

Director's Report

I have spent the last few weeks doing my best to tie up what loose ends I could before leaving. The APG Infrastructure grant and the construction projects are too big and variable to tie down, but I hope to communicate as much as possible about them to the buildings and grounds committee.

The board will need to vote on whether to apply for the state construction grant this year. I am putting together an application centered around construction and carpeting for the Kids Corner, but because we have not yet gotten carpet quotes I will have to finalize everything last minute.

Karin Litt began handling our bookkeeping and accounting in August. She did also sit alongside Kathleen the preceding week to get accustomed to our workflow. Kathleen will remain contactable if we need her help during the transition, and she will wait until the new director is in place before returning her keys.

Because of my impending departure, the personnel committee has placed on hold the idea of hiring an HR firm until the new director has been given the opportunity to provide input. Once a new director is in place, he or she can arrange to have a meeting with the leading firms and the personnel committee.

On the subject of HR, please don't forget that you are all invited to the staff meeting on 8/19 at 9 AM to hear HR on the Move's presentation and to rub elbows with the staff.

Earlier in the year we talked about how our Kanopy costs are higher than we initially projected, but we didn't discuss our other streaming platform, hoopla. As it turns out, patrons have been using hoopla primarily for audiobooks and eBooks and only secondarily for movies and TV shows. The good news is that hoopla has been very popular. The bad news is that hoopla has been very popular and our bills are on pace to be more than double what we budgeted for the year.

Trinity asked to be added to the buildings and grounds and the finance committee. In order to preserve this institutional knowledge, I am sending around my most up-to-date version of the trustee committee chart. If there are any other changes, please let me know before I go.

Every year, every employee and trustee must complete sexual harassment prevention per New York State. If you have not yet submitted your 2022 certificate and response form, you have until the fall. However, it would be a kind thing if you were to have this taken care of before the new director arrives, so that he or she doesn't have to start off the relationship by nagging you to submit your documentation. All the relevant information can be found at <https://www.pawlingfreelibrary.org/sexual-harassment-prevention/>

Programming

Donald Partelow, Adult Program Coordinator

Highlights of the Month: Latinos United in Pawling and Line Dancing

Due to the popularity of Latinos United in Pawling we had to make arrangements to schedule this presentation at a larger facility. The program originally scheduled for July 26 will now take place at Pawling Recreation on August 30, from 7-8 pm.

At this introductory program, participants will learn about the non-profit organization Camino al Éxito Project for All. The mission of this organization is to create numerous programs that will serve the Latino community, ranging from ESOL classes, GED programs, citizenship application assistance, college readiness guidance, after-school tutoring, and much more.

During this interactive presentation, participants will have the opportunity to express what programs, classes and workshops best address their needs and interests.

This will be the first community workshop in Spanish that the Pawling Library will hold with our partner Pawling Recreation.

On July 14th the Pawling Library was notified by the Mid-Hudson Library System that our library was selected to receive an Outreach Mini-Grant. This grant will provide funding for our Line Dancing program that we are partnering with Pawling Recreation. The program which started off as a once a month program, that would have come to a close in August, will now continue to the end of November as a weekly program. In September dance classes will occur twice a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Maureen Meltzer-McGrath, Young Adult Program Coordinator

The highlight of July was that all of the weekly programs for teens have had consistent attendance and the kids have really enjoyed themselves. The Gaming Unplugged program has been a lot of fun and we all learned to play some new games and revisited some old (Dora the Explorer Candy Land turned into a silly songs dance party!). We've explored building A.I. Vision Kits, paper circuits, and squishy circuits for Tech Tuesdays and have made paper lantern jellyfish, recycled water bottle sea creatures, and coral reef sculptures during our Crafternoons. The Freestyle Fridays have been a hit with a full house for the Paint & Ice Cream event. The girls team beat the boys team at the Ocean of Possibilities Trivia Game.

