



North Branch April 2026

Submitted by: Kristin Graf, Bina Williams, and the North Branch staff

May 1, 2026

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 62 Number of visitors: 5084	Number of questions answered: Total 4027 Ref 1700 Directional 1762 Tech 565
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 99272 Total Added: 207	
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ:3971 (37% of BPL total) In-house: 916 Grand total: 4887 (39%) cultural Passes 22	
Public Internet Usage Total:	Public computer Users for the month: 650 Total Wifi connections n/a	
Room Usage by outside groups TOTAL	Room use: Bookings 3 Attendance: 165 Study room uses 61 Attendance: 72	

Programming Programs Attendance:	<p><i>Virtual:</i> 4 Mindfulness: 20</p> <p><i>In person off-site</i> 1 Watermark Book Discussion 17</p> <p><i>In person on-site: Regular programs</i> 1 Adult book Discussion: 10 1 Bridgeport Community Historical Soc 25 1 Books-In-Between 3 5 Computer Class 33 3 DIG Chess 14 4 E Sports: 41 4 Gifted Girls: 48 3 Little Bears: 66 4 Little Hands 52 8 Mah Jongg: 91 4 Playtime 52 4 Yoga Saturdays: 117</p> <p>SPECIAL PROGRAMS</p>	<p>3 Tax AARP 1 Safe Drive AARP 10 1 Lawyers in Libraries 12 3 Tax AARP 113 1 Guided Healing 18 1 Art With Veronica 20 1 Scavenger Hunt 41 1 Night Café 55 1 Spring Recital 60 6 First Serve 219 2 Sewing 21 2 Crochet 20 3 Crafternoons 59 1 Program Sunshine 6 1 Selfie Made Studio 30 1 Guided Healing 18</p>
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Other Services	0 Digital Navigator: 0 Notary appts: 47 docs 36 Coloring sheets: 150 Info Tables: 0 Passport: NA ILL requests for BPL system patrons: patrons/ items requested 0 Tests proctored: 0
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Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached N/A
Staff Dev and "outside" meetings	

“No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. April is a promise that May is bound to keep, and we know it.” — Hal Borland

After the flurry of class visits last month, we have turned our attention to hosting our various events, planning for summer reading, ordering new books like mad, and, as always, providing excellent customer service, Paula Carlson's creativity continues to shine with her monthly scavenger hunts, and a series of impromptu and well received Crafternoons during school vacation week. (Paula is the queen of our Cri-Cut machine! During our class visits, she created hundreds of book mark craft sets for our visitors.)

Dana is in the middle of updating North's museum brochure and keeps all our passes up to date. Dana supplies books each month for a Book Club held off site at the Senior Living Hospitality Group formerly 3030 Park. For April they had 17 attendees and they read the book Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano.

David's computer class has a steady group of people who are spiffing up their computer skills.

Monika and David had an extremely busy month doing Notary appointments!

Ilesha and Lynn did a bit of juggling from one area to another to offer more than just coverage but also great help.

The Mah Jongg group has grown to two times a week with a full house on most Tuesdays and a smaller group on Saturdays. We bid farewell to the AARP tax preparers who helped 434 people in 12 sessions. We look forward to their generosity every year.

The month ended with several special events. The local Suzuki school held their spring concert here—it is a joy to see the progress some of the young musicians have made since the last concert. The Night Café returned with an enjoyable evening of music, storytelling, poetry, and more. The Bridgeport Community Historical Society invited Bridgeport Native Marcia Biederman to discuss her book *The Disquieting Death of Emma Gill: Abortion, Death, and Concealment in Victorian New England*. The denouement of this history took place in Bridgeport. Marcia used the Bridgeport History Center for a good bit of her research. (A few classmates from Central High plus her sister came!)

We are sad to say goodbye yet happy for Lynn who left us to become full-time at Burroughs-Saden. And we are grateful to Luis (the bouncing dot) for guiding us during Kristin's medical leave. We can't wait for her return May 4th.



A typical Saturday at North Branch Library.

At 10:00, 30 or more people come into our beloved Yoga class led by Yogi-Jay.

At 10:30, DIG Usa sponsors a chess class for all ages and levels of play.

At 11:30 once a month, Nancy Stone's Adult Book Group meets

At 12:00, a group of 6-18 year olds meets for E-sports.

At 1:00, The Gifted Girls Club holds their weekly meetings which can involve a craft, a tea party, a social service project or more with the main theme self esteem, self confidence, and self expression for girls 9-18.

At 1:00. A group of Mah Jongg devotees play the game for a couple of hours.

At 1:00, a class with Vera—quilting, sewing, you name it!

And then we add in the special programs which we squeeze in around our regular programs.

Then there are the kids who come in before or after their sports activities in the fields behind us. Or their siblings and parents who wait for them in the library.

The reference area computers are busy with people who work during the week. The children's department's computers and AWE Stations are in use pretty much all day. The play area's puzzles, puppets, and pictures are heavily used.

Patrons come to pick up holds or to pick out books or movies for the rest of the weekend.