

Circulation/Usage Update

Circulation in July (8,865 items) is up by 4% when compared to the previous month as well as when compared to July 2017. While this is an improvement, in most previous years the circulation exceeds 9,000 items in July so there still is room for improvement. Circulation in August (8,418 items) is less than the previous month by 5% and is slightly less than the same time last year. This circulation number is typical for August which tends to be in this range. There is always a drop in circulation between July and August.

New library cards issued in July (60 new cards) were more than the month before by 20% but were less than the year before at the same time by 15%. New library cards issued in August (55 new library cards) were slightly less than July which is in line with normal summer trends. In general, new library cards are slightly behind last year.

Our public computer usage in July (409 sessions) is up by 21% when compared to sessions in June 2018 (339 sessions) and is also up by 12% when compared to the same time last year. As usual, sessions dipped to 368 sessions in August which is typical for this time of year. The library's Wi-Fi upgrade was completed on July 11, 2018. In the month of July, there were Wi-Fi 2,476 sessions. In August, the total number of Wi-Fi sessions was 3,972. As we gather more Wi-Fi sessions data, we will be able to determine trends in usage.

Our library visits in July and August continued the trend in June. We saw 7,846 visitors in July and 7,674 in August which mark the best and second best visits numbers yet! These numbers mark more than a 21% and 38% increase over last year. This increase in visits directly corresponds to the wonderful response we received to children's programs this summer. It is also attributable to the improved parking due to the near completion of the current construction project that's been all around the library for that past year or so. We are thrilled to see our patrons coming back after last summer's decrease.

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian: "Our Summer Reading and Learning Program concluded on August 16th. We had a very successful program this year with high attendance. I am reviewing what worked and what didn't to tweak next year's plan. Due to very high turnout at morning programs, we may need to require registration for these events next summer. I would also like to engage more local experts, groups and businesses to enhance both the active and passive parts of the program. For instance, this summer a local resident teacher led a popular program on rocketry, and participants launched model rockets on the ball field next to the library.

Total attendance for Youth Services Programs in July and August is 2159 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:

- Music with Miss Chrystine, September 24 @ 10 a.m.
- Code Club, Mondays @ 4 p.m.

- Fourth Thursday Book Club (Discussing “The Stranger in the Woods” by Michael Finkel), September 27 @ 7 p.m.
- TechGirلز: Intro to JavaScript, September 29 @ 1 p.m.
- Learn to Knit at the Library, September 30 through October 28 on Sundays @ 2 p.m.
- Yoga with Miss Gosha, October 1 & 15 @ 10 a.m.
- Finding Employment After 50, October 4 @ 2 p.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, October 4 @ 6 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Staff received more training from Delaware County Libraries this summer. Staff learned more about the new integrated library system, Sierra, including how to book various materials using it. Staff also learned about eBooks including the new eBooks app, Libby. Matthew Intindoli, Technical Services Coordinator, and Arlene Caruso, the Library Director, attended three days of intensive Sierra training this week which covered circulation, acquisitions and serials. It is hoped that these new modules will streamline cataloging new acquisitions.

Angela attended a STEM Youth Services Workshop at Swarthmore Library this week to help her to include more science, technology, engineering and math into her programs and collection.

Arlene met with Lisa Kurusz, Regional Accounts Manager at Recorded Books to learn ways that Newtown Public Library can enhance its electronic offerings to its patrons. By using the RBDigital app and platform the library could potentially offer streaming digital content in addition to the county’s offerings. This supplemental electronic collection could comprise of audiobooks, eBooks, comics plus streaming video including Acorn TV and Qello (the world’s largest collection of full-length concert films and music documentaries). While the library does not have the funds at this time to add these services, it is hoped that, with the help of the Friends of Newtown Public Library, we will be add some of these services in the coming year.

Arlene attended the Delaware County Press Club’s 2018-2019 kick-off event at the new Valley View Golf (formerly Olde Masters). This networking event in Edgmont Township was a celebration of milestones and new ventures for press club members but was also an opportunity to meet members of the press and find ways that the library can work with them to get the word out about library events and services.

Summer adult programs did not bring in the attendance that was hoped. Tyler Arboretum and Joe Daniels, Master Gardener, presented programs about raised bed gardening and we also offered an essential oils program plus an Academy of Fine Arts “Philadelphia Firsts” art program. While these programs are usually free (the PAFA art program cost \$100), the cost in staff time, etc. makes the lack of interest a problem. In September, an adult program about search engine optimization had only two patrons in attendance, despite the fact that 24 individuals had registered for the program. Unfortunately, the general lack of attendance at adult programs is all too common at most public libraries in Delaware County and throughout the country.

Respectfully submitted,
 Arlene Caruso
 Director, Newtown Public Library