

Buildings and Grounds

When custodial staff reported to the building on January 31, the temperature was 94 degrees. It turned out that the compressor pump had blown, and the pneumatic valves were not functioning properly. The system was pushing hot air throughout, non-stop. We called for service and, ultimately, we could only temporarily fix it until the part can be replaced (the pressure switch) which got stuck in the "on" position.

Atlantic Westchester then heard hissing from the panel, meaning there are many leaks, and many of the plastic pneumatic tubes were replaced, and several actuators need to be replaced.

After Atlantic Westchester left, we noticed a burning smell coming from the boiler room. The motor on the boiler blew, creating smoke/smell and caused the transformer to blow. We called Atlantic Westchester back, and they were able to replace the transformer, take the motor out, and get it working temporarily.

On February 1, the library was closed to replace the motor. The boiler's motor was changed, but the flame was surging, so we had to analyze the gas pressure. O&R came to adjust (increase) the gas pressure and this was corrected. It cost approximately \$580 for the motor.

Repairing the air compressor and installing pneumatic actuator replacements to replace the defective pressure switch on the air compressor, the leaking damper actuator serving AHU-2, Zone-3, and replacement of the two leaking pneumatic valve actuators on radiation zones 2 and 3 will cost \$2,224.23.

Chiller Project Update

Schematic plans from OLA Engineering are being reviewed by Lothrop. The structural engineer was out to the library to review the existing conditions and has prescribed a probe plan. A contractor is pricing the probe plan. As soon as that is complete, we will receive the probing estimate for review and approval. The probe is done by an independent contractor that we will hire directly as an additional service for the purposes of uncovering hidden, concealed conditions that need to be seen by the engineer so that he can design these structural enhancements to support the new chiller.

The acoustical consultant has been to the site. He has taken baseline acoustical measurements and is researching the acoustical code requirements. Once Lothrop has the particular information from Jim Dolan (OLA) on the chiller noise data, the acoustical consultant can then advise them on the proper acoustical treatment for the chiller enclosure. Once they have that, Lothrop will prepare a cost estimate and complete package for presentation to the library board and submission to SED.

The goal is to have a complete package to SED by May 1st. That would include the final complete construction plans and specifications for the project, from which the project can then be bid and constructed.

Administration

We have been busy administering the new Community Survey and Focus Groups. We met with the Orangetown Police Department to come up with a plan to deal with problem patrons, specifically, a patron who was unstable, belligerent, abusive to staff, shouting, and using profanity. The staff have now been trained on how to handle the situation, and we are partnering with the OPD to serve the patron in question with his banning paperwork.

Statistical Summary

Databases

- Hoopla
 - Up 11% FYTD
- Kanopy
 - Up 42% FYTD
 - Videos played: down 19%
 - Visits up 14% > Although...
- OverDrive up 10% (Jan-22)
 - eMagazines checkouts up 329%
 - 206 (Jan-22) vs 48 (Jan-21)
 - eAudiobooks up 30%

Library

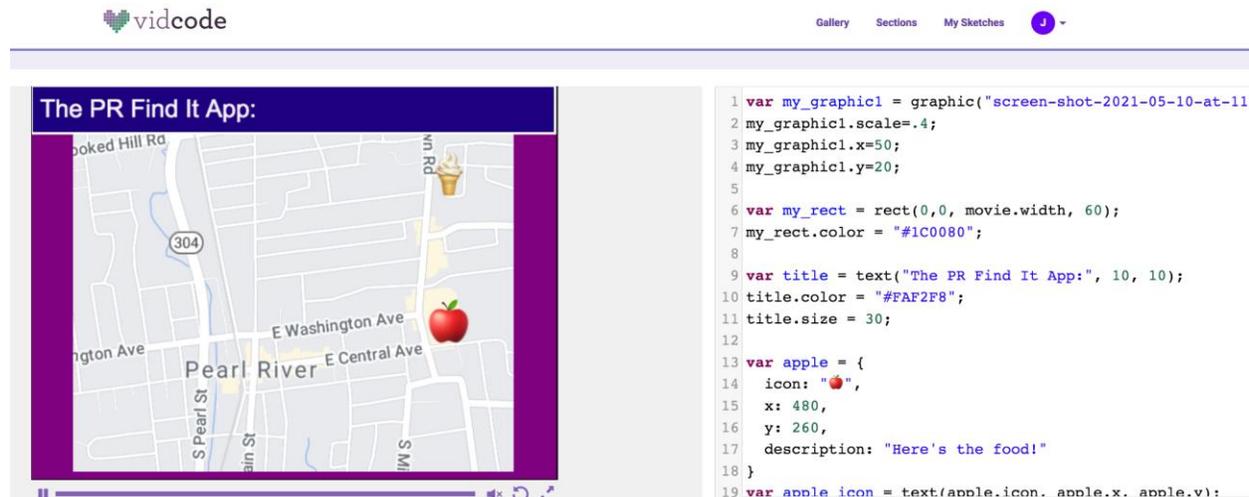
- Patrons In-Person Visits were up.
 - 7,937 patrons
- Total circulation up 52%
 - Video Games up 68%
 - Adult circulation is up 52%
 - Adult Audiobooks up 92%
- Notary Public
 - Provided 129
- Reference - 2,110 questions answered.

Programs

Despite a necessary, sudden shift to 100% virtual programming and significant staff shortages due to COVID, our January attendance numbers were strong, and our schedule of events was not negatively impacted. This is all thanks to the fact that our staff has become well-versed in providing programming on a number of platforms, including not only in-person, but virtual, hybrid, and FB Live. Many of our January programs were quickly and successfully recreated for the virtual switch, including: *Writing and Researching a College-Ready Essay*, *Origami Zaaka*, *App Development for Adults*, *Intro to Mah Jongg*, and more!

Teen Tech Projects was just one of a number of new programs that launched against the odds in January. This collaborative program brings technology, teens, and local history together, and the result will be PRPL's first custom app: PRPL Local History Walks (below).

This month also saw the revival of *Codergarten*, a fun, award-winning program introducing 4-5 year olds to computer science concepts.



We see the Hispanic population of Pearl River every day at the library, but it has been hard to get the message to them about our programming. This month we made some progress, and all 7 of the attendees at *Bilingual & Beyond* were clearly thrilled to have a family craft class taught entirely in Spanish. In March, our *Tech en Español* classes begin. And the Literacy Volunteers have also returned to the library, with one-on-one language help.



Bilingual & Beyond with a Craft!



Compliments/Highlights/Appreciation

Director's Report
Meeting of February 28, 2022

A patron came in one evening and said the library looks good and that we are quick to help. They said staff at other libraries aren't as accommodating. She's used the libraries in Rockland for 30 years and says we do it better.

A patron was looking for materials for a friend in a nursing home with visual impairments. Their friend lives in a town in NJ that does not have a library, but reimburses residents who sign up for a PRPL card. We spoke with them about signing up for a card and LP and audiobooks in our collection. We also printed out information about the NYPL Braille and Talking Book Library for more specialized assistance. The patron told us they were very happy we were able to provide these services.