

**Newtown Public Library
Library Director's Report
July 18, 2019**

Statistics:

Circulation

May circulation (7,164 items), while slightly less than April circulation (7,270 items), is the best May circulation since 2012. June circulation (8,211 items) is 15% more than May. We continue to have circulation totals over 7,000 both of these month which has not been achieved since 2012. Total circulation in 2019 continues to be better than 2018 by more than 8% and is the best circulation at Newtown Public Library since 2012 which is the year to beat circulation-wise.

New Library Cards

While new library cards in May (37 cards) and June (41 cards) are about or below average for that time of year, the library is still on track to beating 2018 in new library cards with the total this year (255 cards) being greater than 2018 at this same time (202 cards) by 26%.

Wi-Fi Sessions

May (7,829 sessions) and June (7,468 sessions) Wi-Fi sessions continued the trend from April (7,477 sessions) of being in excess of 7,000 sessions. These are three best months we've recorded since the new Wi-Fi system was installed a year ago.

Library Visits

Library visits in May (5,798 visits) were down by 5% when compared to April which is on trend for May but also represented the best May numbers since this people counter was installed in 2016. Visits in June (6,013 visits) were up by 4% when compared to May's visits. Overall, visits in 2019 (34,960 visits) are up by 10% when compared to the same period in 2018 (31,869 visits).

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian:

"I spent much of May preparing activities and marketing materials for SummerQuest (formerly Summer Reading Club). SummerQuest is a state-wide summer learning initiative that encourages children and teens to learn, grow, and have fun over the summer by completing a variety of different activities. Each library is encouraged to follow this framework in presenting their own programs. I also visited area schools to promote Summer Quest.

In June, we kicked off summer with a party at Ellis Athletic Center. They generously donated their space and equipment. In addition to our regular schedule, we also enjoyed a presentation inside a portable planetarium, and a visit from Elmwood Park Zoo's Zoo-on-Wheels. We received this wonderful show for free, thanks to a DCLS wildlife grant.

Total attendance for YS programs in May and June was **1804** patrons."

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:

- Coding Capers, Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
- Tutoring with Miss Amy, Saturdays in July and August from 2-5 p.m.
- Dino Dig, July 19 @ 10:30 a.m.
- TechGirlz: Solving Genetic Mysteries Online, July 20 @ 1 p.m.
- Planet Party, July 22 @ 10:30 a.m.
- Fourth Wednesday Book Club (Discussing “The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry” by Gabrielle Zevin), July 24 @ 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Read to Zach, July 25 @ 1 p.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, August 1 @ 6 p.m.
- Magician Chad Juros, August 8 @ 10:30 a.m.
- Turtle Dance Music, August 15 @ 10:30 a.m.

Miscellaneous

In May, Arlene attended the 2019 Lehigh Valley Spring Conference. This was a great opportunity to network with other librarians. Some topics discussed at the conference included how libraries can help patrons fight misinformation, publishing at your library and a how-to on offering genealogy programs for all ages.

Later in May, Arlene represented the library at the Chester and Delaware County SCORE Luncheon. The luncheon recognizes small businesses that have benefited from SCORE mentors. This year SCORE also recognized a Chester County Business Librarian.

Angela and Arlene represented the library at the Historic Newtown Square Day on June 1st. The event returned to the Square Tavern this year and the library staff were stationed inside the Tavern on the second floor. For the first time, staff wore colonial costumes while inviting visitors to try period crafts including weaving and calligraphy while also talking about library offerings.

Arlene attended the Financial Best Practices Workshop presented by PANO in Harrisburg. The program covered the fiscal responsibilities of board and trustees as well as key financial terms. Budgeting basics, key financial statements, the 990 form completion, policies, practices and internal controls.

Later in June, Arlene and Matthew Intindoli, Technical Services Coordinator, attended the 2019 SEPLA Support Staff Workshop. The theme this year centered on animals in the library from therapy animals to programs involving live animals. This program was especially beneficial since we learned how to do handle service animals, emotional support animals and other animals in the library from a legal standpoint.

Arlene met with community members from Newtown Square in Bloom and judges from America in Bloom to discuss how Newtown Square strengthens the community with volunteer participation in beautification, historic awareness and civic pride. The judges visit many community locales including the library.

Arlene attended the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. in late June. The annual conference is a great opportunity to learn about trends in libraries and network with other librarians and directors.

The Southeast Chapter of the Pennsylvania Library Association (SEPLA) have asked Arlene to join PaLA Membership Committee to represent the chapter at PaLA Membership Committee meeting. Arlene is also running for SEPLA Treasurer for 2020.

Arlene has been invited to join the board of the Newtown Square Historical Society as the Social Media Director. She hopes that this will lead to a closer relationship between the library and the society.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Caruso

Director, Newtown Public Library