



crosswalk that brings a patron to the library's outer sidewalk on the corner of Wyckoff. The next crosswalk is on the corner of Ann Street, but across the street from us. Based on information provided, there will be stamped asphalt walks across Broadway with signs and lights. There may also be a stamped median as you arrive in Greenlawn from East/West Maple.

- b. Renovation Project:** Although the final construction schedule from Fidele Construction is still forthcoming, John Tanzi, Architect, has signed-off on most of the material specs that Fidel needs. This will ensure that everything is ordered before demolition begins to reduce any periods where there is no activity. The project was initially postponed to accommodate the Centerport Garden Club Flower Show, but as it stands currently, demolition of the bathrooms may begin the week of September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The hope is that the entire project will be fully complete by the end of November.
- c. Trees:** The library applied for a permit from the Town of Huntington for the removal of (6) trees along Wyckoff. Mr. Athanas requested that the permit fee be waived and the Town agreed that they will waive the fee if the trees are dead/diseased. Our current landscapers, Trees & Bricks, will remove the existing trees and replant (6) Serviceberry Trees, which are a native species.

### 3. Personnel:

- a. Margaret Burr:** Margaret Burr, who worked part-time in Technical Services & with Inter-Library Loans from 1978 until 1995, recently passed. Her daughter is Janet Scherer, the Director of South Huntington Public Library. Although Mr. Athanas missed working with Margaret by two years, he emailed library alumni and many former employees shared nice stories about her. The library sent flowers to her wake.
- b. Program Department:** The Programs & Publicity Department is doing great! Compliments to Karen McHugh for making the transition as seamless as possible. Taking over for someone who did incredible work and was here for (28) years was a daunting task, but Karen has done a fantastic job. Olivia Madigan and Maddy Markowski have been a huge help for Karen.

- 4. Audit:** Baldessari & Coster just completed their annual audit of the library's financials. Year after year, our auditors are impressed and pleased with how easy we make it for them. Mr. Athanas extended his thanks to Katherine Rath & Patricia Fellmeth for their hard work during this process.

### 5. Legislative Update:

- a.** Meeting with Senator Mario Mattera at South Huntington on 9/15. Meeting with Keith Brown at HHHCL on 9/22. Meeting with Assemblyman Steve Stern at Huntington Station on 9/25.
- b.** Happy to report that **Keith Brown will be helping to fund our Construction Project with a \$20,000 bullet aid grant.** This means that almost 1/3 of the project is being funded by grant money, coupled with the new AV equipment being funded by the Friends of the Library. Thank you to Assemblyman Brown for his help!

- 6. Schools:** Harborfields High School was just ranked #46 in the state. (11) high schools from Long Island made the top (50) in New York State out of 24,000 high schools nationwide, including charter and subject-focused schools.
- 7. Jaws:** Please join us for a special after-hours showing of the movie, "JAWS", on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room! Games will be played and movie-themed prizes will be offered.
- 8. Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **End to Summer Reading:** It was a successful summer of reading for all departments with strong participation numbers. Teens had a blast at the carnival Kim McCarthy and Mary Kim set up with games, prizes, cotton candy, popcorn and snacks galore!

