

**Newtown Public Library**  
**Library Director's Report**  
**May 16, 2019**

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**Statistics:**

*Circulation*

March circulation (7,918 items) was up by more than 10% when compared to February (7,146 items). April circulation (7,270 items) was down by 8% when compared to the month before but follows the trend for April circulation which is always less than March. Both months were significantly better than the same months in 2018. In fact, circulation in 2019 has been over 7,000 each month which has not been seen since 2012. The total circulation for 2019 thus far is 29,727 items which is 14% more than the same four months in 2018 (26,059 items).

*Public Computer Usage*

Computer use in March (354 sessions) and April (306 sessions) follows the trends for these months when compared to the year before. The total amount of sessions for 2019 (1,241 sessions) thus far is only slightly less than 2018 (1,241 sessions) at the same time. Public computer use continues to decrease as people increasingly use mobile devices to get on the internet.

*Wi-Fi Sessions*

March Wi-Fi sessions (6,660 sessions) was up by a third when compared to February (5,025 sessions). April continued this trend with 7,477 sessions for the month (a 12% increase). Both these months marked the highest amount of WiFi sessions since the new system was installed last summer.

*Library Visits*

Library visits in March (6,383 sessions) were up by 14% when compared to February. Visits in April (6,102 visits) were down by about 4% when compared to March which follows the library trend. It is important to note that visits in March and April were up by 24% and 17% respectively when compared to the same months in 2018. Overall, visits in 2019 (23,149 visits) are up by 14% when compared to the same period in 2018 (19,946 visits).

**Youth Services Update**

*From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian:*

"March and April were very busy months. Our story time attendance was very high, averaging about 30 kids each for baby and toddler times. We had a very fun, fancy tea party that was so popular, we held a second one. Our Youth Services Library Assistant Ava Cardonick did a fantastic job preparing decorations and crafts for this program. We held a Teen Glow Party, which we used to gauge interest, as we add more teen programs to our schedule.

In March, I attended the premier of Longwood Garden's Community Read StoryWalk at Rose Tree Park. Several libraries helped with different STEM activities for attendants. Local media covered the event. We also hosted an in-house program around the Community Read initiative in April.

In addition to our regular program schedule, we've been busy preparing for Summer Quest, our summer reading and learning program. This year we are kicking it off with a party at Drexel Lodge Park, in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Board."

Total attendance for March and April was **1,628**.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

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

- Coding Capers, Mondays, 4:15 p.m.
- Friends of Newtown Public Library's Silent Auction Social, May 17 @ 6 p.m.
- Fourth Wednesday Book Club (Discussing "Don't You Cry" by Mary Kubica), May 22 @ 7 p.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, June 6 @ 6 p.m.
- Spotted Lanternfly Briefing, June 11@ 7 p.m.
- School's Out: Party in the Park @ Drexel Lodge Park, June 19 @ 6 p.m.

#### **Miscellaneous**

Arlene worked on the FY2020 District Agreement as part of the Delaware County Libraries District Advisory Committee. She has signed and returned the updated agreement for the provision of district library services within the Delaware District.

Delaware County Council acknowledged National Library Week at their public meeting on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Delaware County Libraries staff and several county library directors, including Arlene, were in attendance to represent community libraries.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Arlene attended a workshop entitled "Renegades and Rebels: Why Libraries Lag Behind in Innovative Fundraising" in Frederick, MD. Arlene learned about DipJar, an easy way for patrons to make donations that is currently successfully being used at the Frederick Public Library, in addition to strategies that are used in other organizations to raise money that few libraries currently employ.

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, sponsored by the Board of Trustees of Newtown Public Library, was a success again this year. Every volunteer received recognition for their years of service. Lois Ache was singled out again this year as the volunteer who worked the most hours (320 hours!). Volunteers enjoyed this annual event.

Penn State Master Gardener Sam Barnett shared his composting expertise in April with library patrons. Barnett will be returning in June to highlight the latest information about the Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive planthopper that has the potential to greatly impact the surrounding community.

The PA Workforce Development Association's Annual Employment, Training and Education Conference was held in early May in Hershey. Arlene was one of 30 librarians invited to the conference. All expenses for this conference including registration and lodging were covered under a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant that was managed by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) - Bureau of Library Development. The ultimate goal behind the grant is to create a working group of library community participants who will address workforce development issues in an ongoing way. Arlene will

be submitting a report to OCL detailing her experience at the conference and how she will use what she learned in better addressing workforce development in our community and county. She will share this report with trustees.

Arlene has reviewed a draft of the library financial statement, grouped trial balance report and the adjusting entries from the new accounting firm, Maillie, LLC. A copy of this draft report is available to the trustees to review if desired.

Respectfully submitted,

*Arlene Caruso*

Director, Newtown Public Library