

**MONTHLY REPORT  
AGENDA ITEM #4**

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**Westchester Multicultural Children's Book Fair**

The event, held on October 13, involved 20 authors and drew over 500 participants. The attached article gives a full account of the event. The Fair succeeded in attracting many White Plains families to the library, some of which are not regular visitors; in this way, the event was successful for outreach. Many young readers were exposed to new books and authors. This event was a partnership between the Library and Max Rodriguez, founder of the Harlem Book Fair; as a partnership, it worked very well. We surveyed several participants and received suggestions to improve next year's event, scheduled for Sept. 17, 2013. Next year's event will use the Library Plaza as well as The Edge and will include programs for teens.

**Library Renovations/Capital Projects**

Our NY State Construction Grant as been submitted to Albany; we won't know the final amount awarded until spring. Our application for an IMLS Learning Labs grant was turned down; seven libraries in the country were funded. This would have supported technology in the Edge. We are working on other sources for these funds. The Bid Package/Estimator meeting with the architects and DPW was rescheduled, because of the storm, for 11/14. I will give a full report at our meeting on 11/4. Capital Projects for 2013-2019 were submitted and that process has begun; I will report more fully on these at the 11/14 meeting.

**Hurricane Sandy**

Hurricane Sandy arrived on Oct. 29 and 30. It left a sizable amount of White Plains residents without electricity; disrupted travel in the region, including Metro North; and closed offices and schools for several days. The Library closed on Monday, Oct. 29 at 12:30 pm per the Mayor's office. We opened for business on Tuesday at our regular time of 10 am. In the subsequent week, the Library made every effort to use its resources to support the White Plains community, especially those residents without power. We quickly turned over much of our public space, including the study rooms and meeting rooms, into recharging/wifi areas. On Oct. 30 and 31 attendance and wifi use spiked significantly—at one point over 140 devices were logged on to our network—and took action to improve our wifi capabilities.

We also extended our hours, including Thursday, Friday, and Sunday evenings as well as opening on Election Day, a holiday. In all, we added 16 hours of service. Finally, we provided public information about other resources available within the City and increased our programming, such as films for families.

Residents appreciated the actions the library took post-Sandy; we demonstrated that in a time of crisis, the Library has a valuable role to play in the community. The Library and DPW staff members—many of whom were also without electricity or had difficulty traveling—have to be commended for coming together and making these services possible. They were absolutely terrific and made all of us proud of the Library!

### **Baker & Taylor**

Baker & Taylor is the Library's primary vendor for books. In addition to providing books, they supply many other services, including preparing books so that they arrive in the Library "shelf-ready."

This fall Baker & Taylor's shipments of new books have been consistently late, including the shipment of many bestsellers. While White Plains librarians are ordering materials months in advance, we are often the last library in the county to receive a title.

This is a serious concern; not providing books on publication date is bad for the library's reputation and is a drain on the other libraries in the County—where our patrons go to borrow them.

I have been working with Christiane Deschamps and Baker & Taylor to remedy this situation.