

Director's Report June 2026

The excitement of summer reading and upcoming 'beach read' season is in the air at the library. Staff have been busy promoting the summer reading club at the schools and preparing materials for the launch of the summer programs later this month.

There is good energy everywhere and we are excited to welcome in all of our enthusiastic summer visitors.

Facility

There was a water intrusion in the Children's Room on May 20 impacting the picture book area and the storytime room. The roofer met with me early the next morning and determined the reason the water was coming in and identified a correction which will involve tearing up part of this roof and laying down rubber roofing in the roof valley. The material is on order and will be installed when received by the roofer.

When the irrigation system was turned on a significant leak was noted which was caused by the ground disruption from the preliminary generator work. Since dirt had infiltrated the system, a whole system cleanout was needed. That work was done on June 6, and the electricians have indicated the cost can be deducted from the final generator invoice.

I have also been working with Orange & Rockland to get two of the light pole fixtures repositioned as they are causing a nuisance to a neighbor. I spoke with the neighbor on two occasions as well as Orange & Rockland. I am assured the work will be complete but there is no estimated date for completion.

There are still various HVAC upgrades throughout the building slated for replacement and I am working with the HVAC contractor to get these on the schedule.

VCL Strategic Plan 2024-2027 Two: Rethink and repurpose the physical space

VCL Strategic Plan 2024-2027 Goal Four: Plan for the next generations

Construction Grant application

A small project had been identified as a potential Summer 2026 Construction Aid application submission. Preliminary conversations were had with the architect about the possibility of creating a small kitchenette for programming in the Community Room. Mike Esmay delivered a plan on May 28 which was reviewed by involved staff. I am now in the process of gathering

estimates to give the board a sense of the project's cost as well as to include in the Construction Aid application if the board chooses to go forward with the project.

On Friday, June 12 I attended the mandatory workshop for Construction Aid presented by RCLS as a component of the necessary pieces of the application.

Employee Handbook review

As is considered best practice, the VCL Employee Handbook was reviewed and prepared for submission to the library's attorney for legal compliance and update. Work was done between the attorney and myself through early June to clarify points in the handbook in preparation for June's board meeting.

VCL Strategic Plan 2024-2027 Goal Four: Plan for the next generations

Community Connections

The Rockland County Pride Event is now a regular outreach opportunity for the library to get out into our community. For the third year in a row the Valley Cottage Library joins forces with our Nyack Library colleagues and marches in the parade. It is always a wonderful day full of positive feelings towards libraries and the work we do.

I served as the Director's Association (DA) representative at the June RCLS Board meeting. Members of the DA Executive Committee rotate the responsibility of being in attendance. This was my first opportunity to attend one of RCLS's board meetings.

I have been asked to speak at a new director's panel at the Mid-Hudson Library System at the end of June. I am excited for the opportunity to collaborate with a greater network of library directors and honored to have been asked.

Meetings Attended

DATE ATTENDED	MEETING TITLE	LOCATION
May 27, 2026	Department Head meeting	VCL
May 28, 2026	RCLS Town Hall	VCL
June 1, 2026	LARC Trustee Training: Open Meetings Law	New City Library
June 2, 2026	LARC Executive Committee	Online
June 3, 2026	DA Executive Committee	Online
June 9, 2026	Director's Panel: Making Friends with Numbers	RCLS
June 10, 2026	Director's Association	Online
June 11, 2026	Ask the Lawyer: Social Workers	Online
June 12, 2026	Mandatory Construction Grant Workshop	RCLS
June 16, 2026	RCLS Board Meeting	RCLS

Board Training Opportunities

Two hours of continuing education is an **annual** requirement for library trustees. Trustees should send certificates of attendance to Christy for record-keeping. Register using the links below.

LIVE TRUSTEE TRAININGS

June 17, 2026 –Trustee Handbook Book Club [Laws and Regulations](#) 5:00pm-6:30pm Online

July 29, 2026 – [Board Documents & Meetings –How to Tame Them](#) Presenter: Anita Baumann, RCLS 6:30pm-7:30pm Online

October 29, 2026 – Trustee Handbook Book Club [Duties & Responsibilities of Key Officer Roles](#) 5:00pm-6:30pm Online

PASSIVE TRUSTEE TRAINING

- The [Trustee Handbook Book Club](#) presentations are archived and may be viewed on demand.
- RCLS hosts trustee training recorded presentations on [Niche Academy](#). Need a Niche Academy password - scroll below the email/password fields and click "Create a free account" (**green** text). Select 'Trustee Education' from the list of offerings to view sessions eligible for trustee credit.

Respectfully submitted,
Christy Blanchette
Director