

Circulation/Usage Update

Circulation in October (7,234 items) is up by 3% when compared to the previous month. This increase in circulation is not typical as circulation usually gradually drops until the end of the year. The circulation in October 2018 is the best circulation we've seen for this month since October 2010. Circulation in November (6,429 items) is down by 11% when compared to the month before. This is more than 5% better than November 2017 and is on trend for normal November circulation.

New library cards issued in October (47 new cards) were down by 18% from September (59 new cards) which is typical for October. New library cards issued in November (47 new cards) were down by 20% when compared to the month before. This is a usual trend for this time of year.

Our public computer usage in October (366 sessions) is nearly the same as September (368 sessions). Our public computer usage in November (263 sessions) is a 28% decrease over the month before which is a larger decrease than normal. This decrease could be attributed to the library being closed several extra days due to the electrical upgrade in November.

In October, the total number of Wi-Fi sessions was 5,986 which is 21% more than September's number of sessions (4,953 sessions). In November, the total number of Wi-Fi sessions was 4,985 (a 17% decrease over the month before). This makes sense since the library was closed for two holidays and for a weekend during the electrical upgrade. As we gather more Wi-Fi session data, we will be able to determine trends in usage.

Our library visits in October (5,976 visits) are up by 10% when compared to September (5,418 visits). The library visits in November (4,762 visits) are down by 20% when compared to the month before but is better than Novembers in the past. The visits in October and November are the best the library has seen for these months since we started using this people counter device three years ago. Total visitors in 2018 are now 7% more than this same time last year and it is expected to see this margin grow since visits dropped off dramatically at the end of last year due to construction.

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian: "October was a busy month! We participated in the Newtown Square Railroad Museum's Community Festival at Drexel Lodge Park. For preschoolers, we had story times, music and yoga classes, and an obstacle course in the library. For older kids, we had knitting classes and Code Club. Ava and I got to attend the Pennsylvania Library Association Conference, where we picked up several ideas for programming, service measurement and collection development. We are very grateful for this opportunity to learn and connect with other youth services librarians.

Total attendance for October: 821.

We'll finish a great year of programs with the Ring in the New Year Party, held at the Liseter Carriage Barn on December 28th. This is the second year Liseter has invited us to participate. We are very grateful

to use their beautiful space! This party lets the whole family celebrate together, as it is held early with a balloon drop at noon, instead of midnight. Last month, Ava and I attended a workshop with MNSD school librarians. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss ways we could collaborate. Together, we came up with new ways to encourage summer reading, and use of the library's electronic resources. Thanks to this meeting, I will be visiting library classes at our local elementary school to promote our summer learning program.

Total attendance for November is 614."

Adult Services Update

A yoga program was offered for adults in October and though this is a program that many patrons having interest in only two patrons attended. We are hoping to try again next year with better results.

The Fourth Thursday Book Club saw its best attendance yet in November – 14 patrons! Since there seems to be a growing interest in the book club, which is changing in 2019 to the 4th Wednesday, it may be necessary to have two meetings – one at 2 p.m. and one at 7 p.m.

Now that the 3D printer is in good repair, there have been many inquiries and prints completed. One new project involved helping an inventor produce prototypes of his patented invention. Interest in the printer has increased and we hope to offer more classes about this technology in the future. Since at the moment Arlene is the only staff person who knows how to operate the machine, it is her intention to train at least two more staff members on its use and maintenance.

Thanks to a grant, Tyler Arboretum will again be planting the edible garden this year with more of an emphasis on herbs and flowers. The Newtown Square in Bloom Committee has offered to be a garden partner in the coming year and we have accepted. Hopefully this year, with their support, we will be able to generate interest in this underappreciated area of the library.

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:

- Fourth Thursday Book Club (Discussing "The Magpie Murders" by Anthony Horowitz), December 27 @ 7 p.m.
- Ring in the New Year Party @ Liseter, December 28 @ 11 a.m.
- Snow Party, January 7 @ 10:30 a.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, January 3 @ 6 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Mary Gallagher, Library Assistant, has decided to retire effective Thursday, November 15. Mary worked at the library since February 2006. She will be missed by library staff, volunteers and patrons. We wish her well. Arlene intends to fill this position by the end of the year. Since this is a slower time of year for the library, her shifts are able to be covered by other available staff members already in place until the position is filled.

At the invitation of Frank Milheim, Arlene spoke to a large group of residents at Dunwoody Village about the many services offered by the library and performed a 3D printing demonstration. She also encouraged residents to become volunteers, Friends, donors and/or Trustees of the library.

Newtown Public Library hosted the Delaware County Library Directors Roundtable meeting in November. This bi-monthly meeting provides directors an outlet to discuss concerns and challenges with their peers.

Arlene participated in the Newtown Township Leadership Group's book discussion in November. The group considered the book, "The Five Most Important Questions You Will Ever Ask About Your Organization" by Peter Drucker. The book reviews mission, customers and planning – all subjects that directly relate to the library.

Arlene attended the Southeast Chapter (SEPLA) of the Pennsylvania Library Association in early November at the Union Public Library in Hatboro, PA. In the coming year, she will be the webmaster for this organization and will be working on the Public Library Association's Academy of Leadership Studies (PALS) as Chair of the Director's Institute for 2019. The event is scheduled for the first week of June 2019 in Harrisburg, PA. Arlene attended SEPLA's Annual Workshop in December. The theme of the workshop centered on community engagement.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Caruso
Director, Newtown Public Library