

Miscellaneous:

- Patron comments received:
 - “Very close to home and a large selection. Newly renovated. Admittedly I usually rent audiobooks via the Libby app but every time I stop in I like to find a cozy spot to read.” – Yelp review
 - “Miss Debbie and Mrs. B. were so helpful when I was looking for books for my preschool campers.” – shared on comment form
 - “Children’s section is excellent; always with activities and staff to help our children.” – Jasmine, on comment form

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
August 20, 2025

MG/kc