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Astorino Promotes "Dads Take Your Child to School Day" Taking Place September 19

Sept. 14, 2017 -- Mark your calendars: "Dads Take Your Child to School Day" is taking place in schools across Westchester County on Tuesday, September 19. To promote the importance of the day, County Executive Robert P. Astorino today joined with Schools Superintendent Joseph Ricca and two dozen educators, advocates and families for a kickoff at Ridgeway Elementary School in White Plains.

"Dads Take Your Child to School Day is a great way to get the school year started off right – and to keep it going strong all year long," said Astorino, a father of three. "Please join us and show our children we care about their education. Kids aren't always going to say thank you, but you know it means a lot to them."



Westchester's Dads Take Your Child to School Day is part of a statewide campaign that encourages fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, godfathers, and other significant male caregivers to be positive role models throughout the year. Moms are of course welcome, too.

If you are a school leader, please visit the statewide campaign site to register your school at www.dadstakeyourchildtoschoolday.com. You can also learn more by contacting Joseph D. Kenner, Westchester County Department of Social Services Deputy Commissioner, at jkenner@westchestergov.com or (914) 995-3287.

Astorino also used the kickoff as an opportunity to announce a \$1,000 donation to the Westchester Library System (WLS) from the New York Fathering Conference Planning Committee to support reading programs for low-income families. The New York Fathering Conference will take place on April 3, 2018, at the Westchester County Center with a focus on literacy and education.

"I encourage dads to not only take their child to school, but also to their local public library to discover a wide range of services and programs that make it fun to learn together, as a family," said WLS executive director Terry L. Kirchner. "There are so many different opportunities to be connected with your children."

In White Plains, over 1,000 dads and male caregivers will take part in Dads Take Your Child to School Day activities throughout the district's schools.

"The focus to include dads and male caregivers in the educational process is critical," said Superintendent Ricca. "We know that when our children recognize that their dads value their efforts at school, they work hard to continue to succeed and do their very best. When their dads take an active role, our children are positioned well to flourish."

Ridgeway Principal Tashia Brown added: "It's really such an awesome day to see so many dads involved in the schools. And we always remind them: we don't want this to be emblematic of just an event. We need you to be engaged in all our events, and to come out to our PTA meetings, too."

In the United States, 24 million kids – or 1 in 3 – are growing up without their biological father in the home, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Research shows, however, that students with involved fathers do better academically, enjoy school more, and stay in school longer, according to the National Responsible Fatherhood

Clearinghouse, a resource of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

White Plains resident John Pasacreta attended the kickoff with his son Luke, a fifth-grader at Ridgeway, saying that family is the highest priority and he's willing to do anything to be there for his kids.

"I think the children do really appreciate it. They may not necessarily thank you out loud but I think they do, deep down, believe that it is important for them," said Pasacreta, a father of three. "There's nothing I wouldn't do. It just goes by way too fast."

Dads Take Your Child to School Day is part of Astorino's ongoing #DadBeThere fatherhood initiative, which focuses on supporting the full spectrum of fathers – from those who are active in the home to those who are not. Programs range from career counseling, job placement assistance and child-support arrears repayment programs to simply creating more opportunities for dads and families to spend time together. Visit www.westchestergov.com/dadbethere to learn more.

Families are encouraged to share their proud moments using the hashtags #DadBeThere and #DadsTakeYourChildtoSchoolDay.

Sports

**New look for
Ossining girls soccer**

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**Series of 'Criminal Justice'
discussions planned in fall**

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In announcing a series of six public programs on the issue of criminal justice, to be held in October, from left, Robin Melen, program director of the Westchester Community Foundation; Terry Kirschner, executive director of the Westchester Library System; Laura Rossi, executive director of the Westchester Community Foundation; and Brent D. Glass, senior advisor to the organization Sing Sing Prison Museum.

'Criminal justice: yesterday and today' is discussion series topic

The Westchester Library System will host in October a series of public programs—entitled, "Community Conversations: Criminal Justice, Yesterday and Today—in various locations throughout Westchester County.

To be held in collaboration with the recently state-chartered organization, Sing Sing Prison Museum, the series—funded by the Westchester Community Foundation—will focus on the almost 200-year history of Sing Sing Correctional Facility and its impact on prison reform, as well as current issues of incarceration, reform, rehabilitation and re-entry.

In an effort to encourage participation from residents throughout Westchester County, the series will be held at six library locations: the Ossining Public Library (Thursday, October 5), New Rochelle Public Library (Tuesday, October 10), Yonkers Riverfront Library (Thursday, October 12), Grinton I. Will Library in Yonkers (Tuesday, October 17), John C. Hart Memorial Library (Thursday, October 26), and Mount Kisco Public Library (Saturday, October 28). Each session will feature a different set of experts and engaging panelists, said event spokesperson Nancy Gold.

"Brent Glass, Director Emeritus of the Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution, will moderate each panel discussion with local historians, service providers, ex-offenders and distinguished lecturers on prison history, reform and rehabilitation," said Ms. Gold.

Each presentation will be followed by time for questions and conversation with members of the audience about the past and future of the American criminal justice system.

"Members of the public are encouraged to take advantage of this important opportunity to engage in the national conversation about the future direction of criminal justice in America," said Terry Kirchner, the Westchester Library System's executive director. "This project also fosters our commitment to collaborate with member libraries and local non-profit organizations in our collective efforts to provide information to the public."

"The time is ripe for community dialogue on incarceration and rehabilitation, and the new museum at Sing Sing is being

designed to engage and educate visitors on these complex issues," he continued. "What's most important to learn by participating in the Community Conversations is that every individual life has value — victims, the incarcerated, ex-offenders and corrections officers."

A work in progress, the Sing Sing Prison Museum recently received its charter, approved by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department. The organization expects to move forward on the capital preservation and rehabilitation work of two important prison structures at Sing Sing in the near future. The 1936 Power House will be used as the main museum building, with the expectation of connecting it to the 1825 Cell Block.

The Westchester Library System provides services and support for Westchester's 38 public libraries and is supported by funds from member fees, federal, state and county government, foundations, corporations, and individuals.

The public is invited to attend any or all of the Community Conversations sessions free of charge. Program information and resources, including a reading list related to issues of criminal and social justice, will be available on the Westchester Library System web site www.westchesterlibraries.org, and at www.connections.westchesterlibraries.org for information on re-entry programs. Information on the history of Sing Sing and the Sing Sing Prison Museum is available on-line at singsingprisonmuseum.org.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING
August 21, 2017

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM AT LIBRARIES

The Westchester Library System and the Sing Sing Prison Museum, which is being developed, have announced a series of public programs called "Community Conversations: Criminal Justice, Yesterday and Today" to be held in October. The Westchester Community Foundation (WCF) is funding the series, which will focus on the 200-year history of Sing Sing and its impact on prison reform, as well as current issues of incarceration, reform, rehabilitation and return to prison.

The programs are scheduled for the Ossining Public Library **Oct. 5**, New Rochelle Public Library **Oct. 10**, Yonkers Riverfront Library **Oct. 12**, the Grinton I. Will Branch Library in Yonkers **Oct. 17**, The John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak **Oct. 26** and the Mount Kisco Public Library **Oct. 28**. Each session will feature a different set of panelists.

Brent Glass, director emeritus of the Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution, will moderate each event.

Laura Rossi, executive director of the WCF, said, "What's most important to learn by participating in the Community Conversations is that every individual life has value — victims, the incarcerated, ex-offenders and corrections officers."

The Sing Sing Prison Museum recently received its charter from the state. It plans to use the powerhouse, built in 1936, as the main museum building and connect it to a cellblock built in 1825. Visitors will be invited to experience what it must have been like to be imprisoned there during the last two hundred years.



