

DIRECTOR'S REPORT JULY 2023

Personnel

PT Librarian Katie Bertussi has resigned, effective 8/8/23.

PT Library Clerk Nicole Morrissey has been promoted to PT Library Aide, effective 8/2/23.

Statistics

Databases (comparison is to July 2022)

- Hoopla
 - Movie usage up 78%
- Kanopy
 - Pages browsed up 128%
- OverDrive
 - Usage up 24%

Library

- July 2023 **Adult Summer reading** 54 total participants; 135 reviews submitted; 37 total participants in 2022 a **46% increase from 2022**; 103 reviews submitted a **31% increase from 2022**.
- Total circulation of periodicals was up by 246%
- Adult DVD circulation was up 39%
- Interlibrary Loan - Loans were up by 14%
- There were 643 items checked out using the two self-checkout machines (this service started in April 2023)

Circulation and Technical Services

Summer reading has been extremely busy at the Circulation Desk! Inventory and tagging continues, and our college student pages will return to school in August.

Library pages have been working on reports of items not inventoried. Looking for and inventorying items that were missed. We have switched from Brodart to Baker & Taylor for the bulk of our book purchasing, due to availability of inventory. We still have difficulty getting new titles as the publishing industry is still struggling to meet demand after COVID. We have started renting books from McNaughton. This program will enable us to have hot new titles when we need them and return them when we don't. This will be especially helpful as we move to our smaller temporary area of the library and have limited access to storage.

Youth Services

The Children's Room has been busy with kids reading, playing, using the computers, and reporting their summer reading. Teen volunteers have been helping at the prize table and assisting with programs. We continued with our weekly play group each Monday and our stories and a craft on Tuesdays. Librarian Cheryl Baker held this program at Van Houten Farms and will continue to offer it at this site once a month through November. This partnership will be valuable during our construction project when we need to find programming space outside of the library.

Our Thursday afternoon story time has welcomed guest readers from the PR Ambulance Corp, Orangetown Highway Department, Orangetown Police Department, Dr. Youstina from Pearl Dentistry, and the manager of ShopRite. The highlight to date was when Ron Hanson from the PR Fire Department read to the children, then gave each family a ride on the fire truck. We will finish up August with a visit and performance from Dance Central on William Street, Assemblyman John McGowan, and PRPL's very own Trustee Mike McCue.

On August 14th, the Bubble Bus delighted over 500 patrons on Central Avenue Field. Toddlers, teens, moms, dads, grandparents, and dogs also enjoyed ice cream and hot dogs from Polar Pops along with gourmet treats from Pop-i-licious. A portion of all food sales were donated to the Friends.

Aside from volunteering, the teens have participated in a brand-new Manga Club, game nights, Mario Bros tournament, and photography. The Teen Library Council is growing exponentially under the leadership of our newest employee, Teen Librarian John Bocchicchio.

Lastly, Nicole Morrissey, a circulation clerk, joined the Youth Services department as Library Aide. She brings enthusiasm and creativity to the children's room. We are so happy to have her on staff as she starts library school this month.

Adult Services



The RCLS Road Trip is in big swing! On July 18, the brains behind the Road Trip visited the Pearl River Library: (left to right) David Cosco, RCLS Marketing Manager, Amanda Primiano, Director of Monroe Free Library, Jen Park, RCLS Government Relations Specialist, and Joanna Goldfarb, RCLS Youth Services Consultant.

Head of Adult Services Diana Wendell met with the Literacy Solutions Coordinator and Instructor on July 18. We are planning an adult English conversation group; it will begin in September.

Diana Wendell attended the Pearl River Chamber of Commerce Meeting on July 13. Adult Services Librarian, Adrian Fabio co-presented a Beatles sing-along with John Aiello in conjunction with the Adult Summer Reading theme, "All Together Now" on Saturday, July 22.

Learning Lab

We saw a number of new faces –notably 20- and 30-somethings– attending our Savannah College of Art and Design Photography Workshops. Attracted by our unique Learning Lab programming, the visit from a SCAD Professor really set us apart, and patrons said as much! Along with in-person attendance, we also got a big FB Live following. And these two unique



events were at no cost to the library. SCAD presented free of charge! I hope to have them visit again for the Learning Lab 7th Annual Tech Fair in December.

Blender 3D Animation Camp was a hit, thanks to Hayden Aiello who volunteered to teach this unique 3-session Tech/Art Program for teens and tweens.

Participants learned to create with the same software used by Pixar and other top animation studios.

Blender 3D Animation Students

Katie Bertussi's Family Animation Night



was a fun summer kick off, and filled beyond capacity, with 6 patrons waitlisted.



Pearl River Public Library in the news! The Rockland County Times ran the press release John Aiello wrote about our new Learning Lab Patron Spotlight Series, featuring Jeanne Lyons' new book. Over 50 people attended the event, and over 500 viewed it on FB Live! Many patrons mentioned seeing the piece in the Rockland County Times.

Compliments/Highlights/Appreciation

Dear John,

"I so very much appreciate all your hard work to get my Mom's stories published in a beautiful book. From your amazing photo cover, and spot-on preface of Jeanne's writing journey to the editing and publishing You made this happen! And the culmination of all your hard work made Saturday's library event a huge success. My family and I are forever grateful to you and will treasure these memories always. Thank you!"

Best regards,

Jeanann Zaccaro (Jeanne Lyons' daughter)

Incident Reports

7/28/23 4PM - Patron behaved inappropriately with a staff member at the Circulation Desk.

8/2/23 11:45 AM - Toddler fell and injured in Children's Room, ambulance not called.

8/3/23 3:50 PM - Patron attempted to steal food from a program, attacked staff verbally and physically. The police were called.

8/5/23 12:25 PM - Patron behaving erratically on front benches. Did not require medical assistance.