

### **Circulation/Usage Update**

1. Circulation in April 2017 (7,160 items) is down by 12% when compared to March (8,127 items) but is up by 6% when compared to April of last year. This is the best April circulation since 2011.
2. New library cards in April (37 new cards) were down by 38% when compared to March (60). This is the best April on record for new library cards going back several years. Newtown Township residents made up 62% of these new card holders with only 14% cards being created for juveniles.
3. Our public computer usage in April 2017 (390 sessions) is down by 10% when compared to March 2017 (432 sessions). This is the lowest amount of sessions for April on record. The April sessions are still more sessions than were seen in January and February this year. Additionally, our total sessions in 2017 are more than 2016 total sessions by 5%.
4. Our patron visits in April 2017 (5,987 visits) were less than March 2017 (6,206 visits) by 4%. Although this is the first decrease in visits this year, April visits were better than both January and February. April tends to be a slower month so this slight decline is not surprising.
5. Due to the coming construction project, we could potentially see all of these numbers decline in the coming months since programming has been dialed back and parking will be harder to come by.

### **Youth Services Update**

Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian, reports: "April was a fun and busy month. We held our usual story times, yoga and dance programs, and welcomed local veterinarian Heather DiGiacomo to speak about what vets do and how to care for animals. She did a wonderful job! We invited her back to speak this summer. As it was held on a Friday morning, this program attracted several homeschooling families, and offered a nice chance to reach out to them about ways we could serve them better.

We are gearing up for Summer Reading & Learning Club. During May, I will visit the local public and parochial schools to promote it."

Total attendance for youth services programming in April is 785.

### **Upcoming Events:**

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

- Fourth Thursday Book Club, May 25 @ 7 p.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, June 1 @ 6:30 p.m.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. Arlene attended the monthly SEPLA meeting at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, in Pennsburg, PA. Following a tour of the library, the group planned their support staff workshop as well as their annual conference.

2. Arlene attended the DCL Reference Meeting at the Crozer Library in Chester, PA. The meeting brings together librarians from across the county to discuss best practices and new offerings.
3. Tyler Arboretum filled the raised beds with soil with the help of township staff. In the coming weeks, the edible garden will be planted.
4. Arlene attended a demo of Polaris, a candidate being considered for the new ILS. She prefers this ILS since she is quite experienced with it and has used it at both previous library systems she worked. The ILS bid went public on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. Angela and Arlene (for the first time) attended “Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Training for Mandated Reporters”. The training was provided by the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance. If you work in a public library you are considered by the state of Pennsylvania to be a mandatory reporter who must report suspected child abuse – even if the main function of your job is not working with children. It is also required that the witness report the abuse, rather than their supervisor. This training provided the information and knowledge needed to be able to recognize a problem, to know who to report to and how to make a thorough report.
6. Arlene visited Marple Library in Delaware County and Ludington Library in the Lower Merion Library System to review their Square point of sale system. She has requested that Friends of the Library assist the library with this improvement and they have approved. With this new system, the library will be able to accept credit cards for patron fines and purchases as well as for donations. It will enable the Director to produce more accurate financial reports and to identify trends. For more information about the system, go to <https://squareup.com/pos>.
7. The new phone system installation is scheduled to begin on Thursday, May 18 with training taking place on Friday, May 19. This major upgrade to the library’s telecommunications system is funded by the Friends of Newtown Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

*Arlene Caruso*

Director, Newtown Public Library