

January 2020 Library Director's Report for December 2019
Library Director's Video Report Link <https://animoto.com/play/kTh0G25JA6jnBg0UXssNDw>

Due to high winds, our annual Township Tree Lighting and Holiday Party co-hosted with PT Parks & Rec, was moved inside this year. Nevertheless, it drew another large crowd of nearly 500 people who gathered on both floors of the library to hear the young singers of McMurray School directed by Ray Cygrymus. Santa Claus arrived in style on a PTVFD fire truck and the crowd enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies and goodie bags compliments of our PT Parks & Rec Department. Our local Girl Scouts and our Youth Services Department helped our youngest visitors to build gingerbread houses, too.



Special thanks to Assistant Director, Sue Miller, for coordinating crowd control and to our library's circulation team for checking out materials and signing up a few new cardholders, *bringing our total to 1591 NEW registered users this year*. Thank you to Harry Funk for covering this event with wonderful follow-up features in The Observer/Almanac.



We continued our tradition of playing holiday CDs in our lobby each day in December to promote our audio CD collection and circulated 534 adult CDs. Our Youth Services Department extended their DVD loans to two weeks to allow for more family viewing time. We sold 70 ENJOY books to benefit the PT Library Foundation and picked the 2 lucky winners from the Lexington Court Christmas Wreath Raffle.



We also enjoyed a wonderful evening in December with the Jubilee Bell-Ringers from Trinity Methodist Church. The PT Library Foundation provided homemade refreshments and holiday punch. The PTPL Elf on the Shelf was back in the library hiding throughout December with 144 young visitors looking for him and earning raffle tickets. Our Venetia DARE Model Railroad Club set up three trains again this year and delighted our young engineers who loved to push the buttons. We also thank our patrons for their \$100 in \$1 donations this month to the "Share the Love" Campaign and thanks to Mark Baer for matching those donations to benefit the libraries in the Washington County Library System with new resources for Youth Services.



Margaret Deitzer hosted a lovely dinner on behalf of the PTPL complete with centerpieces and Sarris candy bars for her PTPL Evening Book Club at Al's Cafe. They discussed "Real Santa" by William Hazelgrove and planned for future reads. Teen volunteers offered a special Holiday Gift Wrapping service again this year in exchange for non-perishable food items for the PT Food Pantry. Teens could earn volunteer hours and 35 of our patrons were able to get some gift wrapping done without the mess.

In honor of Computer Science Education Week, we sponsored an Hour of Code challenge for 23 kids in 4th grade and up. We also featured new coding books on the homepage of our website and noted that 598 early literacy games were played on our AWE terminals.

We also wish to thank our PTPL Volunteer Friends for their amazing holiday book sale which raised over \$950.00 this month. The total number of volunteer hours given by adults and teens totaled a whopping 3600 hours in 2019!



We all enjoyed the Township Holiday Luncheon at the Rec Center and always look forward to the opportunity to visit with our fellow Township employees and Council members this time of year. The food was wonderful and the homemade pies from Simmons were such thoughtful gifts and greatly appreciated.

Despite being closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and closing early on New Year's Eve, 14,242 people visited the library in December, and we circulated 23,193 items, both physical and electronic. This brought our amazing year-end circulation total to 340,360 items. And like Giant Eagle, many of those items, 14,460 to be exact, were checked out from our two self-checkout machines. Our new automated self-serve copy machine calculated over \$3000.00 in printing charges this past year and has been a very efficient solution for patrons who need to print and/or make copies.



December was also a very busy month for interlibrary loans and our Reference Department, sending out 22 items to various libraries outside the WAGGIN system. This brought our 2019 total to 407 items mailed beyond Washington, Fayette and Greater Greene Counties. In addition, this month we received 1386 requests for materials from within the 20 WAGGIN libraries. Our Study Room usage increased to 484 users this month for a total of 6117 users in 2019. Mary Kipling and her Department added 599 items to the collection, including another Binge Box of DVDs featuring the movies of Katharine Hepburn to celebrate her traveling wardrobe collection featured at The Frick Pittsburgh through mid-January.

We currently have 2705 Facebook users who have "liked" our page and our e-newsletter now reaches 8331 inboxes each week. We all bid farewell to a busy 2019 by serving 500+ people on 217 days and by circulating 500+ items on 302 days. We were open for a total of 338 days this year.

January 2020 will mark the beginning of the Peters Township Year of Kindness. Its goal is to promote and spread kindness in our community, building upon the solid foundation of Peters Township Character Counts and Rachel's Challenge. The aim is to increase Township spirit, community involvement, and the quality of interactions of our residents through service. As an active member of Character Counts, we will be supporting these efforts as well and will kick-off the new year by partnering with the McMurray Rotary for "Afternoon Tunes," offering a place to gather, sing and share the joy that music can bring to our community. #PTYOK

Afternoon Tunes

with the McMurray Rotary & Friends

2nd and 4th Fridays beginning January 10
2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Join in our new sing-along hour or just come enjoy the music. We will be singing to music provided by Harry Funk and Pam Linnon-Flinn - including songs like Elvis's *Blue Suede Shoes*, Neil Diamond's *Sweet Caroline*, and many familiar favorites.

