

Director's Report to the Board of Agents

Silas Bronson Library

November 21, 2017

Raechel Guest, Director

Front Plaza Project

The janitor's closet in the basement has been prepped for use as the fountain's pump room. Concrete has been poured for the new steps in front of the building. The project was on hiatus for a couple of weeks while LaRosa completed a different project, a side effect of the long delay earlier this year.

We purchased a stain for the wood ramp in back of the library, but the City painters have not yet applied it.

Children's Room Renovation

We are about two-thirds of the way done with the project. Walls have been painted, new shelving has been installed, tile floors have been cleaned & waxed, and new carpeting is being installed. We are waiting for a number of items to arrive, including comfy couches and shelving to replace a pallet that was damaged in shipment. As soon as the carpet installation is finished, we will reopen the second floor, posting signs explaining that it is a work in progress. The final completion date is the first week in January.

Bunker Hill Branch

Sprucing up at the branch continues. Books that have not circulated in years are being replaced with newer books. Accurate tracking of the number of patrons has begun.

Withdrawn Books and Furniture

On December 14-16 (Thursday-Saturday), the Friends of the Library will be holding a book sale in the Main Reading Room. The items to be sold include our withdrawn books and old furniture; these items were previously approved for donation to the Friends by the City Purchasing Department.

Circulation Division

October Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 256,994
Total Items Added to Collection: 824
Total Items Circulated: 11,930
Total Circulation In-House: 240
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 584
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 375

Total Active Patrons: 12,224
Total Expired Patrons: 14,674
Total Patrons Added: 232

October Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 16,956
Total Items Added to Collection: 30
Total Items Circulated: 794
Total Circulation In-House: n/a
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 69
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 287

Total Active Patrons: 417
Total Expired Patrons: 495
Total Patrons Added: 7

Museum Pass Usage, October 2017

American Clock & Watch Museum: 0
Barker Comic and Cartoon Museum: 0
Barnum Museum: 0
Beardsley Zoo: 5
Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature: 0
Connecticut Science Center: 0
Connecticut's Old State House: 0
CT State Parks & Forest Recreation: 0
EverWonder Children's Museum: 0
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center: 0
Imagine Nation: 1
Institute for American Indian Studies: 0
KidsPlay Childrens Museum: 2

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

Online Presence

Facebook Followers as of 11/13/2017: 814
Facebook Reach Oct. 16 – Nov. 12: 20,591
Facebook Post Engagements Oct. 16 – Nov. 12: 5,512

Website Visitors Oct. 1 – Oct. 31: 3,156
Website Pageviews Oct. 1 – Oct. 31: 6,124

Most Visited Website Pages (Oct. 1 – Oct. 31):

Home Page: 3,032	Museum Passes: 150	Hall of Fame: 94
Programs: 291	Genealogy/Local Hist.: 144	How to Get a Card: 93
Bunker Hill Branch: 257	Calendar: 140	Computer Classes: 63
Ask A Librarian: 176	About Us: 135	Borrowing Questions: 48
Research: 175	How to Find Books: 134	
Children's Division: 155	eBooks: 130	

State Budget

The State of Connecticut finally passed a budget which preserves the status quo for library funding. The City of Waterbury does not anticipate any reductions to Departmental budgets, but is maintaining tight oversight of expenses and will fill vacant positions only if absolutely necessary.

deliverIT CT

Because the state delivery system now restricts all libraries to no more than 3 outgoing bins per day, we have seen a drastic decrease in our circulation figures for materials being requested from other libraries. In October 2016, we had 1,265 items circulate at other libraries; in October 2017, we had only 584 items circulate at other libraries.

Building Theft

Temporary security cameras were installed while we wait for the City to move forward with upgrading our existing system. Another attempt to steal metal panels from the building was made on November 9. Security footage has been sent to the police department.

Mardi Gross & Halloween ComicFest

Mardi Gross was a smash hit, with approximately 1400 people in attendance, many of whom were new to the library. Activities were run by volunteer groups including Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury, UnGroup Society, Rivera & Hughes South End Cheerleaders, the Friends of the Library, and the library's Anime Club. We gave away 772 free comic books and mini-comics and 600 superhero bookmarks. Participants were able to meet local fantasy author Paul L. Centeno and local cartoonist Quinn Fabas-Smith. In addition to candy that was purchased for the event, donations of candy were made by John Bale Book Company and the Greater Waterbury Board of Realtors. A Stranger Things raffle prize was donated by Legends of Superheros, who also helped underwrite the cost of the comic books. Free Lunch Studios was hired to run their popular "Art Fight" in which two contestants race against the clock to draw an image chosen by the audience; FLS gave us a discounted price and ran the program for nearly two hours. Frankies sold hot dogs, chips, and water. Texas Roadhouse handed out 300 free cinnamon buns and their mascot posed for photos with the audience. Waterbury Hospital donated \$500 to the Friends to help support the event, the same amount as last year.

Waterbury Hall of Fame Ceremony

The ceremony was held at the Mattatuck Museum on Saturday, October 21. This year's inductees were Judge Robert D. Glass, Philip V. Benevento, and Ryan Gomes. Approximately 275 people attended the event. Hoops for Heart Health donated an AED to the library and one to the Parks Department during the ceremony.