

Buildings and Grounds

A full building conditions study was conducted on October 29, 2021. The full report is attached.

Long Range Planning/Mission Statement Development

At the request of the Library Renewal Advisory Committee and numerous community members, we have solicited proposals from a number of firms to assist us with the long range planning and mission statement development process. The need for this is twofold: firstly to update our mission statement to accurately reflect the forward thinking and innovative educational purpose of PRPL; and secondly, to provide a framework for any future building modifications or renovations that shows the long term viability of the Library and its continued future role in the community. It will be discussed under New Business.

Administration

The Library became Gold Certified through the New York State Local Retirement System, to comply with enhanced reporting requirements.

We organized a successful food drive for St. Aedan's Food Pantry for The Great Give Back and more than 300 food and household items were collected.

I am extremely proud and honored to announce Congressman Mondaire Jones has nominated the Pearl River Public Library for the prestigious National Medal for Museum and Library services, on the basis of the level and quality of service the Pearl River Public Library provides the community. The National Medal for Museum and Library Service is the nation's highest honor for institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. Since 1994, IMLS has presented the award to institutions that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to community service.

The Learning Lab is one highlight featured in our nomination packet. Since its inception in 2014, the Learning Lab has seen exponential growth in the amount of program offerings. During the pandemic, Learning Lab librarians continued to provide programs through ZOOM, YouTube, and Facebook Live. Today, the Learning Lab offers a mixture of in-person, virtual, and hybrid programs to patrons of all ages.

The finalists will be announced in March, and the winners will be announced sometime in the Spring.

CPR and AED training and certification was offered to staff as part of October's professional development. Here is some staff feedback:

As someone who had already received CPR training, I thought that this would serve as a refresher course. But some of the previous training was outdated, so the new information was very valuable. I appreciated the AED training that was included because I had no idea where the library's equipment was, nevermind how to use it. As the instructor pointed out, I hope I never have to use this training, but feel confident that I could indeed help someone in the event of an emergency. Many thanks to the library for providing this for the staff! (Adriane Fabio, Librarian)

It was a very worthwhile experience. CPR and AED skills are ones that everyone thinks someone else knows and that people who work in the public sector (like library staff, teachers, and the like) definitely know so that no matter the place, someone is there to save a life! It is good to be able to meet that expectation. On a more important note, the training gave us all real experience in the actual, physical requirements of CPR: counting while doing chest compressions, figuring

out the counting and the breathing, and gaining a fuller understanding of the AED. No one needs the added pressure of using an AED for the first time in a high-stress situation so actually going through the simulation was a good confidence-building exercise. (Ann Traitor, Page)

Thank you very much for arranging CPR/AED Training. It was very informative and covered techniques for all age groups. Hopefully I will never need it, but feel more confident I will be prepared in an emergency. (Carol Waterman, Clerk-Typist)

Having taken this training to save lives I can honestly say that this was the most germane training session related to my job. We never know when someone may need help both here in the library or in any aspect of our lives.

Having training such as the Narcan training and certification and the CPR courses are essential to anyone's job when working with the public.

The CPR class was great because the instructor was knowledgeable and personable. Time flew by because he kept us constantly engaged and thinking. The hands-on technique he used was beneficial to breaking the personal space barrier. That went a long way with me by desensitizing the task.

This type of training is universal and well worth having. Thank you! (Jim Cassetta, Librarian)

Circulation and Technical Services

The inventory in the Children's Room is underway and almost complete.

We will begin shifting and moving the adult collections in the back of the Library to accommodate overall shifting and repositioning of collections. This is all part of the overall plan to have a more inviting and customer friendly experience. It started with the moving of the Reference Desk, and is continuing with these changes. Increasing visibility, consistency, and readability of signage is another change that has been implemented in the Children's Room.

We have finally received many backordered items from June and Technical Services is processing and linking large shipments of material. The publishing companies have experienced a backlog and long delays in printing and processing due to COVID-19.

Statistical Summary

Databases

- Hoopla usage up 23%
 - eAudiobooks up 126%
 - Ebooks up 13%
 - TV down 43%
- Kanopy users up 27%
 - Videos played up 168%
 - Visits up 79%
 - Users down 6%
- OverDrive up 6%
 - eMagazines up 78%
 - New users down 13%

Library

- Patron in Person Visits are up 184%
- Adult circulation up 8%
- Juvenile circulation is up 41%
- YA circulation down 5%

- Provided 62 Notary Public
- Reference up 86%

Programming, Learning Lab, Outreach

Based on popular demand, many of our programs are now offered in hybrid versions, with patrons in the building, participating on Zoom and/or watching on Facebook Live. Local History programs did particularly well as hybrid events. The Bank Robber program had 102 participants. Seniors Trivia, Writing from Life and Toastmasters are all succeeding as hybrid programs as well.

This month our College Preparedness Programming continued with good numbers for Paying for College During Covid, and our ACT and SAT Prep Tests. This programming continues in November.

Girls Who Code will begin being offered this winter. Girls Who Code is an organization that values diversity, equity, and inclusion as essential to our mission. Girls Who Code is on a mission to close the gender gap in technology and to change the image of what a programmer looks like and does.

Our partnership with the Promenade continued this month with an outreach Crafts Program by Librarian Cheryl Baker. We also donated over 50 discarded books to the Promenade Library, and their residents participated in our Seniors Trivia and local history programs.



Incident Reports

10/19/2021 Teens shouting and misbehaving in Teen Area.

10/30/2021 The library experienced a brief power surge which caused certain computers and printers to reboot. The electronic door fob locks were also affected.