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LongIslanderNews.com

VOL. 183, ISSUE 13

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

32 PAGES

Home At Last



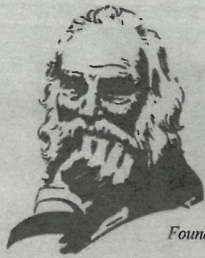
\$24 Million Library Building Open In Dix Hills

After nearly two years in temporary quarters, Half Hollow Hills Community Library takes the wraps off its \$24-million Dix Hills branch at grand opening festivities set for Sunday. The new library was built from the ground up and boasts light-filled public spaces and cutting edge amenities. For the full story, flip to page 2.



Gail Grasso,





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A Black Island Seafood Company representative conducted the first in-person cooking demo in the new library's teaching kitchen.



Library Director Helen Crosson, right, welcomes the new library's first visitors during the March 21 "soft opening." Grand opening celebrations are set for Sunday.

DIX HILLS

Library Takes The Wraps Off New \$24 Million Branch

By Peter Sloggatt
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A brand spanning new Half Hollow Hills Community Library has opened the doors to a recently completed \$25-million facility in Dix Hills.

A grand opening celebrating the project's completion will be held this Sunday, May 1, beginning at noon.

Library Director Helen Crosson has been welcoming residents for scheduled tours of the new library building since its soft opening on March 21.

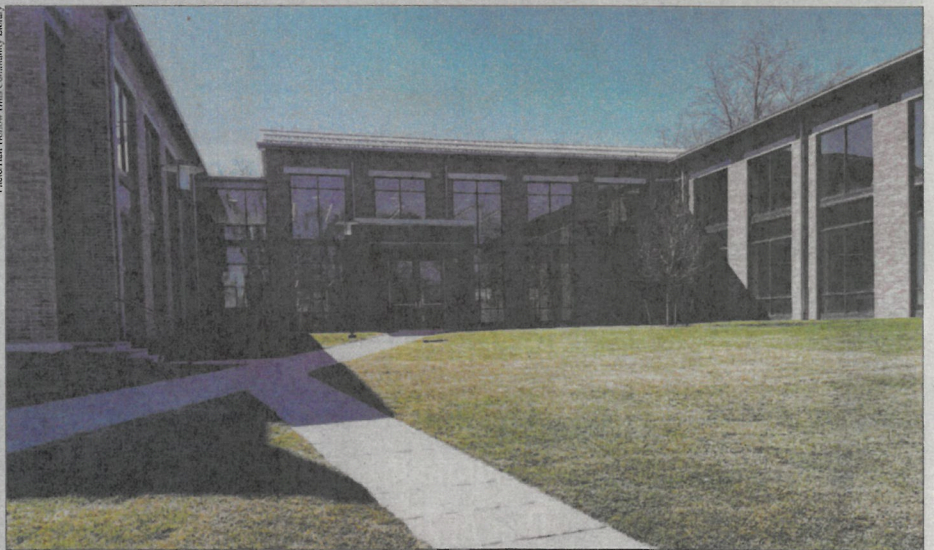
"We are beyond excited to finally be ready to give the community what they deserve," Crosson said. "With additional space and modernized facility more public events to be held with ease; and with Covid rates falling rapidly, it's time for the community to come together in a safe and welcoming communal space. This is a library for a post-Covid world, with MERV-15 filters making the library the safest it can be while still allowing for a return to normalcy."

Crosson, who oversaw ground-up construction of a new library building in Cold Spring Harbor prior to taking the executive position at Half Hollow Hills, has shepherded the construction project from the design stages through groundbreaking and ultimately, reopening.

"It took years of dreaming, planning and effort to bring this building to fruition," Half Hollow Hills Community Library Board of Trustees President Jacob Goldman said. "The construction of the building was the first step. Now, our amazing staff will fill it with a myriad of wonderful events and activities for patrons of all ages to enjoy for many years to come."

The new three-floor library was designed with the aim of creating an open atmosphere that meets modern needs. Large win-

Photo: Half Hollow Hills Community Library



Half Hollow Hills Community Library celebrates the grand opening of its new \$24-million Dix Hills branch this Sunday.

dows flood the rooms with natural light, and patrons are invited to relax at comfortable chairs and tables have embedded charging ports for personal electronics.

The library has wide book rows, an easily accessible elevator, and more handicap parking. In addition, it boasts 10 flexible meeting spaces for community-based organizations and library events for all ages.

The library was also designed with the environment in mind. Green features include solar panels, GeoCool underground air conditioning, and dual pane windows. Interiors use sustainable materials such as porcelain tile, cork and concrete floors, and

recycled building materials. LED lighting minimizes electric consumption, and an alternative septic system was used to protect groundwater.

There is an electric car charging station in the expanded parking lot, and keeping social consciousness in mind, there's a year-round food drop to take donations to combat local food insecurity.

"We listened to what the community wanted, but also what they needed, and we answered those very requests to make a public space for all," Crosson said.

The majority of the building — 80 percent, in fact — is dedicated to public space.

Among the highlights: a full teaching kitchen is equipped with a double-oven/air fryer, stove, dishwasher, sink, and refrigerator for cooking classes; outdoor space for children; gaming area for teens; children's playground; state of the art live-streaming technology; and an auditorium with movie screen.

The building also includes a multi-purpose room with wood flooring for a variety of fitness classes.

During the library's final full year of operation before construction, the library tallied 300,000 patron visits. Crosson expects the new facilities will increase that number.