Community Conversations: Criminal Justice, Yesterday and Today

August 21, 2017



Kathy Welsh

ELMSFORD – The Westchester Library System has announced plans for a series of public programs called Community Conversations: Criminal Justice, Yesterday and Today, to be held in October, 2017.

In collaboration with the Sing Sing Prison Museum and funded by the Westchester Community Foundation, the series will focus on the 200-year history of Sing Sing and its impact on prison reform, as well as current issues of incarceration, reform, rehabilitation and re-entry.



Community Conversations: Criminal Justice, Yesterday and Today was announced recently by Robin Melen, Program Director of the Westchester Community Foundation; Terry Kirchner, Executive Director of the Westchester Library Foundation; Laura Rossi,

Executive Director of the Westchester Community Foundation; and Brent D. Glass, Senior Advisor to the Sing Sing Prison Museum. Photo provided

In an effort to encourage participation from residents throughout Westchester County, the Community Conversations will be held at six library locations, Ossining Public Library (October 5), New Rochelle Public Library (October 10), Yonkers Riverfront Library (October 12), Grinton I. Will Library (Yonkers) (October 17), John C. Hart Memorial Library (October 26), and Mount Kisco Public Library (October 28), each with a different set of experts and engaging panelists.

Brent Glass, Director Emeritus of the Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution, will moderate each panel discussion with local historians, service providers, ex-offenders and distinguished lecturers on prison history, reform and rehabilitation. Each presentation will be followed by time for questions and conversation with members of the audience about the past and future of the American criminal justice system.

In announcing the program, Terry Kirchner, Westchester Library System Executive Director, said, “We are delighted to present Community Conversations: Criminal Justice, Yesterday and Today, working with the Sing Sing Prison Museum and funded by the Westchester Community Foundation. Members of the public are encouraged to take advantage of this important opportunity to engage in the national conversation about the future direction of criminal justice in America. This project also fosters our commitment to collaborate with member libraries and local nonprofit organizations in our collective efforts to provide information to the public.”

Laura Rossi, Executive Director of the Westchester Community Foundation, said that the Foundation is pleased to promote the Sing Sing Prison Museum by supporting this exciting partnership with the Westchester Library System. “The time is ripe for community dialogue on incarceration and rehabilitation, she said, “and the new museum at Sing Sing is being designed to engage and educate visitors on these complex issues. What’s most important to learn by participating in the Community Conversations is that every individual life has value – victims, the incarcerated, ex-offenders and corrections officers.”

Westchester Library System (WLS) provides services and supports that enable Westchester's 38 public libraries to empower and improve communities with extensive yet free access to information, technology, and personal development tools. WLS is supported by funds from member fees, federal, state and county government, foundations, corporations, and individuals.

A work in progress, the Sing Sing Prison Museum recently received its charter, approved by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department. The organization expects to move forward on the capital preservation and rehabilitation work of two important prison structures at Sing Sing in the near future. The 1936 Power House will be used as the main museum building, with the expectation of connecting it to the 1825 Cell Block, so that visitors can experience what it must have been like to be imprisoned there over the last two hundred years.

The public is invited to attend any or all of the Community Conversations free of charge.

Program information and resources, including a reading list related to issues of criminal and social justice will be available on the Westchester Library System website www.westchesterlibraries.org and at www.connections.westchesterlibraries.org for information on re-entry programs.

Information on the history of Sing Sing and the Sing Sing Prison Museum project is available at www.singsingprisonmuseum.org.

Energy brings you...

know your Neighbor

Bernie Seiler
Westchester Library System Trustee
Mount Kisco

By Neal Rentz

Libraries have been an important part of Mount Kisco resident Bernie Seiler's life.

His involvement is continuing through his recent appointment to the board of trustees of the Westchester Library System. He is the District III representative covering Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah and Mount Kisco. Seiler is filling an unexpired term that ends on Dec. 31, 2021.

Seiler, who is also a member of the Mount Kisco Public Library board, said last week, "A lot of my work life has been involved with libraries."

Seiler was an employee of HW Wilson in the Bronx as a product manager for 12 years for the company's research Web searchers databases that were sold to libraries. HW Wilson was a publishing company that had libraries as its primary clients. Wilson published textbooks and was most famous for "The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature," which is an index of popular and academic periodicals that

could be used when writing academic papers. "It was peer reviewed," he said. "It was all suited for library use." Seiler recalled he used the Readers' Guide when he was a student.

Seiler retired in 2012.

Prior to his employment with HW Wilson Seiler worked in product management including being a longtime employee of ADT Security Systems. He helped create new products, including doing market research and working with the engineers to make them.

Seiler, who is a 32-year Mount Kisco resident, was born and raised in Muncie, which is located in the east central part of Indiana. He was a marketing major at Indiana University and earned a master's degree in marketing from Ball State University, which is located in Muncie. After completing his military service Seiler earned an MBA in information systems from Long Island University in Brooklyn.

Seiler volunteered for military service



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO
Mount Kisco resident Bernie Seiler was recently appointed to the board of trustees of the Westchester Library System.

and started his career in the Army in Officers Candidates School in the mid-1960s for the Armored Division in Fort Knox, KY. His military service included a tour of duty in Vietnam for 11 months as a member of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regime, a tank regime, as a platoon leader. "I saw a lot of action," he recalled. "I was in the Cambodian incursion. Our unit was the first one in."

For his service in Vietnam Seiler was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star and other medals. Overall, he served

for three years in the military and was discharged in 1970.

"I managed to get through it," he said. "I had moments when I was very frightened because I was in the field for 11 months."

Seiler has been very active in volunteering for veterans. He volunteered at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Montrose in the computer department as part of a group that was in charge of an online computer database for veterans. The database had storage of medical records and such services like making doctors' appointments and refilling prescriptions for veterans.

Seiler currently is a member of the Hudson Valley Health Care System's advisory council as the representative from the Westchester Library System. "I just represent the libraries for veterans," he said. Seiler has also started a regular series of veterans' meetings at the Mount Kisco Library that helps veterans learn what they are entitled to from the VA.

Seiler said he does not have many hobbies. But he does write about his military service through Fordham University's Veterans Writing Project in Harrison. Examples of the veterans' writings will be published by the university in December.

He recalled that he and his wife, Mary, who is a teacher at the Ursuline School in New Rochelle, moved to the village from White Plains because, "It was as far north as we wanted to go. We were looking for a house."

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For more information and to RSVP, visit:
LIU.EDU/HUDSON

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WESTCHESTER COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING
July 10, 2017

SEILER JOINS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD

Mount Kisco resident **Bernie Seiler** has joined the board of directors of the Westchester Library System (WLS). He's serving as the District III representative covering Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah and Mount Kisco, filling an unexpired term that runs through 2021.

Seiler serves as treasurer of the Mount Kisco Public Library's board. He served on the Mount Kisco Architectural Review Board for 10 years. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and Cambodia, receiving



Bernie Seiler

the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. Seiler is active in promoting various veterans' causes with the Veterans Affairs Hudson Valley Healthcare System in Montrose.



Community Corner (/new-york/chappaqua/around-town)

Westchester Library System Welcomes New Board Of Trustees Member

The Westchester Library System welcomes Bernie Seiler as the representative covering Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah, and Mount Kisco.

By Jen Semler (Patch Staff) - (<https://patch.com/users/jen-semler>) Updated June 28, 2017 8:00 am ET



From the Westchester Library System:

(<http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/>) The Westchester Library System (WLS) welcomes Bernie Seiler of Mount Kisco as the District III representative covering Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah and Mount Kisco, who is filling an unexpired term that ends 12/31/2021.

engine for 80+ databases marketed to public, academic, school and special libraries. During that time, he was an active member of the American Library Association and the Library Information Technology Association and regularly participated in library education, industry trade shows, product development and product introduction events.



