

Circulation/Usage Update

1. Although circulation in July 2017 (8,504 items) is up by 9% over June (7,135 items) when compared to previous years, this is the worst July circulation since at least 2008. Circulation in August (8,610 items) was marginally better than July but was also less than the previous two years. This is no doubt the result of the construction efforts surrounding the library. Despite this, circulation continues to be better overall than last year by a small margin.
2. New library cards in July (71 new cards) was up by 9% when compared to June (65 new cards). It was the best July for new library cards since July of 2014. It is 42% better than July (55 new cards) of last year. This marked increase in new library cards continued in August with 75 new cards. This was a 39% increase over August of last year. It is expected that we will exceed last year's total new library card number (453 new cards) in September of this year. This is encouraging since circulation has been disappointing this summer.
3. Our public computer usage in July (365 sessions) and August (365 sessions) are up by 3% when compared to the previous months. Computer sessions are up by 4% over last year.
4. Visitor data was not collected in August due to a battery malfunction. The problem has been remedied.

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian: "As we end our Summer Reading and Learning program, we are preparing to celebrate this year's solar eclipse. In May, we applied for free, safe solar viewing glasses from StarNet Libraries, which we will make available on August 21st during our Solar Eclipse Viewing Party. We also hosted an educational program where participants learned the science behind eclipses and safe viewing methods.

Other August programs include visits from the Franklin Institute and Eyes of the Wild, who brought several live animals! Thanks to our patron Joe Quinn, we are also able to provide three TechGirlz workshops this month, teaching computer science to middle schools girls.

We ended our summer with an Eclipse Viewing Party, which was moved to Drexel Lodge Park to accommodate the large number of attendees. We handed out over 500 solar-viewing glasses to families. Many thanks to Kathy Erickson and her husband for helping to make this a wonderful event and supplying 300 specially-decorated eclipse cookies!

September programming is in full swing. We welcomed performers from the Music Training Center of Ardmore. They put on a great show at no cost to the library. For the first time, we will also offer an infant massage and music program.

Total patrons for August 1st through September 16th is: 1989."

Upcoming Events:

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

- Dance Me A Story, September 18 @ 10:15 a.m.
- Fourth Thursday Book Club, September 28 @ 7 p.m. – “Behold the Dreamers” by Imbolo Mbue
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, October 5 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Service: Ten Seven, October 7 @ 7 p.m. – Edgar Allen Poe read-aloud for teens
- Work-Life Balance presented by SCORE, October 10 @ 7 p.m.
- 2018 Medicare Annual Enrollment Update, October 18 @ 6 p.m.

Miscellaneous

1. Arlene Caruso, Library Director, represented Newtown Public Library at Liseter’s National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 1st. She shared information about library services and programs and how Liseter residents can help the library serve them.
2. The library’s second mailing for this annual appeal season went out in August to residents of Newtown Township. In the coming weeks, the library will be sending out letters for the first time to Edgmont Township residents as well as to commercial enterprises in the community.
3. By the end of the year, Arlene will begin to roll-out the new point of sale system so that patrons can pay fines and purchase Friends of the Library books with credit cards when in the library. The point of sale system will also provide library administration with a modern way to track incoming funds as well as enable the director to implement cash handling procedures that up to now have been nearly non-existent at the library. It is hoped the library will have the system perfected by the end of 2017.
4. Newtown Township has donated cubicles to the library so that staff will have a more professional work environment and can better control distractions. We expect that staff will be fully moved in to the work spaces by the end of the month.
5. Arlene attended Excel and Eventkeeper training at the Delaware County Libraries headquarters.
6. Arlene represented Newtown Public Library at the 2nd Annual Pints in the Square event on Saturday, September 9th. She spoke to attendees about the new museum passes as well as 3D printing.
7. The Museum of the American Revolution has donated a museum pass to Newtown Public Library’s museum pass collection. The membership card gives access to up to 2 adults and 4 youth (6 to 17). Children 5 and under are free. This pass also includes a 10% discount at the museum café and shop. Museum passes have proven to be very popular this summer so we are thrilled to be able to add to the collection. As of September 15, the library’s six museum passes have checked out 118 times since April 5, 2017 when the program began. The current passes were purchased by the Friends of Newtown Public Library.
8. Arlene has been working with Tim Carroll at MaturityWorks, a training program that helps people, age 55 and older, increase their job skills through paid community service in local non-profit organizations. Arlene has interviewed a candidate that she hopes to bring on board by the end of September.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Caruso, Director, Newtown Public Library