



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2020

Staff and Volunteers:

Head of Adult Services, Brian Jennings, and Local History Librarian, Joe Barbieri, worked with Clarkstown Supervisor George Hoehmann to compile local news articles, census records, military records, and other information that will be of use to him as he prepares his annual Memorial Day address.

The Library enjoyed front-page coverage in the May 6 edition of Our Town thanks to Adult Services Librarian Matthew Aull 's work 3D-printing face shield parts and "earsavers" for masks.

On May 26, Joe Barbieri's video about the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic for the Library's YouTube channel was featured in the Journal News online. The video has been viewed an impressive 1,393 times as of this writing.

Collections:

It was another record-breaking month for our e-content circulation: 3,888 checkouts of e-books and 1,084 checkouts of audiobooks.

Children's titles have begun to be added to our Overdrive e-book collection. Head of Children's Janet Makoujy reported that patrons have emailed her with their appreciation.

Programs:

Joe Barbieri's virtual program "History of the Jersey Shore" was well-received and provided a nostalgic break from today's headlines for many of the attendees. Joe's tutorial on Ancestry.com was popular, as well. The pandemic lockdown certainly spawned more than a few budding genealogists.

Twelve patrons attended a virtual meeting of our popular "He Said, She Said" memoir and biography book club run by Librarian Substitute Jodi Hink.

Head of Community Relations Veronica Reynolds hosted eight live online events this month. There was a live cooking demonstration, an art lecture on modern

sculpture, and a solo guitar performance. The most popular program was the Chair Yoga series, a perennial favorite hosted by Rochelle Spooner. An average of 30 people attended these sessions.

Pre-recorded programs that children’s librarians have created for our YouTube channel appear to be more popular than live programs scheduled through Zoom. This may be due to the demands of homeschooling that many families are currently enduring. Perhaps in the summer, more live programs will be attempted.

Building and Facilities:

A change order was made to the Monsey Glass order to install “**sneeze-guards.**” NYSED issued a statement that Plexiglas is a flammable material; Lexan, a polycarbonate, was recommended instead. This change was only a small percentage increase in the cost. The building will not be open to the public until this installation at the three public service desks is complete.

Anecdotal evidence abounds with various ways local residents have been using the Library grounds during closure: wifi being used by patrons in cars, as well as on the lawn; bicycle-riding families; tennis playing in the parking lot; picnic lunches on the patio; and klatsches of old friends in socially distant circular arrangements.

Technology:

A new 10TB server was ordered to replace the current five-year-old unit. Local History digitization has increased the need for storage that the present server cannot handle. It was deemed more prudent to buy a new server instead of trying to add external storage space. Installation will not take place until later this year.

Five more Chromebook laptops and 7 more wifi hotspots were purchased to accommodate an anticipated demand once lending resumes.

Miscellaneous:

On May 26, the Mid-Hudson Region of the New York State Forward Plan to re-open was allowed to open its Phase I industries. The Library will have staff report to the building when Phase II begins. That date is anticipated as June 9.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
June 12, 2020

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