Trump's Tweet; Venus In Fatal Crash?; And Amazon Prime Day Is: Patch Morning Briefing
(<https://patch.com/new-york/chappaqua/s/g61y2/trumps-tweet-venus-in-fatal-crash-and-amazon-prime-day-is-patch-morning-briefing>)

Man gets out of jail after 22 years for a murder he didn't commit; powerful letter to the vice president; and the hero umpire.

Mr. Seiler received his Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Indiana University in Bloomington; his Masters of Arts degree in Marketing at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana; and a Masters in Business Administration in Information Systems at Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York.

“We are pleased to have such an extraordinary individual join our Board,” said Terry Kirchner, WLS Executive Director. “His expertise and community involvement will add a new perspective to the Westchester Library System.”

Photo courtesy of the Westchester Library System

Thoughts on this article?  

Originally published June 28, 2017.

More from Chappaqua-Mount Kisco Patch (</new-york/chappaqua>)

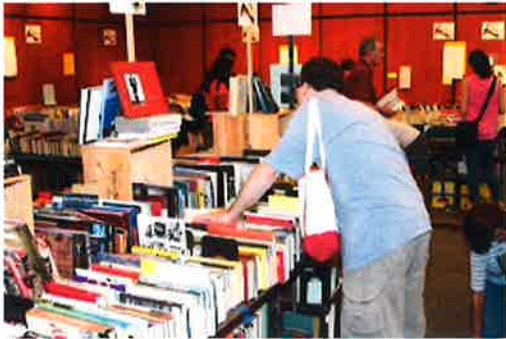
Annual Scarsdale Library Book Sale Kicks off on Friday, Sept. 8

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Published on Thursday, 07 September 2017 09:13

Written by Scarsdale Public Library



The Friends of the Scarsdale Library Annual Book Sale, Westchester's premier book sale, begins Friday, September 8, with a Friends' Preview and continues through Sunday, September 17. The opening evening Friends' Preview from

6 to 9 p.m. is open to members of the Friends. New members may join at the door for \$25.

Buyers should stock up this year as the sale will be on hiatus for a couple of years during the planned renovation and upgrading of the library. Only cash and checks are accepted for the sale, no credit cards.

As the sale progresses, the price of books is reduced. The schedule is:

Regular Sale - Saturday, Sept. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. And Sunday, Sept. 10, Monday, Sept 11, and Tuesday, Sept 12, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Half-Price Sale – Wednesday, Sept. 13, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, Sept. 15, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Blow-Out Sale – Saturday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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The Journal News

FRONT PAGE

Thursday, August 24, 2017

Library offerings change to meet demand

ERNIE GARCIA
ELGARCIA@OHUD.COM

Changing patron tastes and needs are inspiring local libraries to transform themselves to remain relevant.

It was once forbidden to drink, eat or talk in libraries, but now formerly silent sanctums throughout Westchester County are offering cafes, cooking classes and Zumba to get the public through the doors.

"It's all a part of lifelong learning," said Susan Thaler, deputy director at the Yonkers Public Library. "Checking out books is an important part of our mission, but it's not all our mission."

The expanded mission varies according to the community. In Yonkers, it might mean offering English courses to immigrants and basic computing skills

to all ages while, in White Plains, it means building a new cafe.

Buzzwords used among many librarians are "patron experience" and "community engagement," said Terry Kirchner, executive director of the Westchester Library System, the umbrella group for public libraries in the county.

"It's anything from using 3D printers to tai chi classes. There are many ways libraries are helping people connect," Kirchner said.

At the Ossining Public Library, connecting people is the idea behind some of the library's strategic goals.

"We find that our patrons are yearning for meaningful experiences," said Karen LaRocca-Fels, the Ossining library's director. "Yes, they want to take out a book. Yes, they want to take out a movie... But they also want to connect

with each other."

In Ossining, community connecting means English and citizenship classes for immigrants, adult Spanish classes and resources for job hunters, and students pursuing higher education.

Libraries are also offering patrons more opportunities to interact.

"These days people want to talk about what's going on in the world. We started a breaking news talking group and that's really taken off," LaRocca-Fels said.

On Aug. 2, about 12 patrons attended a Japanese cooking class held in Spanish at the Yonkers Public Library's Riverfront branch. Pedro Mejia, 48, of Yonkers, sat in on chef Armalia Greco's demonstration that started with making a quick teriyaki marinade.

Mejia, a disabled truck driver, said he visits the Riverfront branch almost ev-

ery day because he doesn't have wi-fi at home. He said the library staff helps many low-income people like himself with the library's employment resources and programs, even when it comes cooking classes.

"I cook for myself at home," Mejia said. "For a single man, learning how to make a simple dish is fantastic."

But just because libraries are diversifying their offerings, it doesn't mean they are abandoning their basics.

"There are certain things about our essential mission that are still the same, such as fostering literacy and civic engagement and ... the ability to tell the difference between real and fake news, for example," Thaler said.

See LIBRARIES, Page 2W

Libraries

Continued from Page 1W

and fake news, for example," Thaler said.

Despite all the activity in local libraries, quiet contemplation is still cherished.

The Scarsdale Public Library's expansion plan calls for creating a comfortable, quiet reading space for working and retired adults. The plan also envisions four small quiet-study or meeting rooms as well as opportunities for socializing in a cafe and a meet-up space.

Many local libraries are adding small meeting rooms in response to burgeoning requests. A presentation on Scarsdale's library expansion plan noted that the staff "constantly turns community

"The library of things' is where you can take out something that's not a book ..."

SUAN THALER
YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

groups away" for lack of space.

The White Plains Public Library's cafe space and a community room are under construction and, at their July meeting, the library's trustees reviewed a copy of the lease agreement for the cafe, which is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Although bookstores like Barnes & Noble showed the public how appealing a staffed cafe can

be for reading or studying, a cafe's relocation into a library isn't a guaranteed success. The Ossining library opened a staffed cafe around 2007 and the outside vendor closed it last year.

"Patrons really did appreciate having it but, at the end of the day, the vendor didn't make enough money to sustain it," Larocca-Fels said, noting that the cafe space now has vending machines and is still a popular meeting and study space.

While libraries are transforming themselves into places where a community gathers for reasons other than borrowing or reading books, Kirchner warned that the challenge for librarians and trustees is to avoid becoming just another community center.

"The thing we want to be careful of is that they



MARK VERGARI/
THE JOURNAL NEWS
Diane McCrink,
children's library
head at the Will
Library, helps
children make a
solar oven.

don't become a place, that they become a learning place," said Kirchner, noting that librarians have to remind groups meeting in their spaces about the resources available in their buildings.

Additional signs of change are items borrowed by the public. For instance, local libraries

have passes that allow patrons free admission to prominent New York City museums.

Other libraries have decided to offer musical instruments. The Yonkers Public Library has three ukuleles to lend.

"From what I know, they've been pretty much checked out since we got them last year and there is a waiting list," Thaler said.

Yonkers is expanding its non-book items to include a telescope, a requested item that topped a patron survey last year. Patrons will one day be able to borrow more non-book items.

"The 'library of things' is where you can take out something that's not a book so you can have an engagement or family experience," Thaler said.
Twitter: @ErnieJourno

Astorino Lauds Harrison Library Play2Learn Festival

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Published on Saturday, 19 August 2017 11:52

Written by Dave Donelson



(Harrison, NY) Accolades are rolling in for the Harrison Public Library Foundation's Play2Learn Festival, scheduled for Sunday, September 10 from 11 AM to 3 PM in Riis Park outside the library. County Executive Rob Astorino has

proclaimed the date "Harrison Public Library Play2Learn Festival Day" in Westchester County and is scheduled to deliver the proclamation in person shortly after the event opens at 11 AM.

