

SHELF LIFE

MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM



WELCOME!

Welcome to the first edition of Mohawk Valley Library System's newsletter. This is your source to stay updated on the latest news from MVLS.

UPCOMING EVENTS -SAVE THE DATES-

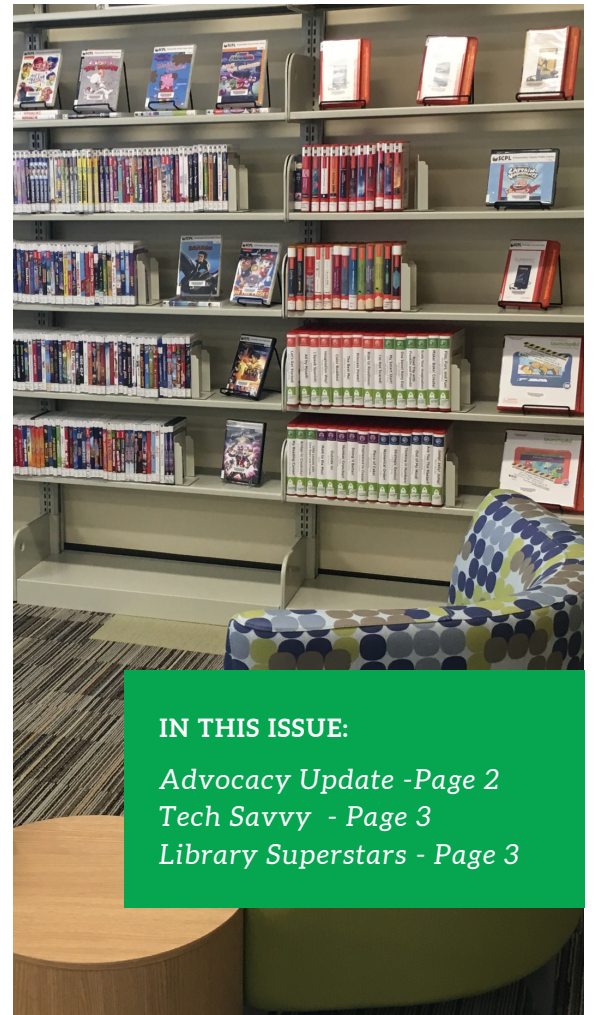
May-jorly Exciting Events in May!

MVLS Playdate | Wednesday, May 4, 1-3 pm. At MVLS.

Join Mary and Heather for an afternoon of hands-on fun. You will leave with resources and ideas for STEM programs at your library. Check out this video: <https://youtu.be/7ij5wdr2BL0>.

YS Meetup | Monday, May 23, 2 pm. Online.

Join us for a May-jor MVLS YS meetup with a special guest. Joyce Laiosa will share some of her favorite books for kids and teens, plus suggestions for using these titles in your library programs. We will meet virtually. The link will be shared closer to the date.



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ADVOCACY UPDATE

It's official: the New York State Legislature passed the state budget.

Most importantly for public libraries, the budget includes \$99.6 million in Library Aid, a \$5.5 million increase from last year. It also includes \$34 million in Library Construction Aid, the same as last year. Both are increases from Governor Hochul's original budget proposal.

These increases came about through the advocacy of libraries across the state. Within MVLS, more than 20 individuals participated in virtual advocacy meetings. Other individuals and libraries sent letters to legislators asking them to support this critical investment.

In addition to the advocacy meetings, ongoing outreach throughout the year keeps legislators well-informed on the important services libraries provide for their communities. Many of our libraries hosted legislators at a variety of events: from town halls to library tours.

Establishing and sustaining these lines of communications helps legislators prioritize specific legislation and budget requests, and it can even result in direct support from legislators such as bullet aid grants.

There will be more opportunities for advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels. Please contact us with your ideas, and thank you for your advocacy efforts!

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Libraries served on the front lines during the worst days of the pandemic and will continue to help communities recover and thrive.

Eric Trahan, MVLS Executive Director



CONTACT US

Do you have questions that we can answer? Comments that would be helpful? Just want to tell us about something going on at your library?

Reach out to us via email or at 518-355-2010.

- Eric Trahan: Executive Director
- Sharon O'Brien: Assistant Director, Member Services Coordinator
- Kate Clingan: Administrative Associate
- Heather Dickerson: Public Services Consultant
- Mary Carrier: Technology & Growth Specialist
- Wade Abbott: Community Engagement & Communications Specialist



TECH SAVVY

Same Great Program - New Coordinator

For the last two years, the Tech Savvy program provided participants with virtual technology classes on a variety of topics, typically offered twice a month. Seven libraries within MVLS sponsor the Tech Savvy program: The Community Library, Fort Hunter, Fort Plain, Johnstown, Middleburgh, Schoharie, and Sharon Springs. This project is supported by funds from the New York State Library's Adult Literacy Library Services program.

Jennie Mosher, Schoharie Free Library's Program Director, coordinated the program since its inception. She organized presenters, created and distributed promotional materials, and handled the myriad administrative tasks to make the program thrive. We appreciate Jennie's time and dedication to making the program a huge success!

Jennie is passing the baton to Mary Carrier at MVLS to take on the role of coordinating the Tech Savvy program. The program is not limited to the libraries who currently sponsor it, and we would love to see the program grow! There are many ways to get involved: request an in-person class, suggest a presenter, offer to teach a class, or make other suggestions to Mary at mcarrier@mvls.info.

DO YOU KNOW A LIBRARY SUPERSTAR?

Of course you do!

Every library has people making a difference. Their accomplishments can be large or small, from completing a challenging project to a meaningful interaction with a difficult patron.

These Library Superstars deserve to be appreciated! They can be staff members, trustees, volunteers, or library directors. You can even recognize someone from another MVLS library. All you have to do is tell us about them and why they deserve to be recognized.



We will publish your Library Superstar's name and accomplishments in the next edition of this newsletter. Plus, we have more surprises in store for the recipient. Submit your Superstar at the following link, and we will take care of the rest: <https://bit.ly/LibrarySuperstars>. You can also contact an MVLS staff member to nominate a Superstar.