

Director's Report

7.9.2022

First, a thank you to all the staff and board members for making me feel so welcome and available to answer questions. Thank you to Bathsheba and Emily for creating such successful and inviting summer reading programs.

Over the last month, I have met with staff and attended Mid-Hudson and Green County Directors meetings, and a Village of Catskill board meeting and I am learning more every day.

We are hiring a new full-time Librarian III; I hope to find someone with programming, purchasing, and general library experience that will have new ideas and embraces change. We have posted on the American Library Association Black Caucus website and other local job boards. I am hoping to have someone on board by September. Fingers crossed!

We are also hiring three part-timers, one for Palenville and two in Catskill, to replace NaDavina, who is leaving at the end of August, and another to replace some of Crystal's hours.

Policy change:

*Section 410 An employee who intends to resign from employment must submit a written resignation to the Library Director at least two weeks before the date of resignation is to be effective. An employee who fails to give the Library **two weeks' advance notice** of the last day of employment will forfeit any outstanding entitlement to vacation, sick days or personal days. All resignations shall be filed in the Library Director's Office.*

*Section 800 To be eligible to receive this payment, the employee **must give written notice at least three (3) weeks in advance of their last day of employment.** In addition, the employee may not use vacation or personal leave credits during the notification period. The employee will be required to present a medical note for any instance of illness during this three-week period.*

I would like to add a bullet point to our existing Meeting Room Policy

- Any commercial solicitation made by groups using the meeting rooms is prohibited.

***Exceptions to this rule may be made for library-sponsored programs such as author talks or musical acts, where the sale of books or CDs may be allowed as a convenience to program attendees.**

We would like to have local author Aki Ashe come and speak about his book *Dress for Success* and his publicist asked if he could sell his book and I would like to allow him to and others going forward.

I called Cara Overbaugh, a local arborist, for help with a potential Ecological Restoration Grant that could help us plant a shade garden near the big tree.

Mike, Joan, Tino Martinez, Luis & Jonathan Fernandez, and I met with Brad Casey on 6/23/22 to discuss the exterior construction and prevailing wage. Our paperwork is in order, and we're in a good position with the State and our Budget for this project.

Helene and Joan met Kayla Siciliano from MidHudson Cablevision a few months ago at a Chamber event. As a result, we now have upgraded our Broadband to 500/250 Mbps! Not only does our speed speed up – but our monthly billing changed from \$231 per month to \$50. To fully take advantage of the new speed, we will need to upgrade the building hardware; we will work with S&F to get a proposal in place. As I understand, our building equipment is at or near end-of-life, so the timing is perfect.

Also new – our “On the Go” programming was awarded \$1,100 from MHLS!

Caroline Ford