

Michael Mark

October 10, 2021

Valley Cottage Library
110 Route 303
Valley Cottage, NY 10989

Re: Intent to run for position of Board Trustee

To the Association of the Valley Cottage Library:

I am writing to inform you of my intent to run for re-election to the position of Board Trustee of the Valley Cottage Library.

One of the reasons my wife, Mary, and I moved to Valley Cottage 37 years ago, was the Valley Cottage Library. We are both educators, and a vibrant library was an important part of our consideration as to where we would raise our family. The Valley Cottage Library was just such a place then, and continues to be.

It has been a pleasure to be a part of such an important community center for the 25 years I have served on the board, and I hope to continue to be of service, as the library will continue to provide a setting for discovery, inquiry, and inspiration well into the future.

My resume is attached for the Library Association's consideration.

Thank you,
Michael Mark, Secretary
Valley Cottage Library Board of Trustees

MICHAEL MARK

RESUME

Education

Michael graduated from Northwestern University, with Bachelors and Masters degrees in Music Education.

Professional

Performance

Michael has a 45-year career as a musician/performer/composer. He received a Drama Desk Award as a featured actor in the Broadway musical, "I Love My Wife." He began his work with Tom Chapin, when he was cast in a role in Harry Chapin's off-Broadway musical, "Cotton Patch Gospel." Michael is the composer of the theme song for the long-running television show, "Entertainment Tonight."

Curriculum Related

For 40 years, Michael has written and performed with Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Tom Chapin. Michael has won two Grammy nominations for his work with Chapin, writing songs for young elementary school children and their parents. The songs are used in classrooms and music rooms all over the United States and the United Kingdom. Michael has performed with Tom everywhere from Madison Square Garden and the White House, to the Clearwater Sloop Revival and the Valley Cottage Library. "The Library Book," by Tom Chapin and Michael Mark, illustrated by Chuck Groenink, published by Simon and Schuster, proudly resides on the shelves of the childrens' library.

Personal

Michael and his family are residents of Valley Cottage for 37 years. Michael's wife, Mary is a retired reading specialist, who taught for 22 years at Upper Nyack Elementary School, and Valley Cottage Elementary School. They have two children who were educated in the Nyack School District, and are out in the world, married, and doing very well. Michael & Mary are blessed with two grandchildren.

Public service

Michael has served on the Valley Cottage Library Board for 25 years, participating in the oversight of expansions at the library, most notably, the expansion of the children's library and the community room, and the ecologically friendly expanded parking lot. The library plays an important role as a community center, and Michael was proud to be a part of a board that supported the library director and staff in their work, continuing to provide services to the community throughout the pandemic. Michael has served as president, vice-president, and currently, as secretary.

Michael is also proud to serve on the Nyack School District Board of Education. He has held a position of trustee for 24 years, serving as immediate past president, and vice-president. In 2019, he was elected to his eighth term.

In addition, Michael serves as a trustee on the Rockland BOCES Board of Education, and the board of Rockland 21C.