

**BOARD of TRUSTEES**  
**Budget Information Hearing**  
**March 23, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Board Members Present:** Renee Boyer, President  
David Clemens, Vice President  
Jennifer Shore, Finance Officer  
Ellen Rieger, Secretary  
Joyce Hilgeman, Ph.D., Trustee

**Library Staff:** Ryan Athanas, Director  
Linda Meglio, Assistant Director  
Katherine Rath, Senior Account Clerk

**Absent:** Cristina Spinelli, Treasurer

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Renee Boyer, President of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Community members Mrs. Jane Irving and Mrs. Eileen Graber were in attendance, as well as (2) members of the staff, Mr. Brian Adams and Mrs. Susan Hope.

Mr. Athanas, Library Director and Mrs. Meglio, Assistant Director, gave a presentation highlighting the activities from the past year, as well as statistical information about the many programs and services that were provided to the community. The presentation specifically touched on how the library has been able to encourage sustainability with our Sustainable Libraries Initiative and strengthen relationships with many community organizations. Highlighted were the two garden plots at the Robert Kubecka Memorial Organic Garden maintained by library staff and teen volunteers which provides produce to a local food pantry. We have also been working with the Harborfields High School Key Club and have established a Little Free Pantry that was installed at the Library to assist members of the community that may be experiencing food insecurity. The library also encourages and supports various recycling programs including the recycling of plastic film and collection of batteries, in addition to hosting The Great Giveaway which encourages the reuse of goods rather than disposal into a landfill which reduces our carbon footprint. We collaborated with Washington Drive Elementary on a Sensory Garden and Little Free Library and our ongoing program with Students in Transition at Oldfield Middle School and the High School Career Training program is a continuing success. Donation drives for many organizations including the Little Shelter, Family Service League and Harborfields Alliance for Community Outreach (HACO), run almost year round and our quarterly Blood Drives, in cooperation with the New York Blood Center, always surpass expected donations.

Our large community events returned in 2022. Record numbers of friends and neighbors attended our Outdoor Craft and Flea Market, outdoor concert, outdoor movie and the Fall Craft Fair. The return of the Longest Table Event, run by our incredible Friends of the Harborfields Library and the Greenlawn Civic Association, was one of the highlights of the summer. The library also partnered with the Greenlawn Civic Association for both their Greenlawn Nights and Safe Halloween projects, further encouraging the community to take advantage of the many worthwhile services the library has to offer.

Library programming was back and bigger than ever! With support from the Friends of the Library organization, we continued to offer free Museum Passes and discounted tickets to major attractions across New York. Other programs, including our Summer & Winter Reading Clubs, book discussions, cooking & exercise programs, excellent children's music, art and reading programs, and the English Discussion Group, continue to bring patrons to the library.

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In addition to the incredible programming and community relationships, the library provides unparalleled digital services including LinkedIn Learning, Tech Talk, Pronunciator and Brainfuse to name a few. Patrons are able to borrow physical materials at the library, but may also use digital services such as Kanopy, Flipster, OverDrive, Libby, genealogy databases and digital newspaper archives. We offer a wide array of digital printing options and 3D printing as well as shredding services, *Preserve Your Memories* digital transfer service and a *Seed Library*.

Finally, the Harborfields Library continues to be considered a community center and as such, we have maintained our building by completing numerous projects and updates including the addition of a fabulous outdoor seating area with picnic tables, umbrellas and a children's story area and a LED lighting and ceiling upgrade in our Community Room Wing.

With many exciting plans for another incredible year of progress, Harborfields Library looks forward to the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Mr. Athanas will make this presentation available on the library's website after the meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Shore, seconded by Mrs. Rieger, to adjourn the Budget Information Meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Rath for  
Ellen Rieger, Secretary