

Circulation/Usage Update

1. Circulation in October (6,802 items) is down by 3% when compared to September (7,012 items). This decrease is in line with the trends for this time of year. The trend continued in November. Only 6,098 items were checked out which marks one of the lowest November circulation statistics since 2008. It is 500 items less than what was checked out in November 2016. We feel sure that this low figure is also the result of the entrance renovation and will bounce back once the entrance is finished.
2. New library cards in October (57 new cards) is flat when compared to the month before (55 new cards). When compared to last October though, we see a 50% increase. This is in part due to Youth Services Librarian Angela Hegadorn's outreach efforts to Culbertson Elementary second grade students. New library cards in November (24) is right on trend for this time of year however.
3. Our public computer usage in October (333 sessions) is down by 4% when compared to September 2017 but is normal for October. November sessions (225) were the lowest since sessions started being tracked in January 2008. We believe that the time of year as well as the entrance construction is again responsible for this huge decline in sessions. That being said, computer sessions in 2017 are still higher than they were in 2016 at this time.
4. The library had 4,447 patron visits in October which is down by 4% when compared to the month before. November visits only totaled 4,129, which is the lowest we've seen since tracking of this data began in August 2016. This is disappointing but not unexpected since there has been a noticeable drop in visits since the regular entrance to the building was fenced off due to the ongoing construction.

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian: "We had a fun 2 months full of programs here at the library. I also continued my weekly outreach visits to local daycare facilities. I made two new community connections in October. Open Connections, a local private school, contacted us about teaching their older students how to best use our library's resources for research. They will visit in early December. I've also made plans to host our New Year's Party for children and families at the Liseter community. They are providing free space and valet parking. We are especially grateful, given our space and parking restrictions due to construction.

Total patrons in attendance at YS programs for 2017 thus far was **9,556.**"

Upcoming Events:

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

- Ring in the New Year Party @ Liseter, December 28 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Fourth Thursday Book Club, December 28 @ 7 p.m. – "The Art Forger" B. A. Shapiro
- Turtle Dance Music Concert, December 29 @ 10 a.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, January 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

Miscellaneous

1. Newtown Public Library partnered with the Newtown Township Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) in a Delaware County Conservation District mini-grant to obtain and install education signage in township parks. After installation, EAC plans to offer a mini-tour of some of these areas, specifically Drexel Lodge Park. That park contains: a butterfly garden, rain barrels, a wildflower meadow, riparian buffer, low-mow zones, and trees to capture stormwater runoff. We also hope to encourage residents to install some of these features on their own properties. The library will assist the EAC by providing a location for a presentation and/or providing exhibit space for photos, and at a minimum, displaying posters advertising the event which we expect to be held in the Spring or Summer of 2018. We are hoping to add features in our patio garden space next year to go along with this initiative.
2. Newtown Public Library will be participating in Longwood Gardens' Community Read in the spring of 2018. The book titles, which were revealed at an event at Longwood Gardens in late October, are *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren (for adults), *Women in Science* by Rachel Ignotofsky (for middle grades) and *The Tree Lady* by H. Joseph Hopkins and illustrated by Jill McElmurry (for ages 4-10). The book club at Newtown Public Library will read and discuss the adult title in March and will hopefully be able to attend the adult author event that month. A children's program will also be scheduled. In order to encourage families and groups to join the fun, for every event hosted, Longwood will donate 12 coupons for free admission (valid through September, 2018). Each coupon will admit up to four people.
3. The last of four SCORE programs scheduled in 2017, *Main Ingredients of an Effective Website*, was held in late October and was very well attended by small business persons in the community. The SCORE lecture program will continue next year with four more speakers already scheduled.
4. Angela Hegadorn attended the Montgomery County Sneak Previews in early November, which presented her with an opportunity to check out performers for her children's programs in advance. Each performer at the event (including magicians, musicians, puppet artists, storytellers) had 5 minutes to perform as if they were in front of an audience of children.
5. Arlene attended Library Journal's Library Directors Summit in early November. This two-day, free event was hosted by the Free Library of Philadelphia with Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, as the keynote speaker. The theme of the event was "Making Room for Public Life: The Library's Role in Civic Reinvention". One highlight of the event featured the Free Library's Culinary Literacy Center, a commercial-grade kitchen that serves as a classroom and dining space for Philadelphians. Teachers can bring students to their hands-on lab, and teach math via measuring, reading via recipes, and science via seeing what pops out at the end of the cooking process. Chefs of all ages can experiment with new foods, new tools, and new ideas.
6. Arlene attended the annual conference of the Southeast chapter of the Pennsylvania Library Association (SEPLA) in King of Prussia, Pa. The conference's focus was collection development and intellectual freedom challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Caruso

Director, Newtown Public Library