



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 2022

Staff and Volunteers:

Staff are settling into a rotating schedule at New City Library Express. Work from home is logged electronically—typical tasks include taking continuing education webinars, collection development, and program planning.

Karen Ostertag, Adult Services Librarian II, is participating in the Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley program. The Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley program will train up to 100 participants from libraries and community-based organizations to become trusted guides who assist community members in accessing and using technology. The training will provide the resources necessary for participants to perform new services that include: assistance with affordable internet access, device acquisition, technical skills, and application support. The training program runs from January through June. The Library will receive a \$900 grant for participation.

Multiple staff and Board members joined the online annual advocacy events with our representatives Assemblyman Zebrowski and Senator Reichlin-Melnick. The Director spoke about the Library's renovation project and the need for continuing support of construction aid programs.

Collections:

Librarian staff are developing collections that will maximize the limited shelf space at New City Library Express. Many titles (mostly Adult) will be leased instead of purchased. This will enable rotation of fresh material, as well as cut down the need for space for materials as they age out of popularity.

Patrons may request materials from other libraries in the Ramapo Catskill Library System, as most of our older titles are in warehouse storage.

Programs:

Our longstanding non-fiction book club, Facts, held a successful hybrid (in-person and Zoom) meeting in March. Members were quite pleased with the physical space provided at the Street School Community Center.

Attendance is picking up at Children’s programming as awareness of our new locations grows. We collaborated with the Clarkstown Family Resource Center for our recurring Imagination Station program held at the Clarkstown Community Center in Congers (the old Congers elementary school).

Amy Chesman, Children’s Librarian II, resumed her class for developmentally-challenged adults, this time at Jawonio’s facility. COVID closures had suspended the in-person meetings at the Library.

During a Zoom presentation on Gregory Peck films, the attendees were treated to a surprise appearance by Peck’s daughter, Cynthia Peck, who had connected with the presenter via Twitter.

Our first monthly movie showing at the next-door New City Cinemas drew more than 30 attendees. Patrons can enjoy a current release and purchase refreshments, if desired.

Building and Facilities:

The toilets at New City Library Express continue to give trouble. The landlord scheduled appointments with two different plumbers to determine the cause using cameras.

Cleanout of 220 North Main Street continues. Two 20-yard dumpsters were used to dispose of 40 years of accumulated and very much outdated Library equipment and furniture. Rockland County libraries were gifted some furniture, while much was retained for the renovated space. A tag sale was planned for Saturday, April 2, for what remains.

Consigli Construction presented their Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to the Board for approval before moving forward.

The Project Loan Negotiating Committee met with a representative of PCSB Bank to discuss the terms of the construction loan.

The Clarkstown Town Board waived the building permit fees for the renovation project at their March 8 meeting.

The Clarkstown Planning Board gave their final approval of the project at their meeting on March 9.

A representative from Cushman Wakefield visited on March 22 to perform an appraisal of the building for PCSB Bank.

On March 23, ABC Studios leased 220 North Main Street for the day for catering to the crew of a Hulu series that is being filmed in the area. The Library was paid \$6,000.

Clancy Moving made a final pickup of the remaining tech inventory and recently returned books on March 25. All Library collections and computer equipment are being warehoused at Clancy’s New Milford, Connecticut, location.

Tristate Engineering, PCSB Bank’s engineers, visited on March 25 for a tour of the building, accompanied by a PCSB representative. The Director answered all questions about the project.

The Director met with John Arciuolo, the new project manager who succeeds Chad Danforth at Consigli, at the Library. A representative of the demolition company and Bob Seckler (the superintendent who will be at the jobsite weekly) joined us. Chad is relocating and expressed his confidence in the Consigli Team to continue their excellent work.

The Project Kick-Off meeting was held online on March 30. Representatives from Consigli, EnviroSpace (our local architect), VMDO, and Donald Mac Donald attended.

Technology:

No issues to report.

Miscellaneous:

Nothing to report.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
April 12, 2022

MG/kc