Westchester Magazine named the Play2Learn Festival "Best New Children's Festival" in its popular "Best of Westchester" section of the magazine's July issue. In making the award, the magazine said, "Don't tell the kids, but they can learn while they play. The HPL Play2Learn Festival features dozens of hands-on activities."

The Play2Learn Festival celebrates the importance of play in a child's life. It's free to the public and kids (and parents) will have the opportunity to play at the Bubble Bus, make scratch animal masks, construct Dr. Seuss characters with Legos, create a tornado in a bottle, play a variety of musical instruments, and dance Kid Zumba. Over 25 activities will occur in eight play zones. Popular food vendors will sell refreshments and musical entertainment will be ongoing.

"We're so happy the County Executive and Westchester Magazine have recognized the Play2Learn Festival," says Library Director Galina Chernykh. "The feedback from last year's festival was overwhelmingly positive and we're working hard to top it this year."

Play is serious business for kids. It contributes to their cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being and the Play2Learn Festival is designed to expose them to a wide variety of play activities. It also gives parents an ideal opportunity to engage fully with their children.

"Funding the Play2Learn Festival may be one of the most important ways the Harrison Public Library Foundation supports the library," according to HPLF President Dave Donelson. The foundation sponsors the event through donations from numerous Westchester companies and individuals. This year, Fidelity Investments and Willow Ridge Country Club are banner

sponsors while a growing roster of donors join them to support the event and keep it free for the public.

The Harrison Public Library is at 2 Bruce Avenue in Harrison. For more information, visit <http://www.harrisonpl.org/play2learn>

For more information, contact Dave Donelson, 914-949-7483 or dave@davedonelson.com

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The Journal News

FRONT PAGE
Thursday, August 17, 2017

Libraries evolve

Offerings
change in
response
to public
demands

ERNIE GARCIA
ELGARCIA@LOHUD.COM

Changing patron tastes and needs are inspiring local libraries to transform themselves to remain relevant.

It was once forbidden to drink, eat or talk in libraries, but now formerly silent sanctums throughout Westchester County are offering cafes, cooking classes and Zumba to get the



"Solar ovens" sit in the sun at the Will Library in Yonkers as s'mores are made at a sloppy science event Aug. 10.



PHOTOS BY MARK VERGAR/THE JOURNAL NEWS

▲ Marleen Figueroa and her sons Maximilian, 4, and Benjamin, 8, make solar ovens at the Will Library in Yonkers.

public through the doors.

"It's all a part of lifelong learning," said Susan Thaler, deputy director at the Yonkers Public Library. "Checking out books is an important part of our mission, but it's not all our mission."

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Diane McCrink, children's library head at the Will Library in Yonkers, helps children make a solar oven.

Libraries

Continued from Page 1A

and "community engagement," said Terry Kirchner, executive director of the Westchester Library System, the umbrella group for public libraries in the county.

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On Aug. 2, about 12 patrons attended a Japanese cooking class held in Spanish at the Yonkers Public Library's Riverfront branch. Pedro Mejia, 48, of Yonkers, sat in on chef Amalia Greco's demonstration that started with making a quick teriyaki marinade.

Mejia, a disabled truck driver, said he visits the Riverfront branch almost every day because he doesn't have wi-fi at home. He said the library staff helps many low-income people like himself with the library's employment resources and programs, even when it comes cooking classes.

"I cook for myself at home," Mejia said. "For a single man, learning how to make a simple dish is fantastic."

But just because libraries are diversifying their offerings, it doesn't mean they are abandoning their basics.

"There are certain things about our essential mission that are still the same, such as fostering literacy and civic engagement and ... the ability to tell the difference between real and fake news, for example," Thaler said.

Despite all the activity in local libraries, quiet contemplation is still cherished.

The Scarsdale Public Library's expansion plan calls for creating a comfortable, quiet reading space for working and retired adults. The plan also envisions four small quiet-study or meeting rooms as well as opportunities for socializing in a cafe and a meet-up space.

Many local libraries are adding small meeting rooms in response to burgeoning requests. A presentation on Scarsdale's library expansion plan noted that the staff "constantly turns community groups



Chef Amalia Greco leads a Japanese cooking class for Spanish-speaking attendees during a Riverfront Library program at the Larkin Center.

PHOTOS BY MARK VERGARIN/THE JOURNAL NEWS



MARK VERGARIN/THE JOURNAL NEWS
Greco's Japanese cooking class was Aug. 2 at the Riverfront Library at Yonkers' Larkin Center.

away" for lack of space.

The White Plains Public Library's cafe space and a community room are under construction and, at their July meeting, the library's trustees reviewed a copy of the lease agreement for the cafe, which is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Although bookstores like Barnes & No-

ble showed the public how appealing a staffed cafe can be for reading or studying, a cafe's relocation into a library isn't a guaranteed success. The Ossining library opened a staffed cafe around 2007 and the outside vendor closed it last year.

"Patrons really did appreciate having it but, at the end of the day, the vendor didn't make enough money to sustain it," LaRoc-

ca-Fels said, noting that the cafe space now has vending machines and is still a popular meeting and study space.

While libraries are transforming themselves into places where a community gathers for reasons other than borrowing or reading books, Kirchner warned that the challenge for librarians and trustees is to avoid becoming just another community center.

"The thing we want to be careful of is that they don't become a place, that they become a learning place," said Kirchner, noting that librarians have to remind groups meeting in their spaces about the resources available in their buildings.

Additional signs of change are items borrowed by the public. For instance, local libraries have passes that allow patrons free admission to prominent New York City museums.

Other libraries have decided to offer musical instruments. The Yonkers Public Library has three ukuleles to lend.

"From what I know, they've been pretty much checked out since we got them last year and there is a waiting list," Thaler said.

Yonkers is expanding its non-book items to include a telescope, a requested item that topped a patron survey last year. Patrons will one day be able to borrow more non-book items.

"The 'library of things' is where you can take out something that's not a book so you can have an engagement or family experience," Thaler said.

Twitter: @ErnieJourno

Libraries changing offerings in response to public demands

[Ernie Garcia, elgarcia@lohud.com](mailto:elgarcia@lohud.com)

Published 6:00 a.m. ET Aug. 15, 2017 | Updated 6:20 a.m. ET Aug. 15, 2017



(Photo: Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

Changing patron tastes and needs are inspiring local libraries to transform themselves to remain relevant.

It was once forbidden to drink, eat or talk in libraries, but now formerly silent sanctums throughout Westchester County are offering cafes, cooking classes and Zumba to get the public through the doors.

"It's all a part of lifelong learning," said Susan Thaler, deputy director at the Yonkers Public Library. "Checking out books is an important part of our mission, but it's not all our mission."

[JOBS: Yonkers seeks new cops \(/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/08/02/yonkers-police-officers/530593001/\)](/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/08/02/yonkers-police-officers/530593001/)

[HOUSING: Yonkers public housing to be renovated \(/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/20/yonkers-public-housing/496028001/\)](/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/20/yonkers-public-housing/496028001/)

[CULTURE: Yonkers galleries launching art hop \(/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/06/30/yonkers-art-hop/440934001/\)](/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/06/30/yonkers-art-hop/440934001/)

The expanded mission varies according to the community. In Yonkers, it might mean offering English courses to immigrants and basic computing skills to all ages, while in White Plains, it means building a new cafe.

Buzzwords used among many librarians are "patron experience" and "community engagement," said Terry Kirchner, the executive director of the Westchester Library System, the umbrella group for public libraries in Westchester County.

"It's anything from using 3D printers to tai chi classes. There are many ways libraries are helping people connect," Kirchner said.

At the Ossining Public Library, connecting people is the idea behind some of the library's strategic goals.

