



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2025

### Staff:

- Eight staff members attended the American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR/AED training on September 19.
- Adult Services Librarian II Nancy Moskowitz submitted her letter of resignation after 34 years of service. Her last day will be Friday, November 28.
- Part-time Library Assistant I Stella Law retired after 32 years of service.
- Children's Services Librarian II Kathy Bachor attended AnimeNYC at the Javits Center.
- Several staff members, including the Director, attended focus groups for RCLS's next Plan of Service.
- Library Assistant, Chris Ely, attended a book care and repair workshop at Nyack Library sponsored by DEMCO. DEMCO is a supplier of all things library.
- Head of Community Relations Veronica Reynolds, Children's Librarians Deb Fascaldi and Cathy Bodan, and Library Assistant Theresa Dolch worked the Library's booth at the Congers Street Fair on September 28.

### Patrons:

- A patron requested that we purchase the book, Pulse: A Memoir on Life, Near Death, and a New Life, which was listed on Amazon for \$270. Librarian Karen Ostertag reached out to the author, Mickey Coleman, via social media, and the Pearl River resident responded that he'd drop a free copy off for us. The book is a memoir of this Irish footballer's near-death experience from a "widowmaker" heart attack.
- Head of Community Relations, Veronica Reynolds, attended the Senior Fair at RCC representing the Library Association of Rockland County (LARC). She met a lot of happy New City patrons there.

### Collections:

- Nothing to report.

**Programs:**

- A new children’s program called Big Kids’ Storytime did not draw much attendance. Geared for children ages 3-5 without parent/guardian (although grownups remain in the adjacent room), it offers stories and activities promoting listening and social etiquette skills, as well as easing separation anxiety. There are two more sessions scheduled so we’ll be monitoring interest.
- Romper Room, Family Storytime, and Bendy Bookworm continue to shine as popular children’s programs.
- The One Town, One Book program this year features Daphne Du Maurier’s Rebecca. Copies are distributed at the Front Desk, and the book is explored in discussions, film viewings of the original Hitchcock and the modern remake, and a lecture on the author by Veronica Reynolds.
- Our annual outdoor Big Band concert enjoyed excellent weather and attendance.

**Building and Facilities:**

- The custodians power washed the patio.
- Electrical engineering consultants OLA continued to work with Orange & Rockland to determine gas-supply needs for the new generator.
- The Library was closed on Monday, September 1, for Labor Day.
- An air eliminator for the heating system was replaced. The plumber also refurbished one of the motors for the pumps for a boiler.

**Technology:**

- Nothing to report.

**Miscellaneous:**

- The RCLS Annual Meeting and Legislative Breakfast in Middletown was attended by Treasurer Bob Axelrod, Secretary James Ferguson, Business Manager Shibu Abraham, and the director. James Ferguson was elected to a five-year term on the RCLS Board of Trustees starting in January 2026.
- Patron comments received:
  - *“I’ve been paying library taxes for YEARS, and I feel like I just got my money’s worth!”* – patron comment to Librarian II and Digital Navigator Karen Ostertag after she helped him with PC problems
  - *“Excellent, thorough research. Thank you SO much!”* – patron email to Veronica Reynolds after her lecture on Daphne Du Maurier.

- *“Earlier today a young man came up to the front desk to let us know he was moving to Chicago tomorrow, but he had been coming to the Library for the past two years and he wanted to express his gratitude to the Library and its staff for our space and services before he left.”* – report from Head of Adult Services Brian Jennings

Respectfully submitted,  
Marianne Gallagher, Director  
NEW CITY LIBRARY  
October 9, 2025

MG/kc