

Library Director's Report

June 2023

NYS Construction Aid

On June 1st, CCLS announced that 2023 Construction Aid applications are now available. Given that we are looking at our options in terms of a capital project, I wasn't considering submitting an application this year. However, we are having an issue with one of our public restrooms that we're currently investigating. A plumber is coming in to check on one of the floors which is lifting in a number of places, ruining the tile flooring that's on top of the concrete. We're guessing a pipe might have ruptured, in which case the floor will have to be dug up in order to repair it.

While we cannot use Construction Aid for repair work, it might be an ideal opportunity to update the restrooms, which really could use it. Recently, a patron complained, describing them as disgraceful. We should also consider installing ADA compliant toilets and stalls (the toilets are very low and there are no bars to grab on to). I'd like to do a lot more with those restrooms, but given the situation, I don't think we want to invest more than necessary until we know what our plans are going to be.

After the plumber assesses what the problem is, I can look into getting a quote for doing some updates to the restroom, and we can decide if we want to submit an application for Construction Aid.

Personnel

Kyle Brooks' first day of employment at the Library was June 12th. He is our new part-time building monitor, replacing Lou Palmieri who recently retired. He comes with a lot of security experience and will be a good addition to the staff.

We hired Kaele Saal as library assistant to replace Caleb Austin who recently resigned to go away to graduate school. Kaele's first day is June 21st.

Grants from CRCF Funds

The Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation sent us a check for an annual grant from both the Paul and Betty Hanson Fund and the Paul and Mary Janowicz Memorial Fund. The grant totaled \$584.06, with \$310.28 coming from the Hanson Fund, and \$273.78 from the Janowicz Fund. The grant is unrestricted, so we can use the money wherever it is needed most. A thank you letter was sent to the Foundation thanking everyone involved.

WNYLRC Annual Meeting

The Western NY Library Resource Council will hold its 57th Annual Meeting of the Membership on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at the Buffalo History Museum. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Barbara Seals Nevergold, a founder of the Uncrowned Queens Institute, an online organization whose mission is to preserve the regional histories of African American women and men across the country. If any trustees are interested in attending, please let me know. The meeting will also include the annual business meeting, dinner, and the annual awards ceremony.

Friends of the Library

The Friends held their annual business meeting on June 12th. The Library had no requests for funding in June, after receiving \$5,683 in April for the annual programs gift, cabinets for the children's department, and a shelf for our Manga collection, and then \$1,608 in May for the annual Summer Reading Program gift and for flowers for the outside planters. The flowers were planted by a volunteer, Walter Schultz, who takes care of the garden at the Olean Food Pantry.

He also fixed one of our broken planters, and donated many flowers from his own garden. We sent him a thank you note.

The Friends annual winetasting event will take place on Friday, September 8th, so mark your calendars!

News from the Library

The Library was visited by a First Amendment auditor on Wednesday, June 7th. The man, who came from Erie County, had a video camera and walked around the entire Library filming things. Kim and I monitored to make sure there were no altercations with patrons, but he was respectful. He did not aim the camera at children in the play area, though he did film in that area. He did not interfere with patrons on computers, which we've heard sometimes happens. He went to the Teen Room. The staff member asked him not to film the teens, which he did not, but he did interact with them for several minutes. He walked into the business office but didn't interact with Heather at all. He came into my office and introduced himself and told me why he was here. He was curious if I was familiar with these kinds of audits, which I told him I was. He told me he'd visited quite a few public locations including a few other libraries. He then went on to say he was extremely impressed by our teen area and couldn't get over how many teens were at the Library, which he thought was great. His last stop was the circulation desk, where he interacted with a staff member. He filmed around the front of the desk area, including our library card brochures. He was respectful and didn't engage in any disruptive behavior, which some of these auditors are known to do (i.e. seeking confrontation). I commended the staff involved for being pleasant and respectful towards him. We had covered the potential for these audits at a couple of staff meetings earlier in the year, so I was pleased to see staff had paid attention. A couple staff thanked me afterwards for covering this at the meetings, as they were prepared when it happened.