

**Newtown Public Library
Library Director's Report
September 19, 2019**

Statistics:

Circulation

August circulation (9,240 items) is down by 3% when compared to July circulation (9,523 items). However, August 2019 circulation is 9.76% better than August 2018. In fact, it is the best circulation in August since 2011. We continue to have circulation totals over 7,000 items each 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

New library cards issued in August (81 cards) is the best month for new library cards since June 2014. It is significantly higher (37%!) than July (59 cards). Our total new library cards for 2019 thus far (395 cards) is 25% higher than last year at this same time (317 cards).

Wi-Fi Sessions

August Wi-Fi sessions (8,199 sessions) were relatively flat when compared to July Wi-Fi sessions (8,246 sessions). This continues the trend from April (7,477 sessions) of being in excess of 7,000 sessions. This is our second month of a row of 8,000+ sessions.

Library Visits

Library visits in August (7,667 visits) were down by just 2% when compared July visits (7,847 visits). Despite this decrease, the visits in August were the third best total since the people counter device was install in 2016. Overall, visits in 2019 (50,474 visits) are up by 8% when compared to the same period in 2018 (47,389 visits).

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian:

“August 16th marked the end of our Summer Quest Reading and Learning Club. We also celebrated the completion of two county-wide programs, Delco Pen Pals and Journey Across Delco. Several DCLS libraries jointly hosted a party at Rose Tree Park, attended by over 500 people! Summer weather was very warm and rainy. Even though we had to cancel two programs due to heat, total attendance was up 240 from 2018. Engagement with summer reading logs increased by 49. We hope to use what we've learned from our successes this summer in next year's program.

Total attendance for August was **1,190.**”

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:

- Dance Me A Story, September 23 @ 10:30 a.m.

- Fourth Wednesday Book Club (Discussing “Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother’s Will to Survive” by Stephanie Land), September 25 @ 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Crocheting with Miss Amy, 5 Sundays at 2 p.m. starting on September 29
- Music with Miss Joy, October 1 & 15 @ 10 a.m.
- Newtown Square Wordsmiths, October 3 @ 6 p.m.
- Friends of Newtown Public Library Fall Book Sale, October 4 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., October 5 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and October 6 from 1-4 p.m.
- Career & Resume Workshop, October 10 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Yoga with Miss Gosha, October 14 @ 10 a.m.
- SCORE Strategic Research-based Approaches to LinkedIn, October 15 @ 6:30 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Arlene was elected Treasurer of the Southeast Chapter of the Pennsylvania Library Association (SEPLA) for 2020.

Arlene has joined the board of the Newtown Square Historical Society in the hopes of a stronger partnerships between the Society and the library. Her focus on the board will be social media.

Arlene met with Stephen Nease, Township Manager, and George Sharrets, Public Works Manager, to discuss the future of the library’s patio area. The garden is currently being maintained by one community volunteer and public work’s staff. It is hoped that together a solution can be reached that makes the patio area more appealing to the community and easier to maintain.

Arlene attended a Visit Delco, Pa (formerly Destination Delco) Communications meeting at the Newtown Square Garden Hilton. Although the meeting itself seemed to not be of direct benefit or application to the library, she was able to network with representatives from various community organizations that may lead to partnerships with these groups.

Arlene represented the library at the first of two Newtown Township Budget Workshops. The workshop was not well attended by the community yet it was quite educational to learn more about where the township spends its budget and how revenue is generated.

With other county library directors, Arlene attended an Advocacy Training offered by Delaware County Libraries last week at Ridley Township Library. It was presented by Rob Leshner, former director of the Dauphin County Library System and current library consultant.

The annual appeal mailing was taken to the Media Post Office on Thursday, September 12 for processing. The Broomall Post Office is not currently accepting bulk mail. Online donations have already come in as of Monday, September 16.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Caruso

Director, Newtown Public Library