



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2021

Staff and Volunteers:

Brian Jennings met with Clarkstown Supervisor George Hoehmann's staff to discuss upcoming projects related to the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and the 40th anniversary of the Brinks Robbery.

Several staff members attended a training on enforcing mask requirements. We are fortunate in that most patrons are compliant with Library policy, but it never hurts to be prepared to handle the occasional resistance.

Facilities and Finance Manager Shibu Abraham and the Director met with former NY State Senator David Carlucci to discuss available grants.

Collections:

Two hundred thirty-eight Playaways were weeded from the collection. Playaways are MP3 audiobook players pre-loaded with one title. Patrons supply earbuds. The discarded units will be donated to correctional facilities through RCLS.

Librarian staff have been tasked with reducing the collection size with a target goal of 20% in anticipation of moving to a temporary location during the renovation. A thorough inventory will be performed starting in June to clean up the database and get a truer picture of collection size and usage. The process will take several weeks of in-stack scanning.

The Hoopla database of downloadable and streaming content enjoyed a banner month with 1,111 circulations.

The Music CD collection for children's will no longer be developed as dropping circulation attests to its waning popularity.

Programs:

Local History Librarian Joe Barbieri hosted an online outreach program for the sisterhood at Temple Beth Sholom in New City. Joe reviewed all of the genealogical resources available at the Library including books, periodicals, and Ancestry.com

Library Edition. Basic tips on starting a genealogy project and free web resources were also presented.

Tween crafts programs are moving from online to outdoors in the Children’s Garden. Children’s Book Groups are beginning to gain traction now.

Romper Room is back! This high-energy program (singing! dancing!) for babies to young children requires a tag team of librarians to deliver an unforgettable experience that the patrons clamor for. It will be held outside through June followed by a brief summer hiatus. A decision will be made about returning indoors in the fall.

Art history continues to draw crowds: 86 patrons attended a lecture on Picasso in Paris. Talks on Venice and Tiffany Lamps were also well attended. The popularity of our online, adult programming in the evening is not only testament to the talent of our Head of Community Relations, Veronica Reynolds, but it also reinforces our belief that online programming may be a substantial part of our services in the future.

Building and Facilities:

The cracked clerestory window above the shared Adult Services Librarian office on the main floor was replaced.

A new U.S. flag was purchased for the outdoor pole.

The Building and Grounds Committee met with Jim Kovach of VMDO and Chad Danforth of Consigli Construction to review the results of a Value Engineering analysis of the renovation project budget.

On May 13, representatives from engineering firm OLA conducted an existing conditions survey.

On May 17, dl FlowTech performed a pre-demo commission of the HVAC system.

A pre-demo hazmat survey was performed by Quality Environmental Solutions & Technologies (QuES&T) on Friday, May 21. Precision Roofing patched the roofing cuts in order to maintain the roof warranty.

Technology:

Nothing to report.

Miscellaneous:

On June 1, the Library returned to a 9 p.m. close on Mondays-Thursdays. Fines for new materials and technology were reintroduced. Fees for printing returned. Seating at tables was replaced with the intent of allowing only two persons per table. The maximum amount of time on the public internet was increased from 30 minutes to two hours.

On May 19, New York State adopted the CDC guidance that only unvaccinated individuals were required to wear masks and maintain social distance. The NYS Department of Health recommended that businesses continue to mandate mask-wearing in cases where the vaccination status of individuals is unknown. The Library follows the Department of Health recommendation but continues to monitor developments in an effort to find the most practical method of providing safe customer service and a comfortable staff environment. Staff is experiencing minor pushback during enforcement of the mask requirement, but most patrons are compliant.

The Library was closed on Monday, May 31, in honor of Memorial Day.

Some noteworthy patron comments:

“Nice people and beautiful library!” – Five-star review on Google mid-May

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
June 8, 2021

MG/kc