Our Garden volunteers have been taking great care of our vegetables and herbs and we've had a nice harvest of green beans and lettuce. Our program volunteers have been a great help to the children's programmers. Some exciting news: Senator Peter Harckham's office invited us to apply to become a Volunteer Certifying Organization as part of their Project Certify. Once certified, the Library can track our volunteers' hours on an annual basis and when a volunteer reaches the hourly goal (based on age) for one of three levels (bronze, silver, and gold), they will receive a letter of recognition from the President and we have the option of additional ways of recognizing them. The organizations behind this program are AmeriCorps and Points of Light and it is not affiliated with any particular president or administration. It is something that teens

can put on their resumes and applications for college. The Library in turn will have an enhanced status as a volunteer organization. We can also certify a volunteer's hours from outside organizations as long as appropriate documentation is available.

Lastly, we have begun the weekly visits of two ESOL classes: one middle school (pictured below) and one upper elementary. These will continue through mid-August. The classes have been getting library cards, checking out books, and participating in a STEM activity during their visits.



Neena McBaer, Children's Program Coordinator

Programming Overview: There were 3 weeks of programs in July, starting our summer session. We continue to create and hand out take-home kits. In addition, in-person programs have resumed in full swing, with summer volunteers and Carla, our Children's Program Specialist returning to help us serve even more youth! Enrollment and attendance numbers have increased for most programs.

Outreach: I visited Wish Upon a Star for a story time program with their toddler and preschool programs on 7/11, which included 6 children and 2 teachers. Then on 7/25, I took our new indi Robot technology to Pawling Recreation Summer Camp to use with their students. The kids were really excited about the robots and did a great job coming up with creative ways to use it.

Grant programs: We are continuing to use funding from the APG grant to host programs. Our outdoor programs for ages 2-5 continue to use our outdoor STEAM equipment and we've also started our robotics class with the APG grant funded indi Robots. In our literacy heroes series, we had a visit from Mermaid Artemis from the Long Island Aquarium, who read and sang with our friends. These classes have all gone over extremely well! As for the OCFS grant, we have also begun using this funding in our summer programs. We are currently hosting two OCFS grant program series—Make me an Author and Slow E-motions. It's been a lot to manage the reporting we need to do for these grants, so I am very grateful to Carla for taking over all our kit programs so I can make that happen!

Summer Reading Program: Participation in this summer's Summer Reading Challenge has exploded! We have over 90 participants of all ages who have been reading at record pace. We also have a record number of program finishers from each age division. Also, for the first time, the adults have kept the lead in the Summer Reading Program. They may win the challenge this year! We are looking forward to celebrating all of our readers at our end of summer ice cream social on 8/27.



Tom Clemmons, Circulation Manager / Homebound Delivery Services Coordinator

There are currently 8 active Homebound Services patrons. In July, I selected materials (books, magazines, or audio books) according to reading preferences and made 6 Homebound Service delivery/pickups – 4 trips to Deerfield Ponds, 1 trip to the Hamlet, and 1 trip to The Grand, including one donation from the PFL book sorters of 1 bag of magazines and large-print books for The Grand's Book Cart.

Buildings and Grounds

On July 7th, Tri-County Plumbing came to restore the A/C in the annex. The only problem they found was a tripped circuit breaker.

On July 15th, they came back to replace the leaky hot water heater.

The architect's plans for the Kids Corner called for broadloom carpet with underlayment. However, the carpet sample Allison Grace Design selected comes in tiles and gets applied directly to the plywood without underlayment. Since tiles are also less expensive and easier to replace, the quotes we obtained and submitted as part of the state construction grant are for carpet tiles instead of broadloom with underlayment.

Best Pest has come out multiple times to spray for hornets.

Personnel

The library director position was posted on July 15th.

Programming and Circ Stats

The per capita door count chart uses pre-pandemic numbers for us and other libraries. The comparison data comes from libraries in Illinois, not New York.