"We find that our patrons are yearning for meaningful experiences," said Karen LaRocca-Fels, the Ossining library's director. "Yes, they want to take out a book. Yes, they want to take out a movie ... but they also want to connect with each other."

At Ossining's library, community connecting means English and citizenship classes for immigrants, adult Spanish classes and resources for job hunters and students pursuing higher education.

Libraries are also offering patrons more opportunities to interact.

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On Aug. 2, about 12 patrons attended a Japanese cooking class held in Spanish at the Yonkers Public Library's Riverfront branch. Pedro Mejia, 48, of Yonkers, sat in on chef Amalia Greco's demonstration that started with making a quick teriyaki marinade.



Chef Amalia Greco ladles out some miso soup as she leads a Japanese cooking class for a group of Spanish speaking attendees, during a program at the Riverfront Library at Larkin Center in Yonkers, Aug. 2, 2017. (Photo: Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

Mejia, a disabled truck driver, said he comes to the Riverfront branch almost every day because he doesn't have wi-fi at home. Mejia said the library staff helps many low-income people like himself with the library's employment resources and programs, even when it comes cooking classes.

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Buy Photo



"Solar ovens" sit in the sun at the Will Library in Yonkers, as they make S'mores during a sloppy science event at the outdoor patio, Aug. 10, 2017. (Photo: Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

"From what I know, they've been pretty much checked out since we got them last year and there is a waiting list," Thaler said.

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Read or Share this story: <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/education/2017/08/15/libraries-changing/529251001/>

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- MATT JUSZCAK Co-Owner, Turnstyle Cycle



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New Pound Ridge library director resigns; former director still fighting in court

Michael P. McKinney, mmckinney@lohud.com Published 11:09 a.m. ET July 28, 2017



(Photo: Peter Carr/The Journal News)

POUND RIDGE - At times, it seems like the public library in this northeast corner of Westchester County can't catch a break.

Daniel Sabol, who began as the new Pound Ridge Library director in mid-May, has resigned after a few weeks in the position.

Why is unclear.

Minutes from a Board of Trustees' meeting this summer say Sabol resigned the \$75,000-a-year-position after leaving work in early June, saying he did not feel well. He worked at the library from May 15 through June 7.

When contacted this week, Sabol said his resignation was not for a medical reason, but declined to comment further.

Miriam Schindel, the library Board of Trustees president, said she could not say much beyond that his resignation was for personal reasons.

Sabol's departure comes after the previous library director, Marilyn Tinter — who worked at the library in various roles for more than 40 years — is in state court contesting her firing by the previous library Board of Trustees.



Daniel Sabol was appointed the next director of the Pound Ridge Library but has since resigned from that position. (Photo: Submitted photo/Daniel Sabol)

[Pound Ridge Library to get a new director \(/story/news/local/westchester/pound-ridge/2017/04/24/pound-ridge-library-get-new-director/100739728/\)](#)

[Former Pound Ridge Library director asks court to reinstate her \(/story/news/local/westchester/pound-ridge/2016/12/30/former-pound-ridge-library-director-asks-court-reinstate-her/95965610/\)](#)

[Report: Pound Ridge Library 'in dire straits' \(/story/news/local/westchester/pound-ridge/2016/11/15/report-pound-ridge-library-dire-straits/93789492/\)](#)

[Pound Ridge Library director fired; president ousted \(/story/news/local/westchester/pound-ridge/2016/10/02/pound-ridge-library-director/91288060/\)](#)

Schindel and other current trustees were elected last September and were not involved in Tinter's firing.

Prior to Sabol's brief tenure, the library had gone through a tumultuous 2016 in this town of about 5,100 residents.

The previous board brought a disciplinary hearing against Tinter, whose salary was \$97,237, that spanned spring and summer of last year. Tinter was accused of violations such as inflating circulation figures by having employees check books out and back in.

Buy Photo



Former library Director Marilyn Tinter worked for many years at the Pound Ridge Library in the town of 5,000-plus residents. (Photo: File photo/The Journal News)

The board, which argued the circulation numbers had been used to justify a library budget with a nearly 2-percent tax levy increase, fired Tinter last September. But the next day, district voters elected a new library board, ousting the incumbent president.

Tinter is challenging in the state court's appellate division, where she asks to be reinstated as library director and receive back pay and benefits.

Meanwhile, Sabol was officially welcomed at the trustees' meeting in mid-May, according to minutes, where he reported on community outreach he was doing and discussion of publicity for a musical event that was coming up.

He attended the town's May 29 Memorial Day Parade "with his family and met many townspeople," the minutes say.

Sabol — previously a Pace University librarian who also taught information technology at Pace and at Mercy College — told The Journal News/lohud.com in April that his plans were "to make sure we're out in the community and everybody's happy with the service we're providing." ([/story/news/local/westchester/pound-ridge/2017/04/24/pound-ridge-library-get-new-director/100739728/](http://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/westchester/pound-ridge/2017/04/24/pound-ridge-library-get-new-director/100739728/))

Schindel said in April that Sabol was "on the cutting edge of libraries and the way libraries will function in the future."

Whatever led Sabol to leave, one question is what's next for the library.

The Board of Trustees "are not considering past candidates to fill the vacancy at this time," Schindel said. "We are looking at the possibility of a part-time director since the library is functioning at a very high-level with the talented and committed staff we presently have."

Schindel added that a part-time director "will give us the latitude to explore hiring additional staff (librarians and library clerks) in key areas such as reference and programming."

Read or Share this story: <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/westchester/2017/07/28/new-pound-ridge-library-director-resigns/516539001/>

REVIEW

JULY 14, 2017

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Pound Ridge

Library must fill position again as director leaves

By LUCIE COUILLARD

Pound Ridge Library Director Daniel Sabol resigned as library director late last week for personal reasons, after serving in the position for less than two months.

Mr. Sabol left the library June 7 because he was feeling ill and took some time off, said Miriam Schindel, president of the library board of trustees, at the library board meeting on Tuesday. Late last week, he contacted the Library Board of Trustees to tender his resignation.

"The board really wishes him well," Ms. Schindel said in an interview on Wednesday.

Mr. Sabol declined to comment when contacted by The Record-Review.

Mr. Sabol began his role as library director May 15. Before Mr. Sabol was hired, the library was operating without a director since Sept. 30, 2016, when interim director Mitch Freeman submitted his resignation. That departure left the library without a day-to-day manager.

Mr. Sabol's hire, finalized in April, capped a six-month search for a per-

manent replacement. The board interviewed a slate of candidates and narrowed it down to several finalists before selecting Mr. Sabol, who most recently had worked in the Pace University Library.

Complicating the process, the library director's hire is subject to civil service requirements, including minimum levels of professional experience, set by the county. That adds several steps and layers of approval to the board's staffing decisions.

In December 2015, the library board, composed of several different trustees at the time, hired Mr. Freeman to fill in for long-serving director Marilyn Tinter. Ms. Tinter, who worked at the library for 40 years, was placed on administrative leave that month while the board investigated charges of mismanagement and other concerns.

The same week Mr. Freeman resigned, the board voted to terminate Ms. Tinter after a hearing process that lasted most of 2016.

Finding itself once again with the

continued on page 6

'The board really wishes him well.'

— MIRIAM SCHINDEL,
LIBRARY BOARD OF
TRUSTEES PRESIDENT



SONIA LEVETHAN PHOTO

volunteer in the town's Flowers for

Town of Bedford

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ani and Sonia Sabharwal.

The writing group started in Janu-
ary after some members of PRAS who

*Writing, essentially,
is a lonely business.*

—GARTH HALLBERG,
WRITING CRITIQUE GROUP MEMBER

were working on their second or third
books mentioned they would wel-
come help editing and critiquing their
current manuscripts, according to Ms.
Insoft, the moderator of the group.

