Director’s Report
Meeting of April 25, 2022

Policy
The Policy Committee met on 4/14/22 to continue to review the Bylaws.

Personnel
PT Library Display Designer interviews are under way.
Young Adult Librarian/Library Assistant interviews are underway.

We have a new FT Technology and Community Outreach Librarian. His start date will be 5/2/22. Michael Grella is currently the Collections and Digital Services Librarian at the Nyack Library. He has extensive experience training staff and patrons on new technologies and in house troubleshooting. He’s done a variety of programs from Minecraft for Youth to one on one tech tutoring. He will be working closely with John Aiello on Learning Lab initiatives, and Dennis Sullivan with internal IT maintenance. See the attached full time employee board resolution.

We’ve had two resignations by part time Clerks Cathy (Mary) Kourabas and Peggy Purcell.

We have two new Clerk (PT) appointments:
Catherine Cawley, start date 4/15/22
Paulina Kloeren, start date 4/15/22

Buildings and Grounds
Ten companies were contacted for commercial cleaning proposals for two nights a week (Fridays and Sundays). Maid Whiz, Miller’s Touch, VanGuard, and Ivy Glove responded. Estimates ranged from $1,250 to $3,000 per month. It is recommended that we proceed with the most competitive bid, from VanGuard. The proposal and a resolution are attached.

Chiller Project
Chiller architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and acoustical construction documents (drawings and specifications) along with the required State Education Department paperwork will be submitted by May 1, 2022 as originally planned.

Statistics
Databases
- Hoopla
  - Up 9% FYTD
- Kanopy
  - Videos played FYTD: up 75%
  - Mar-22
    - Videos played: up 87%
- Visits up 33%
- Minutes Viewed: 6,202, up 113%
- Number of users up: 28%
- OverDrive
  - New Users up 45%
  - eMagazines checkouts up 91%
  - eAudiobooks up 18%
  - Adult up 29%

**Library**
- Patrons in Person Visits were up 21%
  - Mar-22: 11,675 patrons vs Mar-21: 9,677
- Total circulation was even
  - Young Adult up 14%
  - Adult Video Games up 34%
  - Juvenile up: 30%
- Notary Public
  - Up 187%
  - 132 total
- Reference - 3,029 questions answered
- Wifi Sessions up 2130%
  - 4,907 total sessions

**Digital Navigators**
The Digital Navigators of the Hudson Valley is a new program by which participants from libraries and community-based organizations were trained to become trusted guides who assist community members in accessing and using technology. The training provided the resources necessary for participants to perform new services that include: assistance with affordable internet access, device acquisition, technical skills, and application support.
We had five staff members participate.

Programs and Events

Our 6-part info series, Especially for Seniors, launched this month and has been a big hit. In-person attendance is strong and enthusiastic, and FB Live views are high as well. Topics so far have covered: Medicare, Identity Theft, Will and Living Wills, and Healthy Eating for Seniors. A Shoprite Dietician gave a presentation on food choices (above, left). Better Together was a joint presentation from The Haverstraw African American Coalition and The Holocaust Museum on the topic of strength through diversity. Although there was a relatively small turnout of 14 people, all those in attendance were clearly thankful that PRPL took this leadership role in bringing important community organizations together and providing a platform for patrons to speak about an important but difficult topic. One patron spoke of her challenging experience raising adopted Chinese daughters in Pearl River. Principal Zegarelli spoke at length about the importance of diversity and tolerance in the schools, and he formed a partnership on-the-spot with the Holocaust Museum, planning ongoing programs between the High School and the museum. The tone and mood of the event were extremely positive and hopeful and the event ended up being pivotal in the development of a working relationship between PRPL and the Pearl River School district.

Our March return to the in-person program was perfect timing. It allowed us to kick off our concert series with an Irish Music performance by the Hooley Shooters, which prompted some spontaneous dancing in the aisles. We also had a fun matinee movie, Waking Ned Divine, with dozens of happy patrons in attendance.

Dennis also hosted a Live From Ireland online event featuring myths, legends and storytelling.

Technology

We have been working extensively to plan a network Infrastructure Hybrid Library model that utilizes RCLS for required systems, but also allows us independence with our own IT planning and implementation. Below you will find an overview of how this will be mapped out going forward.