

Director's Report
September, 2016

Despite how quickly this summer has passed us by, we have had a very productive two months. Your director has been acclimating himself to his new responsibilities and has been working to maintain productivity during vacation time with a reduced staff. Some highlights during this period:

We have installed a new phone system throughout the building. This was funded from a grant from former Senator Skelos' office. Jill Lessard did a terrific job negotiating the purchase and coordinating with the Global Telecom staff to insure that service interruptions were kept to an absolute bare minimum, that staff were trained, and that any post-installation problems were quickly diagnosed and fixed.

As part of that same grant, we were able to very significantly upgrade our auditorium sound system. Electrical work has been completed, new speakers have been hung, subwoofers are in place, and wiring will be completed by the time you read this. Installation will be completed and the system will be tested and tweaked before making its debut at the upcoming Jazz Festival. Kudos to Mike Scandariato for his efforts throughout the installation.

We had ordered and received a "Little Free Library" unit for the Point Lookout community. It has been prepped and will be painted, but at this point, I suspect that we will not install it until Spring.

There have been a number of problems with our LFL's on the boardwalk. The unit on Grand Ave. was vandalized to the point that we had to remove it and do extensive repair work that probably will not allow for it to be reinstalled this year. City Hall and the LBPD are certainly aware of this problem as they have suffered similar assaults on their beach entrance ticket booths. We have done at least 6 on site repair jobs – mostly damaged doors. At this point, we have nearly exhausted our supply of books for the LFL's. We are exploring ways to improve this service for next year – including community stewardship, scaling back the number of sites, and community "book drives." This is a wonderful community service and we want and expect it to get better – not necessarily bigger.

We have been notified by Long Beach Civil Service that tests were announced for three positions. I advertised these notices on listservs in Nassau, Suffolk, and

Queens Counties as well as with NY's Metro, and with the library schools at Queens College and Palmer (CW Post).

I was invited to a Community Impact Roundtable moderated by the Shari James, Director of City of Long Beach Department of Community Development. This was a great opportunity for me to meet and network with leaders from local agencies as well as the city government. I look forward to more meetings like this and for opportunities to work with these agencies going forward.

We have had two interns from the Latino Civic Association assigned to the Library for 10 hours a week. Their primary task was to organize, plan, and implement an art show of local artists of Hispanic origin to be exhibited in the Library gallery as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month. At this point, they have contacted artists, and will be hanging the works on Sat., Oct. 1. The following day there will be an artists reception followed by a Sunday afternoon performance by Los Playeros. Both Eric and Papia have done an amazing job, and have been an absolute delight to work with.

Our inaugural Adult Summer Reading Program was a success. People were excited to participate and were thrilled with the raffle prizes. The end of program reception featured an author talk by Ellen Meister who specializes in historical fiction set in New York City in the 1920's and 30's. Thanks to Librarians Camille DiPietro and Mary Aileen Buss for planning and implementing. We are all looking forward to this program getting bigger and better next summer.

Last week, when we had our carpets cleaned, we asked about the carpet in the Youth Services office, which has not been replaced since this building opened. It is threadbare, filthy, lumpy in spots, and a definite eyesore. The company didn't want to use any wet application for fear of the carpet disintegrating in spots. I would strongly recommend that this area be recarpeted –preferably with carpet tiles. I am waiting for a quote from R&D Carpet who came out to look at it. I will secure a few other quotes and present to you at the October meeting.

Our ongoing talks with FEMA may finally be coming to a favorable conclusion for us. Because we still do not have an agreement with the school district that delineates responsibilities, FEMA recognizes the school district as the responsible party for claims made for Sandy-related repairs to the Library building. They will not pay us for work that was done at the Library's expense. They also will not

honor claims we make for “mitigation” work that we had done and paid for. Instead, these claims must be made by the school district and we have to recoup our money from them. Due to the efforts of our Board Attorney, we have received a payment from the school district that covered a portion of the original Sandy claim. However, with the claim about to be “closed out,” Ms. Lessard and I contacted FEMA about additional funds that we are due. We have a meeting with NYSOEM, FEMA, the FEMA mitigation rep and possibly the school district rep scheduled for Friday 9/9 at 11:00. Ms. Lessard is also exploring an additional payment that may be due to us as a result of materials lost in Sandy. I have been assured that the case will remain open until this situation is resolved.

During a recent “heat wave,” some of the circulation clerks and one patron complained that it was very hot at the front desk even after the custodians adjusted the thermostat. The reason for this is the constant opening and closing of the front doors that allows cool air to escape and be replaced by the warm outside air. I have been looking at “air curtain systems” that could be installed to eliminate this condition. When all the estimates are in, I’ll try to determine if energy savings might offset the cost of the system and over what time frame.

To end on a nice note – as I was finalizing this report, we received notice from Legislator Ford’s office that the \$10,000 that was earmarked for technology at the West End Branch is becoming available. We are planning to purchase new computers for the West End and deploy the existing computers at the Main Library.