

**Daily Operations:**

2,968 items circulated in September, compared to 3,545 in September of last year. This number does not include renewals – there were 639. Circulation is down for the same reasons described in last month's report.

119 eBooks circulated in September, ranking our library at 12 out of 47 libraries and reading centers. 29 eAudiobooks circulated, ranking our library at 19.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>, I attended the annual New York State Library Association (NYLA) conference. This year it was held in Niagara Falls. A list of the educational sessions that I attended is shown at the end of this report.

The Mid-York Library System received notice from the Herkimer County Budget Officer that the County expects a difficult budget year ahead, implying that there could be cuts to library funding. The library directors and managers in Herkimer County discussed via email how to react to this, and many of us sent supporting narratives to the Mid-York Library System to include with their funding request. The request is to keep library funding stable in 2014. Legislator Peter Manno from Frankfort suggested to Kris Russell from the Frankfort Library that we speak at the next County meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kris, Linda Vincent (a trustee with the Little Falls Library), and I did so, describing all of the services libraries offer, our usage statistics, and how County library funding is used. The County budget is still in process at the time of this report.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, I was summoned for jury duty at the Federal Courthouse in Utica. Although I made it into the jury box, I was not selected to serve on the final jury.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, the library received a check from State Senator James Seward for a special, one-time grant in the amount of \$2,000.00. The money should be used however it is needed.

I am presently coordinating with AIDS Community Resources (ACR) and Fidelity Insurance to schedule health insurance navigators at the library to assist patrons with selecting their health insurance under the Affordable Care Act. Most navigators are just now completing their certification. As navigators, they cannot sell any products or services.

**Staff:**

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Deb West, Nancy Stowell, and Mary Franklin attended a workshop at the Mid-York Library System headquarters to learn about the research databases currently offered through Mid-York. These databases are for public use and they can be found at <http://myls.ent.sirsi.net/client/default/?rm=RESOURCES0||1||0||true>

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Mary Terico's mother (Josephine) passed away. Mary is a retired library employee. She has asked that any memorial donations be made to the library for the purchase of audio books, which her mother enjoyed listening to.

We are in great need of at least two more part-time clerks. I am waiting for the Village to approve our funding proposal so we have funds to hire them.

**Mid-York Library System:**

I will be serving on the committee to revise the Mid-York costing model. A description of this model was included in my report last month.

**Friends of the Library:**

The Friends held a book sale in the reading area from September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds were over \$200.00. The Friends have generously covered the cost of a carpet shampooer, our subscription to the Observer-Dispatch newspaper, and mileage for a speaker coming to the library on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Friends held a book sale in the library park on October 5<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the Herkimer Now Superhero Sprint on Main Street. The proceeds totaled \$35.00.

**Building and Grounds:**

Our custodian, John Gokey, removed multiple paint stains from the carpet in the main library room. The paint had been tracked in on someone's shoes.

Over the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>, Howard Paul (my father-in-law) and his friend Larry Daley volunteered their time to clean up the landscaping on the Main Street side of the building and the alley. They also power-washed the awning and windows and filled in a hole in the park walk. They discovered some non-urgent electrical issues that will need fixing, specifically, a corroded electrical conduit and two old light fixtures that should be removed. These repairs will be somewhat expensive and will have to wait until the Village approves our funding proposal.

The staff and I have not seen any more cat food left out in the Library park.

**Re-Districting:**

The library's new charter application is on the State Regent's agenda on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The library's Petition for Dissolution of the existing municipal library will be on the agenda at the December 13<sup>th</sup> Regent's meeting, so the library's transition will not be complete until the end of 2013.

In the meantime, the Village has not agreed to a funding proposal to keep the library operating until the new charter is in place. In 3 to 4 weeks, the original amount of money allotted to us by the Village (\$76,621) will run out.

For the record, here is a description of how the funding proposal process has unfolded: on August 30<sup>th</sup>, the library attorney sent the Village attorney a funding proposal based on discussions at the August 26<sup>th</sup> joint meeting. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Village attorney reported to the Village board that he was satisfied with the proposal and gave them each a copy with instructions to read it. The attorneys, the library board, and I expected it to be approved by the Village trustees on September 16<sup>th</sup>. On that day, the Village Clerk did not place the proposal on the Village meeting agenda and several Village trustees had not read the proposal, so it was tabled, but apparently brought up for discussion again later in the meeting. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, the library's attorney received a counter-proposal from the Village attorney, stating that the proposal was discussed at the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and the trustees inserted wording stating that the library should use the district tax money if it arrives sooner than the new charter. This is confusing, because the library cannot legally do this, and this was made clear at the joint meeting. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, the library attorney sent the Village attorney a letter explaining this legal issue again, and included a memorandum of understanding between the Village and Library that contains the original wording of the funding proposal. The next Village meeting is on October 21<sup>st</sup>, and hopefully they will take action.

**Herkimer Now:**

The Herkimer Now Committee/United Way graffiti clean-up on September 14<sup>th</sup> was a great success. A reporter from WKTV covered the story, which can be viewed at <http://www.wktv.com/news/local/Day-of-Caring-spruces-up-downtown-Herkimer-223759311.html>

The Committee held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Superhero Sprint on October 5<sup>th</sup>. This event was also a great success and the committee would like to expand activities next year to increase the number of participants. A reporter from the Observer-Dispatch covered the story, which can be viewed at <http://www.uticaod.com/living/x452548649/It-s-a-bird-it-s-a-plane-no-it-s-Super-Cecilia> There is also a photo album on Herkimer Now's Facebook site.

**Library Programs and Other Meetings of note:**

- Book Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 3pm. Debra Eisert is the moderator.
- Book Signing: Kathleen Curry signed "Adirondack Cannon Mystery", September 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 – 2:00.
- Adult Program: "Save Energy – Save Dollars" with the Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 – 5:30pm.
- Story Time with local author Mary K. Shepherd; September 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am and 1:30pm and September 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am.

- Book Signing: Susana Newton signed “Happiness Fooey Run”; September 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 2:00pm.
- Children’s Story Hours are held on Wednesdays at 10:30am and 1:30pm, and Thursdays at 10:30am.
- Book talk with Michael Antonucci: “I Grew Up With Basketball”, by Frank J. Basloe, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm – 9:00pm.

**Meetings Attended:**

- Directors Advisory Council, September 18<sup>th</sup> at Mid-York Headquarters
- Herkimer County Legislature Regular Meeting, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Herkimer County Building
- Kathy Stewart/Adirondack Financial Services meeting about Health Care Insurance Plans, October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Library
- Herkimer Now Superhero Sprint Committee, October 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Library

**Continuing Education:**

“Planning for Disasters: the Nitty Gritty”. Continuing education for credit, NYLA Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. September 25, 2013.

“Planning for Disasters: Developing a Written Plan”. Continuing education for credit, NYLA Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. September 25, 2013.

“Self-Publishing – What it is, What it isn’t”. Workshop, NYLA Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. September 26, 2013.

“Curating Library Data, Big Data Sets”. Workshop, NYLA Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. September 27, 2013.

“Moving Friends Records to Cloud Storage”. Workshop, NYLA Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. September 27, 2013.

“Get the Most for Your Money”. Workshop, NYLA Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. September 27, 2013.

**Professional Readings:**

Ross, Catherine Sheldrick., and Patricia Dewdney. *Communicating Professionally: A How-to-do-it Manual for Library Applications*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2013. Chapters 1 -2.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley A. Paul, Director