

North Branch July 2026

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

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Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 82 Number of visitors: 5185	Number of questions answered: Total 3161 Reference 1316 Directional 1520 Technical 325
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 97064 Total Added: 249	
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 4046 (39 % of BPL total) In-house: 715 Grand total: 4761 Passes 17 Westport Country Playhouse 8	
Public Internet Usage Total:	Public computer Users for the month: 708 Total Wifi connections n/a	
Room Usage by outside groups TOTAL	Room use: Bookings, 5 Attendance: 42 Study room uses: 67 Attendance: 100	

Programming Programs Attendance:	Virtual: 4 Mindfulness: 20 In person off-site 0 Watermark Book Discussion 0 In person on-site: Regular programs 1 Adult book Discussion: 10 0 Bridgeport Community Historical Society 1 Books-In-Between 5 4 Computer Class 40 3 DIG Chess 8 13 E Sports: 175 1 Gifted Girls: 17 3 Little Bears: 80 3 Little Hands 41 3 First Serve 31 7 Mah Jongg: 83 3 Playtime17 21 Summer Camp 735 3 Yoga: 103	Women Emotions 10 Plant a Seed with Anna Ramirez 12 4 Project Sunshine 32 PJ Storytime 16 Turn Back The Clock to 1776 29 Movie 1776 4 Movie Hamilton 2 4 Weekly Scavenger Hunt 101 Manga 20 Pokemon 12 Carpe Diem visit 14
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Other Services	2 Digital Navigator: 5 26Notary appts: 48 docs 39 Coloring sheets: 200 Info Tables: 0 Passport: NA ILL requests for BPL system patrons: patrons/ items requested 0 Tests proctored: 0
Outreach	7-30-26 Bina joined Taslima at A Child's World to speak with families and do storytimes in two class rooms. 70 people
Staff Dev and "outside" meetings	Bina went to Westport Library for two Camp Explore sessions on stained glass making. This will be brought to North in the future.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

In late July, we said a bittersweet goodbye to Paula Carlson, who was promoted to an LA III position at Beardsley. While we are thrilled for Paula and wish her every success, we miss her already. Paula's dedication and willingness to take on countless responsibilities helped keep the branch running smoothly. Before her departure, she worked closely with Arabella to launch a new Manga-Anime Club, which will alternate with our popular Pokémon Club. The first sessions have been well received, and we look forward to seeing both programs continue to grow.

July's children's programming was packed with creativity and fun. A special America's 250th Celebration invited participants to step back in time by creating orange/clove pomanders, crafting George Washington wigs, creating quill pens, and decorating quilt squares for the national commemorative project. While attendance at our screenings of **1776** and **HAMILTON** was lower than expected, we attribute that to the beautiful weather following several rainy weeks (not to the librarians who couldn't help singing along).

Unfortunately, summer weather also presented challenges. A severe storm forced the library to close early on July 21, resulting in the cancellation of our Science Heroes program, which has since been rescheduled. On the upside, the rainy days and periods of extreme heat brought many participants from the Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse camp into the library, where they enjoyed e-sports, movies, reading time, and scavenger hunts in a cool and welcoming environment.

Summer Reading enthusiasm could be felt throughout the building as children, teens, and adults continued to log books, complete activities, and participate in prize drawings. It has been wonderful to see patrons of all ages embracing reading and making the library a regular part of their summer routines. One of the highlights of the program's Plant a Seed...Read! theme was a delightful visit from Anna Ramirez, who helped children and their caregivers create a vibrant community mural filled with flowers, insects, and birds. Kristin and Bina also hosted a cozy PJ Storytime that was enjoyed by families. Our youngest patrons enthusiastically attended Playtime, Little Hands, and Little Bears programs, while also celebrating the long-awaited reopening of the children's play park after repairs.

Throughout the branch, displays reflected both seasonal interests and current events. World Cup Fever inspired displays featuring books about soccer, international reads, summer-themed novels, and beloved summer

blockbusters. It was fun to see fans wearing the shirts of their favorite teams. The American Revolution served as a unifying theme across both children's and adult collections, connecting book displays and related programming. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Bridgeport Public Library, we were able to give patrons their own copies of The Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution, and for our young patrons, a book explaining the history of the US Constitution.

Adult Services experienced a particularly busy month. David and Monika continued to provide their popular weekly computer classes, helping patrons build confidence with technology and develop practical digital skills. They also handled an unusually high number of notary appointments, serving a steady stream of community members seeking assistance with important documents. Adult patrons showed strong interest in our themed book displays, particularly those focusing on the American Revolution and summer reading. Computer assistance, printing services, technology help, and one-on-one support remained consistently in demand, reinforcing the library's role as an essential community resource. The branch also welcomed many visitors seeking a comfortable place to work, study, and stay cool during the hottest days of the summer.

Outside, the community garden created by Don Wilson has flourished, producing impressive growth and providing a colorful backdrop for visitors. Dana, Ilesha, Arabella, and Miracle kept daily operations humming through their work with circulation, shelving, customer service, and innovative ideas. We were also pleased to hear that our security guard, Steve, received compliment from a Board member recognizing his attentive patrols both inside and outside the building.

Kristin devoted much of the month to preparing for the launch of the new Traveling Toys collections at North and Burroughs, an exciting initiative set to begin in August. She also spent significant time planning collaborative literacy and outreach efforts with local schools, helping to strengthen the library's connection with students, educators, and families throughout the community.

Looking forward to the joys (and even the challenges) that August will bring!



Pajama Storytime



George Washington Wig



Orange Pomander



Anna Ramirez Plants a Seed with our kids!

