

**Circulation/Usage Update**

Circulation in April (6,824 items) is relatively flat when compared to March (6,913 items) and is less than April 2017 by about 5%. April 2017 numbers were outstanding in comparison to previous years. When compared to other years, the numbers for April 2018 is on trend for normal circulation for this time period.

New library cards in April (32 new cards) were higher than March (28 new cards). When compared to the year before at this time, it is only slightly less than April 2017 (37 new cards).

Our public computer usage in April (370 sessions) is up by 12% when compared to March (331 sessions). Despite this increase, it is still the lowest amount of sessions for April since at least 2008. As time goes on, it is expected to see this number decrease since patrons in this community have many ways to access the internet from various devices. We still expect to see patrons coming in to use the public computers for printing since many people do not have a printer at home.

The people counter device was tampered with in April so there was no data collected in April 2018. The issue has been resolved and there will be statistics going forward.

**Youth Services Update**

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian: "We finished up our spring programming session this week. I will spend the rest of the month completing our summer programming schedule and visiting local schools to promote it. Many exciting things have happened this month. We welcomed Rad Robots, a Radnor-based company, who brought real robots for the kids to program! They came free of charge. Science in the Summer registration started on May 16 at noon. Both sessions were filled within an hour, a record for us. We are excited to offer this wonderful program through DCL, GlaxoSmith Kline and the Franklin Institute. We have continued training our new Youth Services Library Assistant, Ava Cardonick. She will start her regular hours in June, and is doing a terrific job in the projects she has been given so far. The Friends of the Library have generously purchased two new children's tables for use in the Community Room.

Total patron attendance for YS programs for 5/1 – 5/18 is **365.**"

**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:

- Newtown Square Wordsmiths Reboot, June 7 @ 6 p.m.
- First Notes Music, June 14 @ 10 a.m.
- Beat the Heat with Essentials Oil DIY Workshop, June 20 @ 7 p.m.

## **Miscellaneous**

Newtown Public Library hosted the Delaware County Libraries' District Agreement Committee. This is the second year that Arlene has participated on this committee that works on the district budget negotiations and updating the agreement.

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, held on April 26 which was completely funded by the library trustees, was a success with the volunteers. From the delicious meal, to the lovely floral centerpieces (provided by Newtown Township), to the recognition by the trustees and township supervisors, volunteers could not say enough about how appreciated they feel and how much they enjoyed the lunch.

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce holds Women in Leadership power lunches several times per year. The spring luncheon featured a panel of insightful guests including the current Delaware County District Attorney Katayoun Copeland as well as Dr. Joy Gates Black, the current president of Delaware County Community College, in addition to several other panelists. Arlene was pleased to be able to attend and benefit from the speakers' experiences and advice.

The library director attended two business association meetings this past month. The first meeting was of the Newtown Square Business Association which was held at the Newtown Square Veterinary Hospital on St. Albans Avenue. The second meeting was the Edgmont Township Business Association meeting held last week at the new P.J. Whelihan's in Edgmont. The guest speaker was Edgmont's new Postmaster, Jeff Athey. In addition to Jeff, Regina Foster-Carter, the Business Development Specialist from the Philadelphia office, spoke about *Every Door Direct Mail*, a newer bulk mail program offered by the Postal Service. Both speakers encouraged businesses and non-profits to use this service to target the most residents with their message. Arlene believes this will be the best way to go for future annual appeal mailers.

Arlene was delighted to attend the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Library Association's Spring Conference last week. The first speaker was James Cratty of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security who spoke about active shooter awareness training. Since Arlene is currently working on a disaster plan for the library, this subject was especially relevant. She also attended programs about how yoga in the library can build community, designing library and workplace experiences for the pursuit of happiness and the role of Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries in helping libraries engage with their communities. It was a worthwhile day.

Representatives from Tyler Arboretum came to Newtown Public Library earlier this week to plant fruits, vegetables and flowers in the raised beds they provided to us last year as part of a grant. We are happy that they were able to include us in their planting schedule this year at no cost. We look forward to benefiting further from their generosity in the coming months as the plants grow and flourish.

As mentioned in a recent Newtown Township Board of Supervisors meeting, Rich Lafiata, Township Finance Manager, and the library director are working on ways the Township Finance Department can assist the library with its finances including preparing checks, reports and supporting a point of sale

system that mirrors the township's system. The specifics are still being worked out. The trustees can expect more information in the coming month or so.

Matthew Intindoli, the library's Technical Services Coordinator, and the library director attended training with township and police staff about the Bright Sign system that has been installed throughout the campus (police, lobby, township, and library). While the signs are promising to be useful, there are still some bugs to work out before going live.

All Newtown Public Library staff have been to or have scheduled training in the new integrated library system, Sierra, which will go live on June 25, 2018, if all goes according to plan. Those that have attended the training report that this should be an easy transition for staff and volunteers since it is very similar in appearance and in operation to the current system, Millennium. The upgrade has been a long time coming so we are all excited to see how it will improve our service to our patrons.

May 9, 2018 was Stanley Swierczek's last day working at the library. Stan came to the library through a Maturity Works grant as a trainee and had been at the library since September. He was an excellent addition to the library and is sorely missed by all. Stan was responsible for many of the recent collection improvements in the library including shifting, weeding and making the space within the library work for our collections. Arlene is working with Tim Carroll at Maturity Works to secure a replacement. That replacement will have very big shoes to fill!

Effective June 1, 2018, Newtown Public Library will no longer charge patrons to check-out DVDs. Across the country, most public libraries do not charge for DVDs or for the check-out of any other item in the collection. Many people in our community now use streaming video services. Those patrons who cannot afford the devices or the subscriptions for these services rely on public libraries for their education and entertainment via DVDs. Many of the patrons who still use DVDs are seniors on a fixed income who cannot afford to spend even \$1 on a DVD. As a public library, we do not wish to limit access based on financial means. Additionally, we find that the circulation of DVDs has dropped off so removing the check-out fee will certainly boost circulation. Since the library already doesn't charge for half of the DVD collection (TV shows, documentaries and children's DVDs have been free for a while now), this will also make things less confusing to patrons, volunteers and staff. Should folks still want to pay \$1 per DVD when checking out, we will thank them for their donation to the library.

Respectfully submitted,

*Arlene Caruso*

Director, Newtown Public Library