PRAS, which recently celebrated its
third anniversary, has evolved into a
forum on how to market and pub-
lize books. Mr. Hallberg, for one, said
that assistance continues to be useful.
The Writing Critique Group gives the
members a different form of profes-
sional support, he noted — a writing
workshop platform.

"I think it's just helpful to have oth-
er people's eyes look at your work and
give honest feedback," Ms. Insoft said.

**Peter Acker, Katherine Dering, Nancy Farkas, Garth Hallberg, Audrey Insoft and
Sonia Sabharwal at their last Writing Critique Group meeting June 24.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONIA SABHARWAL

"You need to know what works, but
you also need to know what doesn't
work."

The writing group held its first
meeting in February. Since then, the
authors have continued to meet every
two to three weeks at the home of Ms.
Insoft or other members.

Even though the group to date is
relatively small in number, the range
of subjects vary widely, Ms. Insoft
noted, and the writers' individual
styles are "vastly different."

Before each meeting, three different
members email 10 to 15 new pages of
their manuscripts to the entire group
for comments. As the moderator and

facilitator of the group, Ms. Insoft
does not submit her own work.

Members mark-up printed copies of
each manuscript, adding margin notes
and comments, and even correcting
typos. At the meeting, they deliver
their critiques after each author has
introduced their respective work.

When the meeting ends, the authors
receive the marked-up hardcopies to
guide them through their next drafts.
The writers take turns as presenters
and reviewers, alternating roles.

"The people in the group are very
gifted authors and I'm excited for
them to launch their books when they
reach that point," Ms. Insoft said. "I'm

Now after six months of meeting
regularly and reading each others'
work, Mr. Hallberg said, the group
has grown close enough to trust each
others' criticism.

"They are not there to tell you how
great you are," Mr. Hallberg said.

Mr. Acker said the group also offers
him a chance to get into the minds of
readers, as opposed to those of a pro-
fessional editor, and anticipate their
questions. The review process helps
him realize where readers could get
lost in the story and how they react to
particular scenes.

Ms. Farkas added that the group
encourages her to meet deadlines and
goals, and prioritize her work accord-
ing to the meeting schedule.

In addition to assisting with the
writing process, Mr. Hallberg said the
group gives the authors a chance to
engage with other writers. Working as
a writer in Pound Ridge can be isolat-
ing, he noted, and the group helps ad-
dress that problem.

"Writing, essentially, is a lonely
business," Mr. Hallberg said. "This
is a chance to find other writers and
interact about the work that is being
created."

More director woes as library head leaves post

continued from page 1

key vacancy in its personnel, the board
is exploring the possibility of hiring a
part-time director — someone who
would work less than 20 hours a week.
Ms. Schindel said at Tuesday's meeting.
The board is discussing its idea with
civil service officials.

Currently the trustees are talking
to "a number of people" about the
part-time position, according to Ms.
Schindel. She said at the meeting that
the board is in contact with someone
interested in the position who is "a
very seasoned and very well-regarded
library director" and is scheduled to
return soon from a current position.
Ms. Schindel said she was not at liber-
ty to disclose the name or other details

about the candidate.

Ms. Schindel said in an interview
Wednesday that the board thinks the
library can manage well with a part-
time director instead of a full-time staff
member since it is a smaller operation
relative to others in the county and is
currently running soundly without a
library director.

"The library has been operating
seamlessly" since Mr. Sobel's depar-
ture, according to Ms. Schindel, who
credited the staff for taking on extra
duties as needed. "We have the right
people, dedicated people," she said.

Currently the library has three full-
time staff members — a library clerk
and two librarians — and two part-
time library clerks, Ms. Schindel said.

Two school librarians who are off-duty
for the summer have been filling in
recently for the Pound Ridge Library
staff when they go on vacation.

Individual trustees also have adopt-
ed responsibilities for looking after dif-
ferent aspects of the director's duties.

"The board is very actively involved
in different parts of management of the
library," Ms. Schindel said.

Ms. Schindel handles general mat-
ters; Gerry Kaplan and Michele Gage
run the budget and finances; Pat Daver
is in charge of personnel and staffing;
Ken Turner looks after the building
and grounds; and Rich Esmar works
with librarians Alan Ramsay and Van-
essa Harrington on adult and children
programming.

Ms. Schindel described the trust-
ees now serving on the board as hav-
ing been constantly involved with li-
brary operations since Mr. Freeman
resigned.

"This board is an unusually active
board. We had become more so as a re-
sult of not having a director for a long
time," Ms. Schindel said. "We had to
do that because we had to run the li-
brary around. We had to roll up our
sleeves and figure out what's going on
at the library because it was sort of
rudderless."

Ms. Schindel said that she expects
the added operational management
burdens on the board members to sub-
side at least somewhat, once a part-
time director joins the library staff.

THE MOUNT VERNON INQUIRER

August 2017

Mount Vernon unites to support its library

Story by Tamara Stewart

In a city that is often divided regarding how to solve its problems, once again, Mount Vernon showed up and spoke with one voice on behalf of its beloved library. At a beyond-standing-room-only public meeting in the Grace Greene Baker Community Room of the Mount Vernon Public Library (MVPL), a laundry list of public officials, library trustees, administration, staff, Friends, and patrons, members of the clergy, educators, students, the media, and the Mount Vernon community writ large gathered to tell the Westchester Library System's Central Library (CL) Study Committee that Mount Vernon would fight to keep what belongs to us.

July 13 was another rainy evening that served as the backdrop for a discussion about the future of MVPL's CL status. The issue was first raised at a March 28 Westchester Library System board meeting at its headquarters in Elmsford, on a night punctuated by a torrential downpour. At the March meeting, Mt. Vern-



A packed Community Room at the MVPL

nites' impassioned speeches succeeded in getting the WLS board to postpone its vote on whether or not MVPL should

continue to be Westchester's Central Library after almost 60 years of holding the designation. Instead, the board voted to

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 1

form a committee to gather information about the role that MVPL plays in achieving the goals of the CL program.

After WLS board member and CL study committee Chair Dave Donelson introduced his fellow committee members and made a brief statement about the committee's purpose, MVPL Interim Director Evania Thompson was the first person to speak on behalf of the library and she urged the committee to keep the CL status in Mount Vernon, where it has always been. Thompson's remarks were followed by the sentiments of more than 40 other speakers, all of whom expressed a desire to see MVPL remain Westchester's Central Library through their thoughts, stories, questions, statements, and appeals.

For two-and-a-half hours, person after person spoke his or her truth to the committee and the Mount Vernon community. There were many powerful statements and stories, and often emotions ran high, with both speakers and audience members being brought to tears more than once. Fortunately, there was also occasional humor to help lighten the atmosphere, and to the com-

mittee's credit, its members listened respectfully, and Donelson's statement that the committee had heard Mount Vernon "loud and clear" and his thank you to those who came out, rang true.

The CL committee previously met with the Public Library Directors Assoc. (PLDA) to get their input, and the committee plans to gather input from WLS staff on August 10. The committee will then prepare a draft report of their recommendations which will be discussed on September 14, and then the report will be presented to the WLS Board at its September 26 regular meeting.

MVPL provided meeting attendees with a flyer that thanked them for their support, and that urged supporters to stay involved and attend future meetings in support of MVPL retaining its Central Library status.

"I am so proud to be a member of this community. Mount Vernon showed up and demonstrated the fighting spirit that has won us eleven state basketball championships. I'm just sorry that my kids weren't here; tonight was a great moment for our city," said one attendee as he was leaving the library.

The Journal News

LOCAL NEWS
Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Yonkers to beef up resistance to flooding

School board, library building to get upgrade

ERNIE GARCIA
ELGARCIA@LOHUD.COM

YONKERS - The building that houses the Riverfront library and the Yonkers Board of Education will be waterproofed against future hurricanes.

