



August 2017 Branch Manager's Report

Facilities

On Thursday, August 17, a new lighted Paoli Library sign was installed just below the Wells Fargo sign in front of the bank on Route 30! The sign has been a long-time goal of Paoli Library, and getting to that goal involved coordinating the efforts of many different organizations: the Friends of the Library for funding, Tredyffrin Township for zoning requirements and approval, Wells Fargo Bank administration for corporate approval, and FARO signs for design and installation. We are grateful to all of these organizations and to the people who helped coordinate them, particularly Chris Kibler and C. T. Alexander

On Friday, August 18, Joey Ryan and I met with carpenter Casper Jaunzemmis to discuss construction of new carrels for the public computers. We agreed with his recommendations regarding design and finish, giving priority to durability as well as appearance, and Cas expects to construct the carrels sometime in the next few months. We also plan to replace the library's carpeting early next year (pending funding), with these two projects serving as important first steps in our library "facelift."

Staff Training

On July 14, Liz Alakszay (CCLS staff training) and Kirsten Downey (CCLS development) visited the library to get acquainted with our facility and operations, and to discuss training needs. I conveyed the staff's request for training on how to handle situations involving mental health issues. In response to this and other requests, CCLS arranged for library staff to have access to a course offered by the County on August 14. Joey Ryan, Taylor Baugher and I attended that full-day workshop in West Chester and are now certified in Mental Health First Aid.

Liz and Kirsten and I also discussed the need for training on the ever-changing technology challenges facing library staff. Patrons ask for our help with ebooks, web email through various providers, information searches, online forms and applications, etc., on all kinds of devices – laptops, tablets, and phones. CCLS is attempting to offer more extensive staff training in those areas, keeping in mind that tech training is always a step behind tech developments.

Children's Programming

This year's summer programs were so popular that Stephanie had to add additional sections added for Architecture Camp and for Summer STEM: Attack the Fort! Registration for the summer reading club was comparable with the past few years: just under 200. The end-of-summer party for Summer Reading and GO WilMa is the Willistown Country Fair, held in Greentree Park on August 22.

Fundraising

The Annual Appeal total is now \$23,180, a 17 percent increase over last year's total. The total number of contributors to the 2016 appeal (194) is about the same as for the 2015 appeal (198).

Beverly Michaels, Branch Manager
August 21, 2017