

Circulation/Usage Update

1. Circulation in January 2017 (6,846 items) is up by 12% when compared to December 2016 (6,089 items) and is up by more than 2% over January of last year. This is the best January circulation on record since January of 2013.
2. New library cards in January (48 new cards) were up substantially compared to December 2016 (26 cards). This amount of library cards in January is the highest it has been in at least 3 years. As usual, the majority of these cards, approximately 73%, are for Newtown Township adult residents. New library cards for 2017 are up by 30% compared to 2016's total but the year is just getting started.
3. Our public computer usage in January 2017 (343 sessions) is up by more than 9% when compared to December 2016 (292 sessions). This is the highest amount of sessions in many months since the numbers started to decline steadily in September 2016. The numbers are also better than January 2016 by 17%.
4. Our patron visits in January 2017 (5,042 visits) were more than December 2016 (4,512 visits) by 12%. January is typically busier than December but this amount of visits is the highest monthly amount thus far recorded (we started recording in August 2016). This is surprising since traditionally the winter tends to feel slower than late summer and early fall. Also, there were three days when the library was closed for holidays and at least one day when the library closed early due to weather conditions. The library was busiest from 10-11 a.m.
5. In conclusion, January 2017 was a fantastic month at Newtown Public Library and we hope this is a trend that continues!

Adult Services Update

Arlene has continued her work with APPRISE (Pennsylvania's free health insurance counseling program). In addition to the two spring programs mentioned in this report last month, APPRISE will be sending a Medicare counselor to the library on the first Tuesday of the month from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. to meet with patrons on an individual basis to discuss their concerns with their Medicare program.

Youth Services Update

This month we were able to introduce new STEM programming for middle school girls, thanks to a generous patron, Joseph Quinn. Joe shared his expertise in coding through an initiative called Tech Girlz. Participants learned HTML/CSS and Java Script in two different sessions. They were also helped by two Tech Girlz volunteers, who are women employed in computer science fields. This was a great opportunity to learning coding and talk with professionals currently employed in the technology industry. Feedback was very positive, and we are looking to schedule more programs in March and April. January included many other fun programs, including yoga, music, dancing and math. Total attendance for the month was **695**.

Upcoming Events:

In addition to regular toddler and baby story times scheduled on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week, and Color Me Happy Friday afternoons, the following programs are scheduled in the coming weeks:

- Fourth Thursday Book Club: Thursday, February 23 @ 7 p.m.
- An Evening with Artist Priscilla Bohlen: Friday, February 24 @ 7 p.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths: Thursday, March 2 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Medicare 101: Tuesday, March 7 @ 2 p.m.
- Crazy 8s Math Club – Season 2: Wednesdays @ 4 p.m. through March 8
- 3D Printer Demo: Thursday, March 9 @ 4 p.m.
- Dance Me A Story: Monday, March 13 @ 10:15 a.m.
- Take the Mystery Out of College Admissions: Tuesday, March 14 @ 6 p.m.

Miscellaneous

1. Arlene and Karina Tate, Technical Services Coordinator, met with staff at Haverford Public Library to review the way that they run their Museum Pass Program there. They recommend kicking off the program starting in April since the passes don't check out as much during this time of year. Supplies for packaging the passes are being assembled and the purchase of the passes will take place in March.
2. Arlene attended supplementary training in regard to the 2016 Pennsylvania Public Library Data Collection (also known as the Annual Report) in February. This report, as well as the director's year in review report, is submitted to the Bureau of Library Development. Compiling this report is quite time intensive.
3. Arlene and George Sharrets, Newtown Township Public Works Director conducted a site visit with Michael Karkowski, Director of Horticulture at Tyler Arboretum to determine the feasibility of creating a garden at Newtown Public Library as part of an IMLS Edible Garden Outreach grant. To take the food gardening concept out to the public, Tyler will create demonstration vegetable gardens at up to ten different library sites. These plots will feature easy to grow vegetables and serve as an excellent educational tool for both the library and for Tyler.
4. All hourly staff received a budgeted 3% increase effective January 1, 2017 as well as performance evaluations (where applicable).

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Caruso

Director, Newtown Public Library