



# NCLS @ccess

North Country Library System - 22072 County Route 190 - Watertown, NY 13601 - [www.nclsweb.org](http://www.nclsweb.org)

December  
2011



*Lifelong learning  
is not an option  
anymore; it's a  
necessity. SMART  
is the new RICH.  
-Bernie Trilling,  
21st Century Skills*

## Property Tax Cap Legislation

- How to override the 2% tax cap

Libraries of all types may override the tax cap with a 60% or more majority vote of the board. The public vote then must pass by a simple 50% majority. Please ask your Consultant for the resolution your board should use to vote to override the cap.

- Filing the NYS Comptroller's Property Tax Levy Limit Report

Any library receiving funding through a direct levy (school ballot, municipal referendum, or as a district library) will have to file this report.

Even if your library does not intend to seek a funding increase this year, the report must still be filed. If you have not received a username and password to log in and file the report, you may contact Donna Walker at (518)-474-1555 or [dwalker@osc.state.ny.us](mailto:dwalker@osc.state.ny.us) and ask her to e-mail it to you.

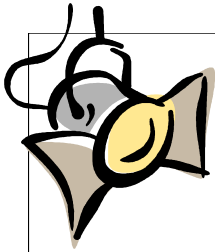
After working for several weeks with the Comptroller's Office, NCLS has nearly completed detailed instructions to help you file the report. There is only one piece of information missing due to the Department of Taxation and Finance not releasing it yet. As soon as that information is available, we will send out the instructions.

There is no set deadline for filing the report for this year because the implementation of the legislation is so new. You should file the report as soon as you know whether or not you plan to override the cap in 2012. In future years, there will be a deadline and financial penalties for late filings.

For more information about the Property Tax Cap Legislation and levy limit report, visit: [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/index.htm](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/index.htm)

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## Grand Re-Opening! Adams Center Free Library



Cozy sitting area with fireplace



A stage and castle!



Public computers

A grand re-opening celebration was held at the Adams Center Free Library on November 3rd upon completion of a building improvement project funded with the help of a NYS Construction Grant. While no square footage has been added, the entire interior layout has been completely reconfigured to make it feel as though it is a bigger space. After being totally gutted, a new energy efficient heating and cooling system was installed on the roof to maximize interior space, and new insulation, walls, ceiling, flooring and storage was added.

An ADA compliant bathroom and a lower counter top at the circulation desk will help ensure that all patrons have equal accessibility. The energy efficient lighting gives the library a feeling of warmth and welcomes all who enter. There is a newly built stage in the children's room with a three dimensional castle on top. A kitchenette and storage space for crafts have been tucked away in the children's room as well to make projects a breeze.

In the adult section, a flat screen TV has been added, along with cozy seating and a flip-up table for patron computers/mobile devices or reading materials. An electric fireplace was installed underneath the TV to provide added warmth on chilly North Country days. All of these features will make a more comfortable environment for library users.

Movable A-frame shelves grace the middle of the library to make space for special events, classes and workshops. All other shelving, seating and tables are new as well. Laptops were purchased for patrons to have more flexibility and a new teen area was created. Everything was designed with efficiency and patron comfort in mind.



Director Jaye Worden receiving a certificate of commendation from Assemblywoman Addie Jenne Russell

## First special legislative district library in the NCLS area has been created



On November 15, 2011, the voters of Norwood supported their library and created a district library! This is the third district library in the NCLS area, the others being Potsdam and Oswego. It is the first special legislative district library in our system (Oswego, created in 1999, and Potsdam, created in 2006, are School District Public Libraries).

The special legislative district vote was enabled by legislation sponsored by Senator Joe Griffo and Assemblywoman Addie Russell and with the support of the towns of Potsdam and Stockholm. The Norwood Public Library now has the financial stability to keep the doors open and plan for the future.

## Russell Public Library second library in the NCLS area to pass municipal referendum

On November 8, 2011, by a margin of 60% to 40% the residents of Town of Russell approved a \$20,000 referendum on the municipal ballot for the Russell Public Library.

The municipal ballot is another way for libraries to bring their need for support to the voters. Massena successfully used the municipal ballot in the Town of Louisville last year. The process is similar to the school ballot, which has been used by 47 NCLS member libraries.

**CONGRATULATIONS to the directors and trustees of the Norwood and Russell Public Libraries!**

## NCLS Calendar of Events



### December

This December, our Computer Lab will be open to both the public and library staff for Computing classes and One on One Computer Help on ALL subjects including: Microsoft Office, Social Networking, general computer help, and more!

The lab will be open the first three Tuesdays in December: 6th, 13th, and 20th from 10am - 2pm. If you have any questions, please email [mcorey@ncls.org](mailto:mcorey@ncls.org).

13th- NCLS Trustee Organization Meeting  
NCLS Meeting Room, 7pm

23rd- NCLS Closed for Christmas (observed)

26th- NCLS Closed for Christmas (observed)

### January

2nd- NCLS Closed for New Year's Day (observed)

16th- NCLS Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

## New Library Program Now Available to Colton Home Delivered Meal Recipients

Colton Hepburn Library is excited about their new partnership with St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging... to provide library materials to home bound senior residents within the Colton community.

Materials will be delivered in conjunction with the "Meals on Wheels" service, thanks to the partnership pursued by Hepburn Library of Colton Director, Dennis Eickhoff.

A large print book supplier is donating a gift bag to be given away to one of the program participants in an upcoming drawing! What a great program to introduce during the holiday season.

## NYLA Testifies at Assembly Hearing on Funding for Public Libraries

The Assembly Libraries and Education Technology Committee held a hearing on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> in Albany on Funding Public Libraries in New York State. The purpose was to examine the impact of the 2011-12 State Budget on public libraries across New York State.

Michael J. Borges, NYLA Executive Director testified along with many representatives of the library community from across the state.

You can view NYLA's testimony and see the list of attendees by visiting [www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org) under Headlines.



*Happy Holidays!*



### Hammond Free Library Bike Give-Away

Madison Cazziol was presented with a bicycle as a lottery prize for the 2011 Summer Reading Program. Madison and her bike are pictured at the left. Pictured to the right with Madison are trustees Lisa Rosenbarker, William Freeman, Marcella Lavarnway, Terry Hollister, and Diane Ayotte.



If your library has information to share in *NCLS @ccess*,  
Please contact Amy Zuch at NCLS: 782-5540 or [azuch@ncls.org](mailto:azuch@ncls.org)

## Automation Update

The Lyons Falls Library and the Morley branch of the Canton Free Library are now fully automated! They "went live" in November.

Currently in the process of automation are Hay Memorial Library in Sackets Harbor, Clifton Community Library in Cranberry Lake, and the Hepburn Library of Lisbon.

There are only a handful of non-automated libraries left!