About \$1.1 million in construction at 1 Larkin Center near the

waterfront is expected to start in August and run through November. The work is designed to improve the building's flood resistance, and the upgrades are a response to Hurricane Sandy, which in 2012 left the building's basement flooded with about 5 feet of water.

"The library lost its supply room, computer and custodial equipment, lots of paper documents and stored books," library Director Edward Falcone wrote

in an email. "Also lost/ruined was the building's boiler room, emergency generator, fire-control system and one elevator car.... It was a real mess."

According to Falcone, water flooded in from vents behind the building, emergency exits and even the two book-return chutes.

The expected work will be performed by the Pierotti Corp., according to the city Board of Con-

See FLOODING, Page 6A

Flooding

Continued from Page 1A

tract and Supply's April 20 agenda.

"All the windows at street level, air-intake pipes, anywhere where water could get in is being waterproofed," said Yonkers Public Works Commissioner Thomas Meier. "All the doors (at street level) will have a barricade that is waterproof that will prevent water from coming in."

The construction won't affect the public's access to the building, but some reserved parking for staff might be temporarily eliminated, adding to the already-reduced parking in the area because of the Larkin tower construction project.

Once the work at 1 Larkin Center is done, Meier said the city may consider using the basement again, but not for storing valuables.

"Probably we'll never put another million-dol-



FILE PHOTO/THE JOURNAL NEWS

The Yonkers Board of Education headquarters at Larkin Plaza will be waterproofed, along with the public library there.

lar copy machine down there," he said of the estimated \$2 million in storm damage in the basement.

Most of the money for the work was given to the city as a grant by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant covers about

90 percent.

Meier said the city expects to begin another Sandy-related project of up to \$5 million in the fall to repair or replace street lights and wiring damaged by the hurricane.

Twitter:
@ErnieJourno

WHITE PLAINS – Westchester County Executive Robert P. Astorino volunteered Wednesday for JCY-Westchester Community Partners' Summer Reading Buddies at Yonkers' Riverfront Library. He worked one-on-one with a first grade student on a summer reading assignment and also read to an audience of pre-K students.

Summer Reading Buddies is a six week program that helps Westchester's children combat the "summer reading slide" when literacy skills that are learned over the school year are lost over the summer. The summer reading slide is one of the most significant causes of the achievement gap between youth from lower income and higher income families, according to JCY. The program is funded in part by the Westchester County Youth Bureau.

At the program, volunteers are paired with children (preschool – Grade 6) to read one-on-one or in small groups, build literacy skills and complete their summer reading assignments. Resources are provided to parents to foster literacy in the home. In 2016, more than 1,000 students and 385 volunteers participated.

Summer Reading Buddies is run by JCY-Westchester Community Partners, a division of the Family Service Society of Yonkers, in partnership with the Yonkers Public Library, the City of Yonkers, Westchester County and Con Edison. The program is available at the Yonkers Riverfront Library, the Mount Vernon Public Library and the Ossining Public Library.

For more information about Summer Reading Buddies or to volunteer, please contact Madeline Finesmith at mfinesmith@jcy-wcp.com or (914) 423-5009.



Yonkers library cards offer free NYC museum admissions

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Published 6:00 a.m. ET July 11, 2017 | Updated 7:49 a.m. ET July 11, 2017



(Photo: Seth Harrison/The Journal News)

The Yonkers Public Library is offering free admission to seven New York City museums this summer.

The library's Museum Adventure Program offers Yonkers residents with valid library cards free admission to major Manhattan tourist sites.

To check out a pass, card holders may reserve online at www.ypl.org or visit any branch and select the attraction of choice.

The passes are valid for two days from the time of check-out and the must be returned to the branch where they were borrowed or a \$10 fee will be incurred.

A \$10 overdue fine will be charged for late passes and only one pass may be checked out at a time.

Each institution may apply restrictions, blackout dates or separate admission for special events and exhibitions.

The New York City museums include:

- American Museum of Natural History
- Cooper Hewitt Museum
- El Museo del Barrio
- Frick Collection
- Guggenheim Museum
- Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum
- Museum of Modern Art

Twitter: [@ErnieJourno](https://twitter.com/ErnieJourno) (<https://twitter.com/ErnieJourno>)

More Yonkers news

TRASH CAM: Yonkers adopts litter camera law ([/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/10/yonkers-litter-camera/459776001/](https://story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/10/yonkers-litter-camera/459776001/))

ENTERTAINMENT: 5 free things to do in Yonkers before summer ends ([/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/07/5-things-yonkers/452193001/](https://story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/07/5-things-yonkers/452193001/))

EDUCATION: Yonkers schools drop charges vs. ex-union leader ([/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/06/yonkers-ex-teacher-union-leader/455139001/](https://story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/06/yonkers-ex-teacher-union-leader/455139001/))

SWIM: Yonkers Sprain Ridge Pool reopens after 6 years ([/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/03/yonkers-pool-opening-after-6-years/448462001/](https://story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/03/yonkers-pool-opening-after-6-years/448462001/))

SAFETY: Yonkers begins ground work on new firehouse ([/story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/03/yonkers-begins-work-new-firehouse/447974001/](https://story/news/local/westchester/yonkers/2017/07/03/yonkers-begins-work-new-firehouse/447974001/))

SIGN UP for The Y-O, reporter Ernie Garcia's Yonkers newsletter ([/featured-newsletter/yo/](https://featured-newsletter/yo/))

WESTCHESTER

MAGAZINE

JULY, 2017

BEST OF WESTCHESTER

READERS' PICKS 2017
Kids

Children's Library
Ossining Public Library
53 Croton Ave, Ossining
914.941.2416; www.ossininglibrary.org

READERS' PICKS 2017
Fun & Leisure

Library
Ossining Public Library
53 Croton Ave, Ossining
914.941.2416; www.ossininglibrary.org

WESTCHESTER

MAGAZINE

JULY, 2017

BEST OF WESTCHESTER

NEW CHILDREN'S FEST

Play 2 Learn Festival

Harrison Public Library

2 Bruce Ave, Harrison

914.835.0324; www.harrisonpl.org/play2learn

Don't tell the kids, but they can learn while they play. The HPL Play 2 Learn Festival features dozens of hands-on activities in eight play zones centered on creativity, science, music and dance, physical fitness, sensory experience, make-believe, construction, and technology. It's a free event to be held this year in Riis Park, outside the Harrison library on Sunday, Sept 10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

PASSIONATE ABOUT THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY AREA
AND THE MOMS WHO LIVE HERE



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☰ Menu



The Westchester Mom's Guide to Summer Reading

by Leah on [June 29, 2017](#) in [Events](#), [Things to Do](#), [Westchester](#)

Summer is here and school is out, and whether your kids are at home, at camp, or on vacation for the summer, it's so important that they keep reading while on break to avoid the "Summer Slump."



Summer reading should not be a stress on you or the kids. Hopefully, we all can enjoy this break from our hectic school year routines, introduce a lot more relaxation, and learn at a fun, leisurely pace, because before we know it, fall will be here.

Here is our guide to everything you need to know about summer reading. It's organized in a way so you can easily find whatever summer reading program would best fit your family. There's such an abundance of free and low-cost program options locally and online. So just browse through, bookmark, and refer to this whenever you need.

