

**Circulation/Usage Update**

1. Circulation in January (6,289 items) is up by 32% when compared to December (4,775 items) but still is less by about 8% than what is typically seen in January. The library was closed for two additional days due to weather in January so this could contribute to the circulation being down. Circulation in February (6,033 items) was less than the month before by 4% and is the lowest circulation for this month since 2014. Circulation in February tends to be flat when compared to January since it is a shorter month. Of course, the low circulation for both months can partly be attributed to the ongoing Township construction project and the resulting parking challenges. That being said, March circulation promises to also be low due to the challenging weather and power outage experienced thus far this month.
2. New library cards in January were flat compared to the month before with just 27 new library card applications processed. This is much less than what is usually seen in January in prior years. In February, new library cards were up slightly when compared to the month before with 33 for the month which is slightly above average for February.
3. Our public computer usage in January (286 sessions) is down by 4% when compared to December 2017 (297 sessions) and is down by 17% when compared to January last year. In February, sessions were 5% more than January but were still very low. Total sessions in both months were the lowest for each respective month since recording of these sessions began in 2008.
4. The library had 4,645 patron visits in January which is more than a 40% improvement over the month before that saw only 3,261 visits. This is encouraging but still about 8% less than January 2017. In February, the library saw 4,915 visits, which was 6% more than January. Again, this increase is welcome but the visits are still down by 12% when compared to February 2017. Now that the front entrance is nearly complete, we hope to see this number continue to increase.

**Youth Services Update**

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian: "Despite some program cancellations due to inclement weather, we've stayed busy and had fun with our young patrons and their families. This month we are participating in Longwood Gardens Community Read. This initiative promotes reading for pleasure and inquiry through events around selected books. We received twelve free tickets to Longwood Gardens for our patrons. Each tickets admits up to 4 people. We are also partnering with the Ellis Athletic Center for a field day event at their location. This is part of many fun events we have planned for the week of Spring Break.

The Public Library Association's annual conference is in Philadelphia this month and I am very excited and grateful to attend. I plan to learn a lot from educational sessions and networking with fellow librarians about ways to improve our services for youth.

I'm planning events for the summer, a busy time of year since school is out. This year, the Delaware County Library System will promote a program called Summer Quest, where participants read and learn

inside and outside the library. We will also participate in Science in the Summer this year. This two-day camp for elementary-aged students is sponsored by Glaxo-Smith-Kline and administered by the Franklin Institute. It is very popular with both children and parents.

Total attendance for February through today, 3/12, is **759.**”

### **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:

- Music with Miss Joy, March 22 @ 10 a.m.
- Make Ice Cream in a Bag!, March 27 @ 1:30 p.m.
- Tree Huggers LIVE Animal Program with Delaware Museum of Natural History
- Search Engine Optimization: Tips and Tricks to Grow Your Business, March 28 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Segal Puppets present Miles in the Heart of the Forest, March 29 @ 10:30 a.m.
- ~~Fourth~~ Thursday Book Club, March 29 @ 7 p.m. – “Lab Girl” by Hope Jahre (Longwood Gardens Community Read Selection)

### **Miscellaneous**

1. The Friends of the Library have decided to continue to fund the museum pass program this year and will be adding a few new passes as well for the coming year. Please let Arlene know of any institutions that the Friends should consider. Tyler Arboretum’s pass was added to the collection in January. The Friends have also agreed to contribute \$1500 towards bringing the travel book collection up to date. They also approved the purchase of two large print keyboards for sight impaired patrons and the new edition of the Sear’s List of Subject Headings, a costly library cataloguing staple.
2. Arlene has prepared and submitted the annual report to the Delaware County Libraries headquarters. The approved report will then be forwarded on to the State Library of Pennsylvania. In addition to the online component, Arlene compiled a year-end report (attached).
3. Representatives from Rainer and Company began the 2017 review of the library’s finances in February. The review is ongoing. The results will be shared with trustees once completed. This review is also part of the annual report to the state.
4. The Marple Newtown Lion’s Club invited the Director to speak to their membership at their February meeting. Arlene discussed the services the library offers including adaptive services in place for those patrons that need them. The Lion’s Club makes a financial donation to the library every year that is used to purchase items to help members of the community with vision challenges. In years past, this donation went towards large print materials for the library’s collection.
5. Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union (FMFCU) has approached the Director regarding banking with their establishment. A proposal is attached. Each account, including the checking account, would be interest bearing which is not the case at the current banking establishment. Switching to FMFCU for the library’s banking would potentially mean an increase in interest by over \$1000. If interested in learning more, the trustees may contact Meghan Todd, the Branch Manager of the Newtown Square branch of FMFCU. She would also be happy to present to the Board, if necessary. FMFCU has partnered with the library in bringing financial literacy programs to

families to help educate the next generation on the best practices to save, share, spend and earn their money that also includes a visit from the Berenstain Bears. Once the meeting rooms are ready to use again, FMFCU will also present free workshops by Certified Personal Financial Educators for our adult patrons.

6. The new Youth Services Library Assistant position has been posted and will close on Friday, March 16. Several viable candidates have already responded. Arlene and Angela will begin interviewing candidates in the coming weeks.
7. The Library Director and the Youth Services Librarian will be attending the entire Public Library Association Conference next week in Philadelphia. Our Technical Services Coordinator will be attending one day of the conference. This will be first time that staff from this library other than the Director has been able to attend this important conference.

Respectfully submitted,

*Arlene Caruso*

Director, Newtown Public Library