



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2021

Staff and Volunteers:

An all-staff meeting was held on September 10 to review the *Airborne Pandemic Response Plan* mandated by the NYS HERO Act, as well as to update staff on the progress of the renovation plans.

Collections:

The Library has signed a one-year contract with our book distributor, Baker & Taylor, to obtain *leased titles* instead of purchasing. The temporary location will be providing a small browsing collection, and space may be a premium as time goes on. The leasing service allows us to return the books to B&T after demand drops off or we run out of shelf space. We also looked at Brodart for the same service, which offered a comparable cost, but decided to stick with B&T as the librarians won't need to be trained on a new ordering interface.

Collection analysis is being performed on the Books-on-CD and music CD collections. Anticipated demand after at least 18 months in storage may be too low to justify the cost of storage.

Weeding of the collection continues ahead of the move to a temporary location.

Programs:

The first *in-person Teen program* since the start of the pandemic, a game night on a Friday, was canceled due to lack of interest. There was only one signup. Thirteen were in attendance, however, for the in-person *College Admissions* program.

A hybrid (in-person and online) *Genealogy Society of Rockland County program* had more online attendees than in-person. Hybrid program offerings are a workable solution to the different comfort levels of patrons during pandemic conditions.

Our oldest book group, *Facts*, is also experimenting with a hybrid solution. Started in April 2010, this is a nonfiction book group led by our previous Community

Relations head, Sally Pellegrini. Six of the original eight members still belong. One still participates from his home in Kentucky!

The Adult Services librarian staff host a ***What’s New and What We’re Reading/Watching*** regularly online on Friday afternoons. Head of Adult Services Brian Jennings pairs up with a librarian on staff to stream a casual discussion of personal selections and titles worth checking out.

Children’s outdoor events have been extremely popular with young families seeking safe activities. ***Mr. Kurt Concerts, Romper Room, and Outdoor Storytime*** are drawing good attendance and are a delightful sight for these sore eyes during this protracted pandemic.

Take and Make Craft Kits and passive indoor programs like ***Find the Pigeon from the Mo Willems Books*** are still in high demand.

Big Band Sound and ***VFS Jazz*** drew large and happy crowds as they returned to perform outdoors as they have for many years.

A lecture on ***The Bronx*** brought fond memories back to its many attendees.

Building and Facilities:

We are inching closer to ***signing a lease*** for the retail property in New City as a temporary location during construction.

The focus of the director’s work with architects VMDO is now on ***interior design and shelving arrangement***. Consulting architect Donald Mac Donald has proved invaluable in assisting with his expertise.

We had our first appearance before the ***Technical Advisory Board (TAC)*** of the Clarkstown Planning Board on September 1. The meeting went smoothly and there were just a few minor requests and recommendations to alter our building plans.

On September 2, the ***Meeting Room experienced flooding*** due to excessive rainfall. The water came in through the bottom of the emergency egress door leading out to the garden. The drain was overwhelmed and the water level rose to a level that forced water into the room.

The Director and Facilities Manager have met with two separate **electric vehicle (EV) charging station** installers to learn more about installing charging stations in the Library parking lot. The NYSERDA program offering up to a 90% rebate, however, has run out of funds, and finding an ideal location for stations is proving a challenge with an upcoming reconfiguration of the parking lot. We’ll keep an eye out for other opportunities.

Technology:

All three **children’s Internet** terminals have been removed from the Children’s Room due to low demand and aging PCs. In the renovated building, there will be no Internet table with tethered stations; patrons may check out Chromebooks for use.

Bob Panzera of RPC Networks has been hired as a consultant to coordinate with RCLS and other IT vendors to design the new **server room setup**. Bob has been maintaining our computers for years and has an intimate knowledge of our current and future network needs.

Miscellaneous:

The fieldwork for the **annual audit** of fiscal year 2020-21 was completed on September 24.

Some noteworthy patron comments:

“I offer compliments on your programming for the New City Library. Since the pandemic began, I’ve looked for and have attended online programs. You have presented several that I’ve been at, and now I carefully look at the weekly email announcing coming events. Thanks much for offering a diverse group of events.” – email to the Director about Adult Programming

“I wanted to take the time to let you know how appreciated the children’s programs at the New City Library are. I have 3 children (ages 5,4, and 1) and for the past 5 years I have found these programs so incredibly beneficial for my girls. You can truly see how much time, effort, and creativity goes into making each class so special, educational, and fun for not only my children but us parents too. The librarians all know my girls by name and it feels like a home walking through the children’s room doors. These librarians go above and beyond and as a stay at home mom who is on a budget I am SO

appreciative of these activities. I simply just wanted to say thank you and acknowledge how wonderful every single staff member in the children's department is.” – email to Library Board from Colleen K.

“I have 3 kids, ages 3-7. I just wanted to let you know how truly incredible the children's programs are at the New City Library. When everything shut down in Spring of 2020, the wonderful librarians felt like our only contact to the real world. Every step they have taken has had a tremendous impact on the feeling of "normalcy" for my kids. Most recently, the outdoor programs feel just like "pre-covid" while also feeling like I am not putting my kids' health at risk. My family and I are extremely grateful for the effort and thoughtfulness of these librarians as they recreate to accommodate our current reality. We have always loved the New City Library, but in one of the most challenging times in our lives, it has truly been a comfort. I urge you to continue to support the ideas and programs these wonderful librarians work hard to create. Thank you.” – email to Library Board from Terri N., Congers

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
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MG/kc