

Circulation/Usage Update

1. Circulation in May 2017 (7,135 items) is flat when compared to April 2017 (7,160 items) but is up by 7% when compared to May of last year. This is the best May circulation since 2012. In June (7,825 items), we saw circulation increase from May by over 10% despite the fact that the library closed early or entirely several days due to the issues with air conditioning. This does represent a decrease from last year by 6.5% which I believe is directly the result of our reduction in hours due to library closures in June and to the uncomfortable temperatures inside the library when it was open. Despite this, circulation continues to be up by 4% over last year.
2. New library cards in May (42 new cards) was up by 14% when compared to April (37 new cards). This is the best May on record for new library cards since 2014. The trend continued in June with new library cards at 65, the highest monthly total thus far this year. This represents more than a 55% increase over May and well as over June of last year. Newtown Township residents made up 65% of these new card holders. In June, a larger proportion (35%) than usual were juvenile cards which is to be expected during the summer months.
3. Our public computer usage in May (372 sessions) is down slightly when compared to April 2017 (390 sessions) but is better than last May's numbers by 10%. June's sessions were down compared to May by 4%. Again, this could be due to the uncomfortable temperatures in June. Despite this, our total sessions in 2017 are more than 2016 total sessions by 4%.
4. Our patron visits in May 2017 (5,389 visits) were down by 10% compared to April 2017 (5,987 visits). This is likely in part due to being closed two additional days (Memorial Day and the Sunday before Memorial Day). May visits are still more than visits in any month that was measured last year. Visits bounced back by 14% in June despite the many closings due to the heat in the library. June's visits total 6,145 which is the second highest number this year.

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian: "During May, I visited several area schools to promote our Summer Reading and Learning Club. We offer many entertaining and educational programs and prizes for reading. We are also taking part in two county-wide initiatives: Delco Pen Pals and Library Quest. Delco Pen Pals invites children in grades 2 - 8 to get a pen pal and send and receive letters via the library. Library Quest encourages people to visit as many DCLS libraries as they can where they participate in STEM-based activities. It concludes with a party at Rose Tree Park in August.

Despite ongoing construction, we've had a busy, fun summer so far. For the first time, we hosted two Architecture Camps. One was for ages 5-6, and another was for ages 7-10. Science in the Summer, funded by Glaxo Smith Klein, is a two-day science camp that is very popular with our patrons. Master Gardeners from Penn State Extension provided a wonderful, interactive program and promoted our new edible garden.

This August, we've planned events around this year's Solar Eclipse. We received 1000 free viewing glasses from Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning. We'll put them to good use during our Solar Eclipse Viewing Party on August 21st. "

Total attendance for May through July 18th is: **2212**.

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, July 27 @ 7 p.m. – “H is for Hawk” by Helen MacDonald
- Franklin Institute’s Hot & Cold, August 3 @ 10:30 a.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, August 3 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Music with the Center on Central, August 8 @ 10 a.m.
- Total Eclipse of the Sun Program, August 8 @ 2 p.m.
- Eyes of the Wild LIVE Animal Show, August 10 @ 10:30 a.m.

Miscellaneous

1. Arlene Caruso, Library Director, 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 in May and again at the Marple Public Library in early July. The meeting brings together librarians from across the county to discuss best practices and new offerings. July meeting highlighted a potential new service from NewsBank.
3. Tyler Arboretum filled the raised beds with soil with the help of township staff in May and then returned in June to plant vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers. The garden is flourishing. America in Bloom judges reviewed the library’s garden space the end of May with the Township Manager and Public Works Manager.
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 15th.
5. Angela and Arlene 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>. The system hardware is onsite but implementation is on hold until September when the library’s workspace will be returned to normal. The library is also quite busy this summer so it will be best to introduce something new to staff once the pace slows a little.

7. The new phone system installation began 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. Further training is taking place later this month to make sure that all staff understand how the system works.
8. Arlene and Karina Tate, Technical Services Director, attended "Levels of Engagement: Rethinking How Social Media Connects Communities and Libraries", a Multi-District Staff Development Workshop at the Upper Merion Township Public Library in late May.
9. Arlene attended the annual Chester and Delaware County SCORE Small Business Achievement Luncheon in early June. The library partners with SCORE who provides mentoring to area small businesses as well as training programs. Two such programs are scheduled for the Fall.
10. Karina Tate resigned her position as Technical Services Coordinator the end of June. Matthew Intindoli was hired in early July to take her position. Matt has been a trusted volunteer for the past year or two and is learning the position very well.
11. Angela and Arlene represented Newtown Public Library at the Annual Historic Newtown Square Day on June 3 at Drexel Lodge Park. The librarians were able to discuss new services and programs at the library such as the popular museum pass program. Children were delighted by the activities presented.
12. Arlene attended the Edgmont Township Business Association meeting that was held in June at the PRC Farmer's Market at Mastardi's Nursery.
13. Arlene attend the Newtown Township Business Association meeting held at Dunwoody in June that featured speakers from America in Bloom.
14. Arlene and Angela attended the PA Forward Information Literacy Summit: "Libraries and Maker Culture: Co-constructing Learning Experiences and Environments" earlier this week at the Paterno Library at Penn State University. It was a full day of dynamic, innovative talks and workshops centering on maker culture.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Caruso

Director, Newtown Public Library