

Director's Report to the Board of Agents

Silas Bronson Library

April 19, 2021

Raechel Guest, Director

Service Expansion

We are still waiting for delivery of supplies needed to expand our services to include browsing the shelves and use of the second floor. The original shipment date was at the end of March, then it was the middle of April. The current delivery date is April 22.

We will be offering a number of in-person programs this summer. They will be held outdoors only, with masks and distancing required. Some online programs will continue to be held online.

COVID safety protocols (masks, distancing, quarantining of library materials) will remain in place until the CDC and local health officials advise otherwise.

Mobile Library

While we are still waiting for the mobile bookcases to arrive, we are launching the home delivery service connected to the mobile library. The librarian in charge of this program, Michael Tierney, currently assists the Senior Center with meal deliveries twice a week. We will be coordinating with the Senior Center on the library home delivery service. Potential patrons will be asked to fill out an application form which will be available on our website, through the Senior Center, and on request through the mail. Promotional information will be distributed later this week.

Library Construction Grant Application

Our passenger elevator, original to the 1968 building, is in need of replacement. We are working with Public Works to get a formal assessment of the elevator and to assist us with the project. The Connecticut State Library offers a construction grant through state bonding which would cover half of the cost. Ideally, if enough funding is available, we could also replace the dumbwaiter in the back of the Main Reading Room with a passenger elevator, improving access to the basement.

City Audit

The City Auditor has concluded his review of our financial operations and will be presenting his report to the Finance and Audit Review Commission. A draft of the report has been shared with the library's Finance Committee. No problems were uncovered. A few minor improvements recommended by the Auditor are being implemented.

Circulation

During the shutdown a year ago, Bibliomation automatically renewed all library accounts that had expired or were about to expire. The renewal was for one year only, and all of those accounts have now expired again, leaving us with only 7,000 active accounts. Patrons have been calling to find out how to renew their accounts, but there are still quite a few people who are uncomfortable renewing their accounts in person due to the ongoing pandemic. We are also finding that some patrons prefer the digital card only.

Bunker Hill Fiber

We have successfully applied for a grant through the State Library and the CEN to add a fiber internet connection to the Bunker Hill Branch Library. The project was approved by the Board of Aldermen at their March 22 meeting. Thanks to the funding, the only cost we will incur is the annual fee of just under \$300. The fiber line will dramatically increase the internet speed at the branch, allow the staff computer to connect to our servers, and allow us to add wi-fi at the branch.

Exterior Wi-Fi

Thanks to the CEN and the Everybody Learns Initiative, we now have two new wi-fi access points located on the exterior of our building. These are free public wi-fi access points run by the CEN. Similar access points have been installed in locations throughout Connecticut.

Circulation Division

March Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 255,300
Total Items Added to Collection: 858
Total Items Circulated: 2,304
Total Circulation In-House: 1
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 1,935
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 344

Total Active Patrons: 6,852
Total Expired Patrons: 34,806
Total Patrons Added: 80

OverDrive Circulation: March

Audiobooks: 480
Ebooks: 644
Total Checkouts: 1,124

March Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 11,081
Total Items Added to Collection: 50
Total Items Circulated: 295
Total Circulation In-House: 0
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 139
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 214

Total Active Patrons: 223
Total Expired Patrons: 1,116
Total Patrons Added: 0

Adult: 865
Teen/YA: 120
Children: 139

Museum Pass Usage, March 2021

American Clock & Watch Museum: 0
Barker Comic and Cartoon Museum: 0
Beardsley Zoo: 0
Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature: 0
Connecticut Forests & Parks: 0
Connecticut Science Center: 0
EverWonder Children's Museum: 0
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center: 0
Imagine Nation: 0
Institute for American Indian Studies: 0
KidsPlay Childrens Museum: 0

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

Online Presence

Facebook Followers as of 4/15/2021: 2,471
Facebook Reach March 18 – April 14: 3,187
Facebook Post Engagements March 18 – April 14: 271

Instagram Followers as of 4/15/2021: 887
Bronson Teens Instagram Followers as of 4/15/2021: 250
Twitter Followers as of 4/15/2021: 447

Wowbrary Active Subscriptions as of 4/15/2021: 93
Wowbrary Customized Newsletters as of 4/15/2021: 6
Wowbrary Webpages Viewed March 1 – March 31: 1,288
Wowbrary Clickthroughs to Catalog March 1 – March 31: 205

Website Visitors March 1 – March 31: 1,614
Website Sessions March 1 – March 31: 2,599
Website Pageviews March 1 – March 31: 5,876

Most Visited Website Pages (March 1 – March 31):

Home Page: 2,388	About Us: 119	Hall of Fame: 51
Programs: 519	Borrowing Questions: 94	Geekdom: 50
Program Registration: 348	eBooks: 91	Book Sale: 33
Genealogy/Local Hist.: 194	Bunker Hill Branch: 84	New Movies: 28
Ask A Librarian: 185	Newsletters: 73	Friends: 20
Take Out: 156	How to Get a Card: 69	Requests: 17
Children's Division: 147	Library History: 68	Wowbrary: 16
Research: 138	Calendar: 66	Computer Classes: 14
Digital: 137	Teen/YA: 59	Board of Agents: 11
How to Find Books: 128	Museum Passes: 53	Directions: 9