Chad Taylor / Tech Services

Board Report

April 2022

IT and technical services continued working on the current webpage and developing a new webpage with Emeric in April. Mike and Jeff from CCLS have been very helpful in solving issues with the firewall, internet connectivity, server upgrades, computer upgrades, setting up various phone and email accounts, etc. I learn something every time I talk to them and they are essential to getting things done. I did discover the tools for replacing the ends of ethernet cables in the closet and was able to learn how to do that on my own, however. ;)

The Raspberry pi workshop was a focus of attention in April. Collecting monitors and left-over adapters from previous workshops was a focus. With the 'supply shortage' I was not sure if the Raspberry Pi 400s would come in on time (the backlog on Raspberry Pi 4s is 6 months), but they did arrive in a timely fashion. Because the workshop was the first week in May there was a tight turnaround time with promotion and we only had one registration in the desired age range. (several from younger groups so there does seem to be interest in coding – Scratch and Roblox seem to be appropriate for these age groups) The Raspberry Pi workshop is rescheduled for July 12-14th 9:30-11am. (I like the 'ready to code' nature of the 400s but if there is ever space for a maker-space type focus the Raspberry Pi 4 allows for more hands on with the electrical components of computing themselves which might be an interesting addition.)

Reference and tutoring played a larger role this month. The Technology Engagement librarian spent 4 multiple hour sessions assisting a patron in applying for Unemployment in late April. At the time of writing this report we are still unsuccessful in getting through the hurdles of ID.me, the identity verification services NY State is using to eliminate unemployment fraud. This is even after an informational call (following our third meeting with the patron) from the NYS Department of Labor, which was unable to meet with the patron in person. Coincidentally, ID.me is being investigated by the House of Representatives: https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/maloney-and-clyburn-launch-investigation-into-use-of-idme-facial-recognition