

**Newtown Public Library
Library Director's Report
January 16, 2020**

Statistics:

Circulation

December circulation (6,395 items) drops by 10% when compared to November (7,079 items) but this is on trend for this time of year. Circulation in December 2019 is better than December 2018 by more than 7%. This is the best December circulation on record.

Total 2019 circulation was 9.21% better than total circulation in 2018. In fact, the library's circulation in 2019 (93,332 items) was the best circulation on record beating the former record in 2012 by 800 items.

New Library Cards

New library cards issued in December (28 cards) were down by 10% when compared to November (35 cards). This is on trend for December.

Our total new library cards for 2019 (565 new cards) is 19% higher than last year (476 new cards). This total is the second highest total on record.

Wi-Fi Sessions

Our Wi-Fi continues to be popular in our community. December Wi-Fi sessions (7,109 sessions) is down by 12% when compared to November Wi-Fi sessions (8,072 sessions) but is expected for this time of year. This continues the trend from April (7,477 sessions) of being in excess of 7,000 sessions. It is also a 70% increase when compared to December 2018.

Our total Wi-Fi sessions for 2019 (88,638 sessions) is 57% better than the year before. We are gratified that our improved Wi-Fi, provided by the Friends of Newtown Public Library, has really taken off this year. Patrons are happy they no longer need to use a password to access our faster and more secure connection to the internet.

Library Visits

Library visits in December (4,758 visits) were down by 9% when compared to November (5,202 visits). This still marked the best December visits since the library began using the current people counter in 2016. Visits in December 2019 were better than last year at this time by 4%.

Overall, visits in 2019 (72,929 visits) are up by 5% when compared to 2018 visits (68,138 visits).

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian:

"Thank you for your support in the past year. 2019 brought strong attendance across different ages. We started a successful Code Club for ages 8-14 using an IMLS grant. Though that support has ended, our club is still going strong. For our younger patrons, we started the 1000 Books before Kindergarten

program. This initiative aims to support and encourage parents in reading aloud to babies and toddlers. Thanks to DCLS, we are able to give out free books at different milestones along the path to 1000 books. Our teens enjoyed a vegan cooking class and a Glow Party.

Total attendance for 2019 is 10,139.”

Upcoming Events :

It's a slow time of year for events due to the holidays. Our regular toddler and baby storytimes are currently on break through January 7. These programs are scheduled in the coming weeks:

- Jitterbugs Music, January 21 @ 10 a.m.
- Chinese Immersion for Kids, January 28 & February 4 @ 4 p.m.
- Newtown Public Library Book Club, January 22 @ 2 & 7 p.m. – Discussing “The Clockmaker’s Daughter” by Kate Morton
- Techgirlz: Think Like a Digital Designer, January 25 @ 1 p.m.
- Mommy & Me Yoga, January 27 @ 10 a.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, February 13 @ 6 p.m.
- Calling All Handcrafters, First and Third Mondays @ 1 p.m.
- Coding Capers, Mondays @ 4 p.m.
- Scrabble Club, Tuesdays @ 4:30 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Arlene attended State of the Township meeting the Newtown Square Business Association in January and presented information related to the library’s fund drive as well as the success of the past year.

Arlene is currently preparing the Annual Report that will be submitted to the state in February.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Caruso

Director, Newtown Public Library