

Director's Report to the Board of Agents

Silas Bronson Library

July 18, 2017

Raechel Guest, Director

Bronson Fund Contributions

Former library director Leo Flanagan has donated \$50 in honor of Philip Benevento's 25 years of Board service and \$50 in remembrance of his friend Dr. Michael Blumenthal, who taught history at UConn-Waterbury for fifty years.

Front Plaza Project

The front plaza area was fenced off on June 28 and demolition of the old sidewalks, steps, and ramp began on June 29. Demolition was completed on July 7.

The next scheduled phase of the project, to begin July 20, is the pouring of concrete walls and footings, and the new steps and ramp. This is expected to continue into late August. Also in August, they will be digging a trench for the fountain's underground utilities (scheduled to begin August 3).

Access to the patio is temporarily blocked while we wait for the metal railing to be welded back into position. The City does not have the equipment to do the repair. The project contractor, LaRosa Earth Group, has been asked to submit a quote for the job.

The reorganization of the AIS office area, precipitated by the need to make room for the fountain mechanicals, is coming along well. Nearly all of the staff impacted are getting larger work areas with greater privacy from the public.

State Budget Cuts

The State Budget is still undecided. On June 26, Governor Malloy issued an Executive Resource Allocation Plan for the fiscal year, which included further cuts to the State Library (cutting the researchIT budget in half) and the elimination of funding for the Connecticut Library Consortium. We benefit from \$63,000 in savings each year thanks to the Consortium. The savings come primarily from service discounts they negotiate for us, including discounts on the books we purchase and our internet service. The cuts will jeopardize federal funds which require matching support, further reducing the State Library's budget and leading to the elimination of hundreds of online resources.

The deliverIT program resumed yesterday with limited service.

Policy Update

We have an LCD projector which we have been loaning out to the public. However, the loan of this item is not covered under existing library policy. After consulting with other libraries, the best practice appears to be a one-week loan period, no renewals, with a \$10 per day late fee. If adopted by the Board, this would become part of Policy Section A 11 governing loans.

Children's Room Renovation

I expect to place orders for shelving and carpeting this week. There is an 8-10 week wait for the shelving. We have a tentative plan to install the shelving during the week of September 18. The current plan is for the Children's Room to be closed for four weeks: during the first week, we will relocate the old shelving and books to a new location (most likely the auditorium), to ensure that the public still has access to our materials. During the second week, the floors will be scrubbed and waxed, and the new carpeting will be installed. The third week will be the installation of the new shelving, followed by the return of the books to the Children's Room.

Circulation Division

June Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 254,489
Total Items Added to Collection: 1,049
Total Items Circulated: 11,800
Total Circulation In-House: 244
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 999
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 303

Total Active Patrons: 12,703
Total Expired Patrons: 15,071
Total Patrons Added: 339

June Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 16,922
Total Items Added to Collection: 20
Total Items Circulated: 866
Total Circulation In-House: 0
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 72
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 352

Total Active Patrons: 437
Total Expired Patrons: 499
Total Patrons Added: 5

Museum Pass Usage, June 2017

American Clock & Watch Museum: 0
Barker Comic and Cartoon Museum: 2
Barnum Museum: 0
Beardsley Zoo: 10
Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature: 0
Connecticut Science Center: 0
Connecticut's Old State House: 0
CT State Parks & Forest Recreation: 2
EverWonder Children's Museum: 2
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center: 0
Imagine Nation: 1
Institute for American Indian Studies: 0
KidsPlay Childrens Museum: 4

Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk: 4
Mark Twain House: 0
Mattatuck Museum: 2
Mystic Aquarium: 1
Mystic Seaport: 3
New Britain Museum of American Art: 0
New England Air Museum: 3
New Haven Museum: 1
Old Sturbridge Village: 0
Peabody Museum of Natural History: 6
Wadsworth Atheneum: 1
White Memorial Conservation Center: 0

Online Presence

Facebook Followers as of 7/12/2017: 704
Facebook Reach June 15 – July 12: 2,477
Facebook Post Engagements June 15 – July 12: 2,290

Google Listing (June)

Google Search Views: 4,179 Google Map Views: 263 Google Phone Clicks: 106

Website Visitors May 29 – June 30: 2,310
Website Pageviews May 29 – June 30: 8,212

Most Visited Website Pages (May 29 – June 30):

Home Page: 3865	Children's Pages: 229	How to Find Books: 169
Programs: 558	Research: 229	Calendar: 161
Bunker Hill Branch: 315	Genealogy: 224	eBooks & Video: 143
Museum Passes: 286	About Us: 213	Hall of Fame: 98
Ask A Librarian: 253	How to Get a Card: 189	Computer Classes: 44

Friends Fundraising & Outreach Committee

The Committee is continuing to work on a number of outreach and fundraising ideas. They are also working on plans to bring back the annual Friends of the Library book sale this fall. The best location for the sale is on the patio, which will require a tent, and the auditorium. I will be visiting the Pequot Library Book Sale next week to see how they run theirs.

Benevento Fund

The inaugural program was a hit, and the Friends have raised more than \$5,000 for the fund, bringing to total to more than \$17,500 before expenses. We will need to form a committee to help plan future programs, to be held quarterly.

Library Security

There was an incident involving two patrons in the front lobby and Main Reading Room on Friday, June 23, which began with an argument and ended with one man attempting to assault the other man with a plastic hockey stick. The incident made it clear that the library staff do not have the training or resources needed to prevent incidents like this from happening. We have no security personnel on staff; extra-duty police officers are here only during the evening hours. I have submitted a report to the Mayor outlining the security concerns and requesting the City's assistance in this matter. We have since begun seeing increased police presence in and around the library. Additionally, the Mayor has asked the Police Department and Human Resources to coordinate training sessions for library staff. I will be meeting with officers from the Community Relations Division later this week to plan training sessions in building safety and situational responses for August.