

Staff:

- Joe Barbieri handled a local history query from the Birkenes Bygdemuseum in Birkenes, Norway. We were able to furnish them with information on Theodore Omley, a New City developer in the 1920s and '30s, as well as news articles about Norwegians in the construction trade in Clarkstown.

Patrons:

- Sixty-five kindergartners and first-graders from Little Tor Elementary School toured the Library on Friday, March 21. Friday mornings are ideal times for our school visits.

Collections:

- Some nonfiction collections on the lower level are being moved to accommodate a rearrangement of study carrels.

Programs:

- Attendance at digital “drop-in” sessions on Fridays in the Makerspace has continued to increase after an article about the service appeared in our quarterly newsletter. One grateful patron made a \$25 donation to the Library after attending a session.
- Investigating Mysteries, run by Librarian II Nancy Moskowitz, is enjoying a resurgence in attendance and will need to book a larger room to accommodate.
- Shamrock Shenanigans celebrated the wearing o’ the green with crafts, games, and snacks for kids.
- Paws for Reading played to a full house; several walk-ins had to be turned away as there weren’t enough dog teams to handle the amount of children who had not pre-registered.
- Two hundred forty-one children participated in this month’s Scavenger Hunt: Find the Leprechauns!
- The theme for the Thursday film series was March Musicals, which gave some toe-tapping joy to all in attendance. Mitchell’s Mellow Madness performed to a delighted crowd. A lecture on Little Italy generated a lot of nostalgia.

Building and Facilities:

- A new patio for staff has been installed on the west side of the building. One of the green picnic table sets from the Makerspace Terrace will be employed there.
- Custodians replaced the damaged carpet in the lower level adjacent to the mechanical room where there used to be a water issue.
- Panic buttons were installed at the two service desks.
- Four proposals from electrical engineering firms to design the new switch panel and generator were received. Donald MacDonald, our consultant for the project, reviewed them with the Director for presentation to the Building and Grounds Committee.

Technology:

- The Library received a Translate Live tablet through an RCLS Assistive Technology Mini Grant that will be used at the main service desk. The device facilitates natural real-time conversations on demand for any combination of two or more people, remote or in-person, speaking over 200 languages and dialects. The grant includes a 3-year free subscription. Staff are impressed with its operation and have already had occasion to use it.
- A power outage at 8:31am on Friday, March 21 was caused by high winds. O&R restored power by 10am. A printer in the children’s department was damaged as a result.

Miscellaneous:

- Patron email: *Just wanted to take a moment to share some thoughts with you on the children’s department. I’ve been taking my kids to all of the wonderful programs for the past two and a half years since we moved to New City (starting with the classes before the building was open yet). We have enjoyed them so much, and they truly have become part of our special memories since moving here. Imagination station was such an integral part of my daughter’s weekly routine and she would look forward to the theme, the stories, the beautifully planned crafts and activities, and seeing all her friends. We miss it now that she’s in full time pre-k but try to still make it when school is out. We have also enjoyed the other activities such as Mr. Kurt, Bendy Bookworm Yoga, and the occasional seasonal events. Also love the summer Storytimes by the park or the pool. My 8 year old son has really been loving all of the newer STEM related classes (as well as Lego club, and chess!) I think those were a great addition for the older group of kids. All of the librarians are lovely as well and we enjoy saying hi and catching up with them whenever we have our library visits. Before moving to Clarkstown we were never really involved with the library as much but it now has become a staple in our routines that we look forward to.*

- Patron email: *I just want to say thank you for providing such wonderful programs for the children in our area. My granddaughters and I have enjoyed so many of the wonderful things offered at the library.*
- Five-star review on Google: *The librarians are so knowledgeable and helpful. Whether I’m in the children’s section for my grandkids or the adult section for myself I never have a problem if I need assistance. I love my library!*

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
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