

Director's Report to the Board of Agents

Silas Bronson Library

April 18, 2017

Raechel Guest, Director

Front Plaza Project

The construction project started on April 4 with a "substantial completion" schedule of 120 days and a "final completion" schedule of 150 days. The first part of the project will be the construction of a temporary handicap ramp for the rear patron entrance. There may be modifications to those doors to facilitate handicap access (the construction team will be examining the doors to see what the options are).

The current plan is to fence off the entire east side of the front lawn, from the corner of the west wing of the building all the way to the driveway for the parking lot and all the way to the sidewalk along Grand Street. The fencing will remain in place for the duration of the project. The fenced-in area will be off-limits to anyone not involved in the construction (hard hat zone). This means that the front entrance will not be usable during the construction period. We will need to relocate the front entrance book drop, trash can, etc. to the rear entrance when the fencing is installed.

FY18 Budget

The Mayor has presented the City's proposed budget for FY18 to the Board of Aldermen. I will be discussing my allocation request with the Aldermen on April 27. There were only two major cuts to my request: the elimination of a new staff position of Development/PR Specialist and a reduction to the "book" budget.

In order to maintain existing service levels for the public, our "book budget" (which includes online databases, DVDs, and other patron resources) needs to be \$237,550. The Mayor's proposed budget reduces this to \$195,000, a difference of \$42,550.

Circulation Division

March Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 249,187
Total Items Added to Collection: 783
Total Items Circulated: 12,635
Total Circulation In-House: 199
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 937
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 337

Total Active Patrons: 12,827
Total Expired Patrons: 15,197
Total Patrons Added: 283

March Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 13,323
Total Items Added to Collection: 33
Total Items Circulated: 1,034
Total Circulation In-House: 0
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 92
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 369

Total Active Patrons: 432
Total Expired Patrons: 535
Total Patrons Added: 8

Museum Pass Usage, March 2017

American Clock & Watch Museum: 0
Barker Comic and Cartoon Museum: 0
Barnum Museum: 0
Beardsley Zoo: 0
Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature: 0
Connecticut Science Center: 1
Connecticut's Old State House: 0
CT State Parks & Forest Recreation: 0
EverWonder Children's Museum: 1
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center: 0
Imagine Nation: 2
Institute for American Indian Studies: 0

Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk: 0
Mark Twain House: 0
Mattatuck Museum: 1
Mystic Aquarium: 0
Mystic Seaport: 0
New England Air Museum: 0
New Haven Museum: 0
Old Sturbridge Village: 0
Peabody Museum of Natural History: 1
Wadsworth Atheneum: 2
White Memorial Conservation Center: 0

Online Presence

Facebook Followers as of 4/12/2017: 656
Facebook Reach Mar. 15 – Apr. 11: 2,598
Facebook Post Engagements Mar. 15 – Apr. 11: 2,357

Website Visitors Mar. 4 – Apr. 1: 1,900
Website Pageviews Mar. 4 – Apr. 1: 6,446

Most Visited Website Pages (Mar. 4 – Apr. 1):

Home Page: 3,164	Genealogy: 163	Calendar: 104
Children's Pages: 275	Ask A Librarian: 146	How to Get a Card: 103
Bunker Hill Branch: 255	Museum Passes: 133	Hall of Fame: 96
Research: 185	How to Find Books: 112	eBooks & Video: 90
About Us: 174	Programs: 111	

Give Local

The Friends of the Silas Bronson Library are registered for Give Local, a 36-hour online giving campaign run by the Connecticut Community Foundation. The event will be held on April 25-26. If you are on social media (Facebook and Twitter), please be sure to share the library's posts about the event to help increase awareness and donations.

Benevento Fund

The Philip V. Benevento Fund for Cultural Programs for Adults has been established with the Friends of the Silas Bronson Library through a generous donation by MacDermid Performance Solutions and their C.O.O. Frank Monteiro. MacDermid's initial donation to the fund was \$10,000 with an additional \$2,500 for the inaugural year. Semina DeLaurentis is arranging the inaugural performance, to be held in the Main Reading Room on June 8 at 6 p.m. In addition, we have sent out a solicitation letter to a group of supporters in the hopes that we will be able to match the initial \$10,000 donation. The goal is to grow the fund so that the interest revenue may be used in perpetuity to support cultural programs for adults at the library.

Staff Updates

Richard Pelletier has joined our staff as a Maintainer I. He was previously a seasonal worker at Fulton Park. He is the maintainer on duty for most evenings and for Saturdays.

Eight staff members will be attending the Connecticut Library Association's Annual Conference on May 4-5. I will be attending both days, while the other staff members have divided up the two days based on which workshops will be the most beneficial for them to attend. This is an excellent professional development opportunity and, for several of the staff members going, it is their first time attending the conference.