WCMB Book Picks

We thought we would start this guide off with some book picks from our kids:

- Max, 4, and James, 2, love the *How Do Dinosaurs* series by Jane Yolen, *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae, and *The Berenstain Bears* series by Stan, Jan & Mike Berenstain.
- Lexi, 6, loves the *Elephant and Piggie* series by Mo Willems, *I Yam a Donkey* by Cece Bell, and the *Scaredy Squirrel* series by Mélanie Watt.
- Evan, 8, loves both the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series by Jeff Kinney and *Captain Underpants* by Dav Pilkey.
- Tori, 9, loves *The One and Only Ivan* by K Applegate. She also likes *Smile* by Reina Telgemeier.
- Sebastian, 10, read *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White for the very first time last month, and adored it. He even read it!

Stay in-the-know about being a mom in the Westchester County area with our newsletter! x

fantasy, folklore and legends. My kids LOVE this book.”

- Kristen loves reading *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech to her students. “[It] is a perfect book for 5th/6th grade- read it with my students every year- favorite book ever!” Her favorite books to read aloud with her two daughters 6 and 9 are the *Bear Books* series by Karma Wilson (like *Bear Snores On*) and the *Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland.
- Madeline, 13, who has graduated well past “kids books”, still considers *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren an all-time favorite.

These are some great reads, and I thank all of our contributors' kids for making their recommendations!

Library Summer Reading Incentives

Over the last couple of weeks, summer reading incentive programs were kicking off throughout all of the libraries in Westchester. If your schedule is like mine in the last 2 weeks of school, you missed them. I really wish I didn't have to because I know my little ones would enjoy it, but our schedules were just insane.

However, sign up is ongoing so visit your local public library to find out what giveaways they have in store for kids that reach their summer reading goals. **I have included a directory of all of the local libraries and a link to their websites and summer reading programs at the end of this post.**

Many of the libraries have separate reading incentives or games for teens, and hopefully our teens don't feel too "cool" to participate, but we can try to entice them. Even for my kids that have always loved the library, it takes creativity to get them through the doors these days.

Summer Reading Buddies

Summer Reading Buddies is a JCY-Westchester Community Partners learning initiative where volunteers read with children one-on-one or in small groups. They help students complete their summer reading assignments and avoid the loss of academic skills during the summer months. This year, the program will meet in 3 Westchester public libraries as follows:

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

July 11-August 16, 2017

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

The Riverfront Library

1 Larkin Center

Yonkers, NY 10701

Thursdays

July 6-August 10

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Mount Vernon Public Library

28 South First Avenue

Mt. Vernon, NY 10550

Fridays

July 7-August 11

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Ossining Public Library

53 Croton Ave

Ossining, NY 10562

Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Program

The Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Program is for kids in grades 1 through 6. They must read eight books, record them in their Summer Reading Journal, share which part of the book is their favorite, and explain why. They have until September 5th, to return their completed journals to a Barnes & Noble store and will be able to choose one free book from the list of books on the back of their journals.

You can download the summer reading journal in either English or Spanish.

Find your nearest Barnes & Nobles store here.

Chuck E. Cheese Reading Rewards

Some moms are probably cringing as they consider having to actually enter Chuck E. Cheese this summer. I must admit to having a love-hate relationship with the place myself. But if you are looking to get your child motivated and excited about reading this summer, Chuck E. Cheese's reading reward calendar is worth a shot. If your child reads a book a day for two weeks, he or she can redeem 10 free tokens. And at Chuck E. Cheese your 10 tokens goes further than most other children's arcades.

Click here to redeem your reading rewards calendar.

At-Home Summer Reading

8 Tips for Motivating Reluctant Readers is a must read if you want to get your child reading at home this summer when he or she is disinclined to do so unaided. Summer is a great time to ease into better habits and ease into a love of reading before the hustle and bustle of the school year begins.

Interactive Online Literacy Programs

Whether you are at home or away on vacation, there are some great resources that can get your kids reading as long as you have internet access.

ABC Mouse If you are a Westchester Public Library card holder, you can access ABC Mouse for free in the library and at home. However, you will need to know your library card number and your library pin number in order to access this free service.

DayByDayNY is a free website for young children and their families. It is part of the New York State Library early literacy initiative. Each day, there is a new story, song, and activities that even families with limited time can enjoy.

Tumblebooks has digital picture books, quizzes and educational games that you can access free as a Westchester Public Library card holder. You can download the app on any mobile device, enter your library number, and explore.

Starfall, **Raz-Kids**, **No Red Ink**, and **IXL** are online programs that I was introduced to by my children's schools.

Starfall is a fun free (limited access) to low-cost ELA and Math program with games and activities for kids in pre-K to grade 2.

Raz-Kids, which is my favorite of the bunch for literacy, is an online guided reading program that you can access if your child's class has an account. It has a huge library of digital books and my kids always enjoy it.

No Red Ink is a program that is very new to us, but our oldest really enjoys using it in school. It collects students interests in order to test their knowledge of ELA using questions that really engage them. It is free to anyone, however, until they finalize the parent system, you have to create a free teacher's account and select homeschool if your child does not have an account with the school. They do have a waiting list for parent interest and will notify everyone once that system is up and running.

IXL is probably the least fun of the bunch, since it is more of a "test" than the other sites mentioned. However, it is extremely useful for parents (and students) that are trying to gauge where their child fares in regards to grade level NY Common Core skills (grades K-12).

Mom's Summer Reading



Westchester County Moms Blog recently launched our online book club, ***Mom's the Word***; you do not have to be a mom or live in Westchester to join. We wanted to create a convenient space to socialize and read at your own pace. Every month, we will vote on our next read, and post discussion questions every week to get the conversation going. For our first month (June), we chose Paula Hawkin's *Into the Water*, and we are now voting on our July book.

To read more about this book club and how to join us, check out this blog post.

Here is a directory of bookstores and libraries throughout Westchester County where can you find your next read and attend some amazing summer reading events:

Independent Bookstores

Womrath Bookshop

76 Pondfield Road

Bronxville, NY 10708

Scattered Books

29 King Street
Chappaqua, NY 10514

3rd Universe Comic Emporium (Comic Books)

35 N Riverside Ave
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Galapagos Books

22 Main Street
Hastings-on-Hudson, Ny 10706

Anderson's Book Shop

96 Chatsworth Avenue
Larchmont, NY 10538

The Voracious Reader

1997 Palmer Avenue
Larchmont, NY 10538

Modern Myths (Comic Books)

822 Mamaroneck Avenue
Mamaroneck, New York 10543

Bruised Apple Books and Music

923 Central Ave
Peekskill, N.Y. 10566

The Village Bookstore of Pleasantville

10 Washington Ave
Pleasantville, NY 10570

Westchester Public Libraries

Ardley Public Library 9 American Legion Drive, Ardsley, NY 10502

- Summer Reading Club

North Castle Public Library 19 Whipoorwill Road East, Armonk, NY 10504

- Summer Reading Programs

North White Plains Branch

10 Clove Road

North White Plains, NY 10603

Bedford Free Library Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506

- Book Buddies
- Summer Reading Lists
- YA Summer Reading Game

Bedford Hills Free Library 26 Main Street, Bedford Hills, NY 10507

- Children's Programs
- Tweens and Teens

Briarcliff Manor Public Library Library Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

- Summer Reading Lists
- Summer Reading Sign Up (Age 3 – Grade 6)
- Summer Reading Sign Up (Grades 7 – 12)

Bronxville Public Library 201 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

- Baby Bee Reading Club (Age 0-2)
- Children's Summer Reading Log
- Tweens & Teens Summer Reading Game

Chappaqua Library 195 South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua, NY 10514

- Children's Booklists
- Teen Booklists

Croton Free Library 171 Cleveland Drive, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

- Summer Reading Game
- Teen Summer Reading Game
- Summer Reading Lists

Dobbs Ferry Public Library 55 Main Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

- Children's Summer Reading Game
- Children's Summer Reading Program

- Children's Summer Reading Game (K-5)
- Teen and Tween Summer Reading Challenge

Harrison Public Library Bruce Avenue Harrison, NY 10522