

Newtown Public Library
Library Director's Report for June 2020
July 16, 2020

Statistics:

Circulation

Though the library was completely closed due to the pandemic the first half of June, we began offering contactless pick-up on Tuesday, June 16. Patrons checked out 844 items in June which marks a great start to our phased return.

Our circulation of digital magazines through DCL's RBDigital was down in June (84 items) when compared to May (101 items). The circulation of eBooks and eAudiobooks through Overdrive has remained steady with June's circulation of 1,407 less than the month before (1,483 items).

Wi-Fi Sessions

Though we have been closed, our Wi-Fi continues to be popular in our community. Our reporting software has changed. In June, we saw 438 unique wireless sessions.

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian:

"June 2020 looked quite different but previous years, but we still had fun! This month we moved all of our programs to Zoom. This platform allows a lot more interaction between us and the patrons, and they can also engage each other. Our attendance numbers are lower than in person, but we get so much wonderful feedback from participants who are truly served by what we are offering virtually. In addition to a weekly story time, we had a family karate class, two books clubs with our local elementary school's librarian, an origami class and a super fun introduction to classical music program for preschoolers. We also took part in a county-wide summer kick-off event that was live-steamed on Facebook.

When Contactless Delivery began, we started offering Take and Make craft kits, so kids could have some fun no-screen options. We will continue these throughout the summer.

Total Zoom attendance for June is: **189.**"

Upcoming Events:

Although we have had to cancel many programs due to being closed, we still have a weekly online story time as well as an online book club discussion through Zoom. Many more programs are scheduled online in the future as mentioned in YS update.

Friends of the Library Update

The Friends of the Library have not met since the last report and do not have any events planned at this time.

Miscellaneous

The self-check station, which has been on the back burner during this time of contactless pick-up, is back under consideration. Should we go with the system I propose, in addition to allowing patrons the ability to check out books themselves, they will also be able to pay their fines and make donations via credit card through the self-check station. Arlene is speaking with the vendor on Friday, July 17, to discuss the finer details of the installation.

We have added evening and Saturday contactless pick-up slots for patrons. The program has been quite popular as stated in the last report. Patrons are quite grateful that we are offering this service. It has been the focal point of the library staff as we adjust to this new variation of normal.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Caruso
Director, Newtown Public Library