Library Profile

The Greenburgh Public Library serves, and is funded by, the tax-paying residents of Unincorporated Greenburgh. Of the 42,863 residents, there are 19,184 library card holders.\footnote{Greenburgh Public Library Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries. (2014). This number also includes cardholders who may not necessarily be residents of Unincorporated Greenburgh. These cardholders may also work or attend school in Unincorporated Greenburgh.} As of 2014 the library had a total of 21 full-time and 31 part-time staff, which includes librarians, clerks, pages, assistants, and administration.

The library was originally established in 1963, built in 1969, and renovated extensively in 2006. The library’s physical space is now double its original size, and houses facilities and labs for technology training, lectures, meetings, classes, and other events. There is also a large and vibrant children’s room, a separate space for teens, and a well-appointed Local History Room. A recent addition is an outdoor garden space, complete with raised vegetable beds and annual flowers.

As of 2014, the library’s collection contains a total of 222,024 physical and electronic items and 135 print serials subscriptions.\footnote{Greenburgh Public Library Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries. (2014). This figure includes all items in the collection; books (print & electronic), audiobooks, DVDs, print and electronic serials, etc.} This collection includes popular and classical fiction, non-fiction, children’s materials, a collection tailored specifically to young adults, a Spanish language collection, DVDs, and other media. The library also provides access to a number of electronic resources and media that include eBooks, digital magazines and music, research databases, online homework help, and online job coaching. Even in the digital age, the Greenburgh Library still maintains print subscriptions to local and national newspapers. The library also still subscribes to a variety of popular magazines, which patrons can frequently be found reading in the library’s spacious study spaces.

Reinvigorating the mission of libraries as sponsors of life-long learning, libraries all over the country have been engaging their local communities by offering unique and innovative programs\footnote{Examples: Radical Home Economics. (2014, April 8). Library Journal: Programs that Pop. \url{http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/04/opinion/programs-that-pop/radical-home-economics-programs-that-pop/}}. Maintaining a leading edge on library services, the Greenburgh Library offers an

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exceptionally high number of these programs and learning opportunities. In 2014 the library offered a total of 1,184 programs, with a total attendance of 24,030 attendees. The number of programs offered for adults has more than doubled from 2012 to 2014.

Many of these programs have engaged the community in unique ways (e.g. learning new cooking techniques, discussing philosophy, learning to knit, training on 3D printers, starting businesses, reading with therapy dogs, and more), and allowed the library to reach new audiences. Greenburgh Library’s summer reading programs for children and teens are also some of the most successful in Westchester County, with the teens clocking in at over 400 book reviews for the summer of 2014.

The Greenburgh Library also conducts a significant amount of outreach in the community. Over the past several years the library has worked diligently to forge deeper connections with specific demographics and community organizations (Examples: the business community, senior citizens, the Hispanic and Latino communities, AAUW, and more). The library has worked alongside these groups to bring many of the unique aforementioned programs and services to these targeted demographics.

It should also be noted that the Greenburgh Public Library is a member of the Westchester Library System, a collaboration of 38 libraries who serve more than 940,000 Westchester County residents. The 38 member libraries of the Westchester Library System are independently funded, operated, and managed by their local municipality or district. This collaboration allows member libraries to share a catalog and circulation services (so that materials may move freely between libraries), professional development activities, as well as a variety of technical services and support.

Many of the member libraries’ geographic jurisdictions are irregularly defined, meaning one patron’s home library may actually be further away than the neighboring municipality’s library, and vice versa. Additionally, many Westchester residents may work, attend school, and travel all over the county. The Westchester Library System’s collaboration and resource sharing allow residents some flexibility to use a library where and when they need it. As a result of this


4 Greenburgh Public Library Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries. (2014). This number includes all programs conducted at the library (children’s programs, teen programs, adult programs, technology classes, lectures, book clubs, etc.).

5 Westchester Library System. About WLS. http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/about-wls/

collaboration, while the Greenburgh Public Library’s zoned tax base is the Unincorporated Greenburgh community, staff regularly see and help patrons from other member libraries. The Greenburgh Library is a mixed suburban-urban library, and sees residents from the local surrounding suburban neighborhoods, as well as from parts of the more urban White Plains community. Staff also regularly see and help visitors who are from out of the area (tri-state area, or visiting from across the country), and who do not have a home library or library card.