



Black Rock Branch

MARCH 2026

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 38 number of visitors: 2376	Number of questions answered: [Reference, Technical, Other] REFERENCE: 370 OTHER: 430 TECH: 155 TOTAL: 955
Collections Statistics	Collection Size: 32736 Total Added: 235	
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 1710 In House: 168	
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: 462 Total Wifi connections: 243	
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance Bookings: 4 Attendance: 52	Study Room Requests: 28 Attendance: 35
Programming	REGULAR PROGRAMMING: 2 Weekly Crafts: 5 Patrons 6 Story Times: 26 Patrons 1 Adult Book Club: 6 Patrons 4 Adult exercise: 44 Patrons 2 STEAM Thursdays: 0 Patrons 2 Family Movies: 2 Patrons 2 Movies for Grownups: 4 Patrons 2 Lego Club: 2 Patrons SPECIAL PROGRAMMING 3/10/2026 3rd Grade School Visit-Black Rock 46 Patrons 3/10/2026 3rd Grade School Visit-Claytor 58 Patrons 3/12/2026 3rd Grade School Visit-Bryant 41 Patrons 3/24/2026 3rd Grade School Visit-Batalla 67 Patrons 3/24/2026 3rd Grade School Visit-Batalla 43 Patrons 3/17/2026 St Patrick's Day Party 10 Patrons 3/28/2026 Easter Party 85 Patrons TOTAL # SPECIAL PROGRAMS 0 255 TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED	
Other Services	Digital Navigator 1 Sessions Notary 4 Patrons Passport N/A	1 Patrons 4 Documents
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached 3/17/2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade 1500 people 3/26/2026 Geraldine W. Johnson Community Night 60 people TOTAL # OUTREACH EVENTS 2 1560 TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED	
Staff Development	Date(s) Attendee(s) 3/31/2026 Margaret G.	Title/Topic(s) Hands on Legal Reference for Librarians

HIGHLIGHTS

March's biggest events were our class visits and the great staff turnout for the St. Pat's Day parade. Class visit-wise the sessions were noisy, fun, and rewarding. However, for next year's events we definitely need better coordination with the schools in terms of arranging visits; that part of this initiative should be left either to the Branch Managers or the Children's Librarians at each location. This year days were chosen that conflicted with other major events, bus drivers were threatening teachers that they would leave without students, times were given to us that did not coincide with actual visit times... (or in some cases OPEN times)...the level of organization for an endeavor of this size was just not there. In the end, though, the kids were excited and we've seen several students return with their families either to get cards, use the library, or both.

COLLECTIONS

- Margaret has been working with Nykia to clarify remaining funding available to be spent with various vendors (taking into account a few "lost" orders and other issues and now we are on track with quite a bit more money remaining than expected. Nykia has also been working to rectify some paper-delivery issues that started this winter, and to acquire records for the few remaining new magazines that were unable to be received. In short, quite a number of small but significant improvements and clarifications came through this month!

- Margaret has also been working with teachers to get checked-out books returned to the library in the most time-efficient manner for teachers at the schools. Realistically, not all students will be returning to the library for reasons beyond their control and for that reason most teachers are collecting books in their classrooms. The idea of school-placed book drops, raised by Elaine in a prior month, would be an excellent investment, especially because we could leverage those visits with additional class visits or tabling at each school where they are placed.

PROGRAMS

- Our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter bunny visit drew a large crowd this year and the kids (and parents) seemed to have an excellent time. We did get some great pics for our social media and there were definitely new faces in the crowd that will hopefully return.

- Black

Rock has been hard at work developing a spring and early summer roster of programming as well, and patrons can look forward to programming around gardening and plants, African drumming, American History, and more.

OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

Spring is here and with it invitations to local Community Events. The St. Patrick's Day Parade drew much larger crowds than in the past 2 years and the entire Black Rock Team had the opportunity to march. Annette chose to remain behind to hold down the fort with staff who offered to come out to assist (MANY thanks to Debbie and Laura for coming out here!). We've started our school literacy/community night rounds (Geraldine W. Johnson school was up first, and Black Rock School coming up in April). Next up: the Black Rock Day Parade along with an additional invite to special July 4th activities hosted through the BRCC History Program!

CONCERNS

- Still awaiting signs and facade work.

- Cameras have been upgraded at BR; we have visibility on almost all cameras now. David is obtaining a quote to add a camera on the Melrose Ave. side of the building here we have had at least 3 bigger incidents in recent years (bike vandalized, car vandalized, man trying to pick a fight with staff).

- We also are working with Brian on solutions to an ongoing major phone issue at BR; essentially the phones routinely shut off throughout the day. This means we can neither receive nor make calls, and worse, when the phones are off (which is most of the day, now) the messaging system does not pick up; callers will simply hear ongoing ringing with no pickup OR message. We've tried a few fixes as Brian works with our tech to try and temporarily fix the system, at least until an upgrade can be put into place. We do need a solution ASAP; in addition to poor customer service this situation creates a safety hazard- should the need for EMS arise, we cannot dial out at all.