- **Pages Leaving for College:** It was bittersweet saying goodbye to many of our Pages as they left for college. Many of them were on the winning Battle of the Books team and made an extra effort to come in to say goodbye and take a team picture on the steps of the library with Kim and Mary.
- **Programming Department:** Olivia, Maddy and Karen have been busy promoting the *Jaws* after-hours screening at the library Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. There have been shark sightings all around the library, including the large inflatable one that is hanging in the Adult Reference area.
- **Senior Art Show:** The Senior Art Show installation and reception went smoothly with a little help from Susan Hope, who gave Karen some tips and suggestions. Olivia created a slide show of participants. Overall, the transition to this new team has been smooth.
- **Plastic Free July:** We are happy to announce that Suzanne Blum is the lucky winner in the "Plastic Free July" contest where we raffled off a Trex Bench to anyone dropping off single-use plastic. We are less than 50 lbs. away from achieving our goal of collecting 1000 lbs. of plastic. Once we hit our goal, the bench will be awarded to Suzanne.
- **Summer Plant Swap:** The "Summer Plant Swap" was held Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, and was well attended. Due to popular demand, the next and last swap will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **Staff Training:** The staff learned about service animals and ADA compliancy during a training session from the Niche Academy on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. It was informative and staff learned the two questions that can legally be asked according to ADA law, which are "is the dog required because of a disability?" and "what work or task has the dog been trained to do?". Staff training on emergency evacuation procedures, and an overview of our Emergency Manual, will be conducted on September 5<sup>th</sup> with Michael Griffin of Griffin Group Global.
- **Western Suffolk Native Garden Crawl:** Our library was the first stop among the seven gardens featured in the *Western Suffolk Native Garden Crawl*. There was a nice little gathering and, while some of our native plants exist with non-natives, we received some nice praise and tips to maintain a healthy and attractive native environment moving forward.
- **Tell Congress Not to Defund Public Libraries Campaign:** The "Tell Congress Not to Defund Libraries!" campaign, running from 8/25 - 8/29, is an advocacy initiative designed to empower patrons to reach out to their Senators and Representatives and insist that federal library funding be maintained. Posters will direct patrons to a page on Livebrary via a QR code where they can look up their representatives, find their contact information, and use a sample script to convey their message. Our website will have a link to a patron-facing Livebrary landing page. <https://www.livebrary.com/TellCongress>. Additionally, a card table and display will be set up in the lobby which will also include postcards for patrons to fill out. By sending these messages in late August, legislators will be reached when they are most likely in their offices, preparing their priorities for the federal budget.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

There were no Departmental Reports this month due to busy Summer Reading Club activities.

#### **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Motion by Dr. Hilgeman to accept the resignation emails from Hannah Eig (dated 7/31/25) and from Samantha Urmaza (dated 8/7/25), and to approve the Personnel Report dated August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, as attached.

Second, Mr. Clemens.

AYES: ALL. Motion carried.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was a letter from Dr. Farrelly, Principal of the Harborfields High School, requesting to use the Broadway Circle as a starting point for the annual Homecoming Parade on September 13<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 p.m. and an email from Ryan McGonigle, friend of the Legacy of Excellence Foundation, extending thanks to Mrs. Meglio and HPL, for providing 130+ books and (12) 500+ piece puzzles for students in Kigali, Rwanda.

### **STATISTICS**

The Board reviewed and discussed the statistics for July, 2025, and noted that there was a significant increase in library visits, e-book borrowing and web usage.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **NYS CONSTRUCTION AID**

Mr. Athanas discussed submitting for a project(s) that fits into the Building Improvement budget. The following projects are being considered:

- a. LED Exterior Lighting (on the building): Awaiting a quote from WT Hickey.
- b. Slate Roof over the Ann Street Ramp Entrance: Still looking for a company that specializes in repair and/or replacement of slate roofs, so did not yet receive a quote.
- c. Sidewalk Repairs: Broadway steps and the bicycle rack area on Wyckoff. Will likely be in the \$11,000 range. This may not qualify for the grant because repairs are not usually approved.
- d. HVAC Split System – LAN Room: Current system is over 20-years old and would like to have something more efficient. Thermal Solutions quoted \$9,100. Typically, a split system can be \$5-\$6k, but this also includes removal of the 4-ton unit from the roof, the refrigerant removal and disposal.
- e. **Submission deadline is Friday September 12, 2025 at 5:00pm**

Motion by Mr. Clemens to approve a submission requesting NYS Construction Aid funds to replace the HVAC Split System in the LAN Room, as discussed.

Second, Dr. Hilgeman.

AYES: ALL. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Dr. Hilgeman, seconded by Mr. Clemens, to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Rath for  
Dr. Joyce Hilgeman, Secretary

**NOTES:** Mrs. Meglio will not be at the next Board meeting on 9/25/25.