

Director's Report to the Board of Agents

Silas Bronson Library

October 15, 2018

Raechel Guest, Director

Upcoming Programs

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation will be holding a public meeting about **protecting historic buildings** in the Main Reading Room on Wednesday, October 17, at 6:30 p.m.

The **Waterbury Hall of Fame** Induction Ceremony begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 20. The ceremony is once again being held at the Mattatuck Museum.

Mardi Gross will be held rain or shine on Saturday, October 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are still in need of volunteers to assist with various activities that day. We are also still seeking sponsorships/donations to the Friends of the Library to help pay for the event. Last year, approximately 1,400 people attended. If the weather is good, we expect to see about 2,000 people attend. This is by far our biggest event of the year and a great opportunity to connect with families who have never been to the library before.

Front Plaza

LaRosa has installed the chlorine filter for the fountain and leveled the fountain. Other repairs are still pending.

Donation

We received an unexpected donation of \$500 from a former Waterbury resident who now lives in Prospect but still visits us regularly because we have the books that she wants to borrow. She made the donation to honor the memory of the Paul sisters, and said that she would like to be able to support the library just as they did.

Saturday Scheduling

Bunker Hill will be open on Saturdays beginning October 20. This will leave our front desk short staffed on Mondays for about three weeks, until our new Admin I starts.

East Wing/Teen Zone Renovation

We are waiting for an estimate from American Millwork for the partial demolition of the floating wall, which will create a doorway for the new Teen Zone. We will be submitting our paperwork for the City's bidding process for the new carpeting and glass walls this week.

Main Reading Room Shelving

We are finalizing the plans for reorganizing the materials in the Main Reading Room. The librarians' measurements of the collections and shelving confirm that we can remove the shelves along the windows, which will open up new space for quiet reading/study areas and ensure that all of our aisles are ADA compliant.

It will take some work to relocate all of the books—this is a good project for volunteers to assist with.

Collection Agency

We are still waiting for Corporation Counsel to advise us on severing our contract with American Adjustment. In the meantime, we are no longer sending them new bills.

As mentioned in my report last month, a current trend in public libraries is the elimination of all late fees and, in some cases, lost or damaged book fees. If fees are over \$5, our patrons can no longer borrow anything from the library. People living in poverty are disproportionately affected by this policy, as they are the ones least able to pay the fees. Children who are most in need of the library's resources often end up losing their library privileges because their families can't afford the fees.

As of last month, there are 4,579 patrons (18% of our total cardholders) whose borrowing privileges have been suspended due to fees. This does not include patrons who no longer have cards at all due to this issue: patrons are deleted from the system after 5 years of inactivity.

Last year, we collected about \$16,000 in fines and just over \$2,000 for lost or damaged books. If we were to eliminate fines entirely, we would need to find an alternate source of revenue.

Whale Update

The Stein family have donated a total of \$500 to the Friends of the Silas Bronson Library to help pay for the reinstallation of the Jerome Stein whale sculpture. They included notes letting us know that they leave the decision about where to put the sculpture up to us.

The prosecutor handling the case involving the vandalism of the artwork called to find out the estimated value of the piece as an artwork, as opposed to the scrap value that the vandal was charged with by the police. It is my understanding that they will be prosecuting him for the full estimated value of the art, not the scrap value of the metal.

New Library Cards

The new library cards have arrived and are now available.

Staffing Additions & Vacancies

We have selected a new Admin I to work at the Circulation Office and front desk. Lindsay LeVasseur will be starting at the library after November 8.

The Librarian II position continues to be on hold until March.

Circulation Division

September Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 265,292
Total Items Added to Collection: 567
Total Items Circulated: 10,404
Total Circulation In-House: 232
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 779
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 337

Total Active Patrons: 11,046
Total Expired Patrons: 13,851
Total Patrons Added: 210

September Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 15,387
Total Items Added to Collection: 21
Total Items Circulated: 622
Total Circulation In-House: 0
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 51
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 156

Total Active Patrons: 392
Total Expired Patrons: 463
Total Patrons Added: 5

Museum Pass Usage, August 2018

American Clock & Watch Museum: 3
Barker Comic and Cartoon Museum: 1
Barnum Museum: 0
Beardsley Zoo: 4
Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature: 0
Connecticut Science Center: 0
Connecticut's Old State House: 1
EverWonder Children's Museum: 0
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center: 0
Imagine Nation: 2
Institute for American Indian Studies: 0
KidsPlay Childrens Museum: 2

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

Online Presence

Facebook Followers as of 10/15/2018: 1,123
Facebook Reach Sep. 16 – Oct. 13: 3,309
Facebook Post Engagements Sep. 16 – Oct. 13: 2,705

Instagram Followers as of 10/15/2018: 273
Bronson Teens Instagram Followers as of 10/15/2018: 109
Twitter Followers as of 10/15/2018: 301

Website Visitors September 1 – September 30: 2,010
Website Sessions September 1 – September 30: 3,314
Website Pageviews September 1 – September 30: 6,552

Most Visited Website Pages (September 1 – September 30):

Home Page: 3,339	Calendar: 151	Directions: 37
Programs: 319	Genealogy/Local Hist.: 150	New Movies: 33
Research: 202	About Us: 147	Board of Agents: 32
Hall of Fame: 193	Children's Division: 109	Library History: 27
How to Find Books: 191	How to Get a Card: 108	Newsletters: 22
Ask A Librarian: 182	Computer Classes: 57	News: 21
Bunker Hill Branch: 172	Borrowing Questions: 54	Suggest a Purchase: 18
eBooks: 161	Teen/YA: 54	Friends: 12
Museum Passes: 152	Book Sale: 47	