

Joan Miller

I believe our biggest achievements this month have to do with connections.

Beth and I met with Terri Magee Ward from Greene County to lay the groundwork for our Meals-on-Wheels partnership. The game plan is this:

It's estimated that the MOW program serves 75 people in our service area. During September, the library will deliver to GC return cards (with pre-paid postage) and brochures describing the program. Essentially, the return card will be a simple yes/no "I'm interested" response, asking for the patron name, telephone number and best time to call. The brochure will outline the program

- The library will work with the patron to select materials they are interested in – Magazines, books, DVD, books on tape OR (get this) a dedicated tablet for e-reading or digital audiobooks. The tablet will be pre-loaded, no internet needed.
- Materials will be restricted to Catskill or Palenville items only. This way we can control the lending periods.
- Lending period will be 2-5 weeks, dependent upon the needs of the patron, and the item(s) being borrowed.
- Maximum loan is 2-4 items, dependent upon the weight of the item (dvd's or tablet vs. hardcover books).

As you can imagine, executing this program is rather labor intensive, it will take multiple phone conversations with Patrons to set up, and to follow up with returns and next orders.

The library already owns 20 tablets (older kindles, nooks and ipad models out of date) and can easily download new materials onto them within the current budget.

We've applied for a grant through MHLS to get started – awards are anywhere from \$750 to \$1200. Of course, I'm shooting for the \$1200.

We have one employee currently out on disability, and expect her to be cleared to return to work with modifications this fall. Unfortunately, the library may not be physically able to accommodate those needs. However, this employee would be an ideal candidate for this position, as it requires no face to face, is work that is measurable in terms of production, and accommodates the physical restrictions. Win win.

To set up – it will be necessary to purchase a library cell phone and possibly a jetpack for home. We already have a desktop to loan. I estimate that this will add an additional \$120 to the budget each month – we can manage from the program line.

Following this will be a partnership with GC public nursing. The groundwork is being laid now, with the plan to begin in mid-winter. As you are aware, our building is not fully accessible. To address this, we will again be polling the community (via public nursing and flyers in local physician's offices) to find families that need us. Then, using a combination of curbside and postal delivery for the homebound – we will begin our "Books by Mail" program.

Any patrons physically unable to leave their home are eligible for the post office “Books by Mail” program. Using the MOW model, we will poll the patrons, create cards, and pull materials. These materials will be delivered and returned free of charge via the postal carrier, in specially designed canvas bags. Our library did this years ago, and I’m thrilled to restart the program.

With public health we will reach out offering curbside services to folks that are not homebound, but are unable to access the building. This focus will be on families, think parents with disabled kids who simply are not able to come in. We’ll be able to serve the parents and children.

In other news:

We’ve resumed GED in the building, and are awaiting a restart with ESL classes.

Also in the works is the REACH center – adult ed computer classes. Details have not been hammered out. If available, we’d like to set up a computer center (2-3 pc laptops already owned) in their building, and offer a class 1-2 hours per week.

Emily and I met with Jon Levine, the Work Readiness Coordinator from the Catskill Academy (a subset of Questar, in a building located near the HS) to discuss partnering with us to provide work studies for a small group of students. This would be once a week, approx. 1 hour of work – for example, putting labels on materials, cleaning, any smaller, easy to manage duties. The max # of students will be 3, each with an aide assisting. We provide the job, they provide the supervision. Our plan is to utilize the service on a weekday morning before we open, to avoid disruption with our patrons. This program will begin in October.

I attended my first GCLA meeting last week, which had to do with the 2022 budget. I recommended that the association request an additional \$64,000 allocated from the County’s Federal pandemic income – to be used towards offsetting our costs in delivering Wi-Fi and digital materials to the communities. They agreed, and submitted a new budget with this number. Fingers crossed. Fun note, while assessing library needs and polling the members I discovered that – Hunter is using patron computers that are 10-15 years old, Windows7! Offered them 6 of our old dells sitting in the building – they are tickled pink.

I spoke with Greg Childs from Main Care Energy, who asked that I send a request to him for a donation. Thinking on it and will talk with Emily and Gabe re: need...

Emily and Gabe will speak further on their “out and about”, and please try to join us on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm for the Bubble Bash! This will either be a dud or a blowout – we’ve no way of knowing, however, the email blasts and Facebook postings have been encouraging.

Beth is in the process of straightening out the Patron database, and updating the patron list. This is going to be a huge undertaking, she’ll work with MHLS, and currently our database shows roughly 6,500 active patrons. We’ve got to whittle it down to a realistic number. Stay tuned.

Beth and I went furniture shopping! New tables in the kid’s room, upstairs mailroom and the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor board table. Beth also has been working on setting up a book sale area & moving shelves around for audiobooks. We resumed carrying magazines, and will be setting the DVD room up as a reading room for magazines and newspapers shortly.

We installed outdoor lighting in June, and finished that project off with the installation of video cameras at each exterior doorway. We are seeing less trafficking at our entryways 😊 and definitely less animal waste in the yard.

Our Civil Service paperwork is up-to-date, and all employees have signed the updated job description(s). Staff and Beth are continuing their work on evaluations, we've a game plan in place (Reviewed and okayed by Public Sector) and they should be complete by the end of September.

We have an employee training scheduled for Wednesday Morning 8/25 with Public Sector to go over the handbook. Also, we'll be re-upping our "Sexual Harassment Training" online, we should be done mid-September.

I suspect you all need to schedule the same? Gil – was there a link from Mid-Hudson that you used in the past? Or did you take the same training as the staff? Lemme know.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan