The Garden City Public Library

The Garden City Public Library Trustees, Administration and staff are committed to fostering the Library’s mission to connect people with information. Programs and services are offered, aimed at instilling a love of reading and satisfying the thirst for knowledge.

The Library offers Adults, Teens and Children expertly curated collections of print, audio-visual media, digital information and streaming content for reading, research and entertainment. There are a vast array of books and magazines to read, music or audiobooks to listen to, movies and television programs to watch, online courses to study, and research databases, reference books and museum passes to bring worlds of knowledge into the palms of their hands.

The Library Director and the Library Board of Trustees are dedicated to providing the residents of Garden City with a library that includes outstanding materials, programs and services. Members of the Library Board are: J. Randolph Colahan, Chair; Peter D’Antonio, Vice Chair; Germaine Greco; Charles J. Murphy; and Lola Nouryan.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Library users found the Virtual Library on the website, with digital materials and services as well as virtual programs, which were expanded or added rapidly to meet the increased need, including new programs created by the staff Librarians for residents at home. Librarians answered reference questions via chat or email and Circulation staff provided contactless delivery of books and media items to serve patrons while the Library was closed, and upon reopening with limited hours. In conjunction with the Nassau Library System, the Library offered new users a digital library card. Due dates on all borrowed materials were extended and most fines were waived through December 2020. Library Board meetings were also held via Zoom during the pandemic.

The Adult Reference Department offers research assistance and reading recommendations from experienced Librarians. Virtual programs included art, film and sports lectures, gardening, yoga and cooking classes, nutrition and mental health workshops and book discussions and title swaps. Booklovers shared their reading experiences with Adult Reference Librarians through the ever-popular Coffee and Tea by the Book discussions on newly published and popular books via Zoom. In addition, the Librarians provided weekly reading recommendations in their column “Speaking of Books” in the Garden City News.

The Young Adult Department encourages Tweens and Teens to learn, volunteer, and be creative. Library materials, programs and services aid middle and high school students with school assignments, college preparation, recreational reading, personal enrichment, and social activities. Programs were held via Zoom or outdoors, including cupcake and cookie decorating challenges, bracelet making afternoons, craft creations like snowflake mason jars, DIY masks and decoupage leaf bowls. Pictionary, Bingo, Scattergories and Kahoot Trivia kept Young Adults connected. The Teen Advisory Board helps to suggest and develop programs, and provide hands-on event assistance. This Board and other service activities help students earn volunteer hours for much needed community service credit.

Children’s Librarians created and led many interactive, virtual storytimes for infants through children in fifth grade. Outdoor programs included crafts with Librarians, Family Chalk Art and Star Gazing with Chris Buchman. Virtual
The Garden City Public Library offerings included storytimes, book discussions, arts, crafts and cooking. The Library also hosted pre-recorded sessions of Family Zumba and Play Hooray.

Through the generous support of the Friends of the Garden City Public Library, free passes to museums, parks and gardens were also available to Library cardholders, some of which include the Cradle of Aviation Museum, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Long Island Children’s Museum, MOMA (the Museum of Modern Art), Nassau County Museum of Art, Nassau County Firefighters Museum, New York State Empire Pass, and Old Westbury Gardens. The Friends also sponsor many library programs for Adults, Tweens and Teens and children.

The Library Board and Administration developed a phased reopening plan following government guidelines to reintroduce Library services gradually, taking safety precautions and establishing procedures to mitigate the risks to staff and the public. When regular hours resumed in September 2020, outdoor programs were offered, including Project Charlie Pop Up programs like Disney Trivia.

The Library Director and Trustees continue to focus on building projects. Designs are moving forward for a full revamp of the Library’s Children’s Room and Circulation area budgeted over $800,000, which will be fun and inviting with dedicated space for programs and updated technology. Librarians contributed to the concept of the new Children’s Department with public input, keeping kids of all ages in mind. The Director and Board are working closely with the Village and H2M Architects + Engineers to advance this renovation project.

The Garden City Public Library looks forward to continuing to serve all members of the community in the upcoming year, in the library or at home.