

# **Library Director's Report**

## **July 2025**

### **NYS Construction Aid**

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, I submitted an Intent to Apply form for this year's round of NYS Construction Aid. Due to CCLS potentially having a large amount of aid available, I worked with the architect to develop an application for two separate components of our upcoming capital project. We are seeking funding for the expansion of the Children's Play Area to add an additional 510 SF to the indoor area, as well as a 678 SF outdoor enclosed Children's programming and recreational area. We are also seeking funding to add a limited use/limited application (LULA) elevator/lift in the newly constructed lobby to service 3 stories—the main floor, basement, and upper story addition. The total cost of these 3 elements is estimated at \$669,145. We are eligible for 90 percent funding, so our requested award amount is \$602,231, with our match being \$66,915. I have no idea if funds in that amount will be available, but it is better to ask for too much than too little in a situation where those funds might otherwise go unused. Once CCLS approves our application, we must submit the formal online application to NYS by September 12<sup>th</sup>. As a side note, we incurred fees of \$1,800 for the cost estimating services to provide the required quote. This was done by DJB Builds who does work for Scott's firm. These fees will go towards our 10 percent match.

The 2022 Construction Aid project to replace our 2 remaining 30-year old HVAC units should happen any time now. The units have been delivered to Mazza and are currently in storage until we can find a timeframe that will work to install them. They asked if the week of July 28<sup>th</sup> would work, but I told them that is a busy week of Summer Reading programming and activities that have already been scheduled. I had told them months ago that we would need sufficient notice to ensure we don't have to cancel scheduled performers and other major programs. They haven't gotten back to me with other proposed dates. We will have to close for at least one or two days, due to cranes removing and placing the extremely heavy units onto the roof. One of the units being replaced is close to the main entrance. The Library has submitted 50 percent of the payment towards the units and installation (\$185,000) to Mazza. The remainder will be paid when the project is complete. Once the project is closed out with the state, we will receive the final 10 percent of the awarded aid.

### **Stitt Foundation Donation**

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, we received a letter from the Stitt Foundation which contained a check for \$10,000! The gift is unrestricted – the letter simply stated that the Foundation is happy to support the Olean Library with the donation, and that the Library is a valuable asset to our community. Lanna and I had presented on our capital project to the CEO Alliance last May, and Jim Stitt was on that call. It is nice to know he thinks well of the Library and presumably the value of our project.

### **June Gifts/Grants/Donations [Action Item]**

Per our Policy on Acceptance of Gifts, Grants and Bequests to the Library, the Board must formally accept the following: in June, we received \$1,983.01 from the Marjory Burdus endowment – this is a quarterly payment we receive from a fund set up many years ago (the proceeds are put towards Kathy O'Malley's salary); \$486 from the Friends of the Library to pay for the flowers and soil for the outdoor planters, and sleeves for patrons to put their library cards in; \$300 in memorial donations for Jack Kelly; \$25 memorial donation for Dennis Grimm; \$208 Summer Reading Program grant from CCLS; \$100 grant from the Pete & Karen Buchheit Family Fund; \$16 in anonymous donations.