

### **Circulation/Usage Update**

Circulation in September (7,010 items) is down 17% when compared to the previous month but is nearly the same as September 2017 (7,012 items). This drop in circulation in September is typical and occurs every year. Circulation for the year thus far is behind last year by about 2,000 items. We know that last year we saw very large drops in circulation in the last few months of the year so we expect to make up for the 2018 circulation deficit and possibly even surpass last year in circulation by the end of the year.

New library cards issued in September (59 new cards) was nearly the same as August's new cards (60 new cards). This is the best number for September in at least 4 years. Despite this encouraging news, library cards in 2018 are down by 100 cards when compared to 2017 at this time and it is not possible for 2018 to catch up.

Our public computer usage in September (368 sessions) is down by 10% when compared to the month before which is to be expected. This amount of sessions is flat when compared to years before. In September, the total number of Wi-Fi sessions was 4,953 which is 25% more than August's number of sessions (3,972 sessions). As we gather more Wi-Fi sessions data, we will be able to determine trends in usage.

Our library visits in September (5,418 visits), while down by nearly 30% when compared to August, are 17% more than the visits we saw in September 2017. Total visitors in 2018 are now 3% more than this same time last year and it is expected to see this margin grow since visits dropped off dramatically last year due to construction.

### **Youth Services Update**

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian: "This September, we've had a lot of STEM-related fun! Our Code Club, which is funded by an IMLS grant, started on September 24. Participants are learning to build games, apps and websites. Our club is steadily growing, very easy to run, and everyone has such a great time! Another wonderful maker program we have offered this month is thanks to our wonderful volunteer, Amy Wetmore! She has been teaching kids in grades 3-6 to knit. Our hope is for everyone to make a scarf by the end of the 4-week series. Local patron Joe Quinn returned this month to offer two TechGirlz programs. These classes taught coding languages to middle school girls.

We enjoyed high attendance at programs this month. Total attendance for September is **875.**"

### **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:

- Code Club, Mondays @ 4 p.m.
- Learn to Knit at the Library, Sundays through October 28 @ 2 p.m.
- Dance Me A Story, October 22 @ 10:15 a.m.
- Understanding Cash Flow presented by SCORE, October 24 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Ghost Hunt Obstacle Course, October 25 @ 10:30 a.m.

- Fourth Thursday Book Club (Discussing “Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald” by Therese Fowler), October 25 @ 7 p.m.
- Yoga with Miss Gosha, October 29 & November 5 @ 10 a.m.
- Gentle Adult Yoga, October 29 @ 11 a.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, November 1 @ 6 p.m.

### **Miscellaneous**

Arlene attended a program about PA Forward Webinar that was presented by the Pennsylvania Library Association. Attendees received a web cam and head set free of charge to help them participate in virtual PA Forward meetings in the future. The webinar described PA Forward’s plans for the future as well as the steps in getting certified as a PA Forward Star Library. Arlene intends to pursue PA Forward Star status in the coming year. PA Forward is the Pennsylvania Library Association’s 21st Century Literacies Initiative and was conceived to give voice to what the library community already knows, and what other states throughout the nation are also recognizing: With the right support, libraries are ideally positioned to become the community centers of information, technology, and learning that will fuel educational and economic opportunity for all of our citizens.

In September, Arlene met with county library directors in order to help craft an employee handbook for Newtown Public Library staff. She has attached a copy of her first draft to this report.

Arlene led the Newtown Township’s Book Discussion Group’s review of “The Power of Your Leadership” by John C. Maxwell in early October. This is the first time she was included in this group of Newtown Township leaders.

The library hosted an “Finding Fulfilling Employment after 50” program that was presented by Ginny Neumer, a former Job Developer/Career Counselor within a federal program designed to put people 55+ back to work. While the program was not well-attended, the patrons who did attend felt the program was informative and helpful.

Arlene attended the POWER Library Fall Training program in Doylestown, PA last week. The training this year focused entirely on the new Gale e-resources provided in POWER Library. Arlene will be offering training on these underutilized digital resources provided by the state in the coming months for staff, volunteers and patrons.

This month’s Newtown Square Business Association meeting was held at Valley View Golf and the library director was in attendance. At the meeting, Arlene mentioned that the library was looking for trustees who live in Newtown Township. She also connected with business leaders in the community and spoke to the Valley View Golf management about partnering on golf programs for kids and adults in the spring.

Arlene, Angela and Ava Cardonick (Youth Services Library Assistant) attended the Pennsylvania Library Association’s Annual Conference in Harrisburg this past week. The theme of this year’s conference was “PA Libraries Move PA Forward”. Since the conference was held in the state capitol, the focus this year was legislative advocacy.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Arlene Caruso  
 Director, Newtown Public Library