

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Black Rock Branch April 2025

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Branch Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 14 Number of visitors: 1857 Number of questions answered: (Reference, Technical, Other) Ref: 71, Tech: 166, Other: 78, TOTAL: 315
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 33469 Total Added: 363
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 1516 In-house: 107
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: 256 Total Wifi connections: 185
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance 11 uses, 71 patrons (est)
Programming	8 Weekly Craft: 33 patrons 5 Story Times: 32 patrons (est) 1 Adult Book club: 4 patrons 7 Adult Yoga: 55 patrons 9 ESL Conversation Group: 9 patrons 1 Special Easter Craft: 81 patrons 1 Intro to Medicare: 2 patrons 2 Community conversations: 26 patrons
Other Services	Digital Navigator: 14 appts., 14 patrons Notary: 24 appts. 25 documents Passport: N/A

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached April 10: Black Rock School Literacy Night, approx. 42 people
Staff Development	Latara has been working to better familiarize herself with our website and as part of this, she has been searching for and alerting us to links needing updated. Several staff are still working on exploring LinkedIn Learning; some tech difficulties have slowed down this module. Margaret has been exploring LinkedIn Learning, with an eye toward self-directed training as well as in search of training appropriate to assign staff.

Highlights

Collections

Spending for most of our vendors is done; weeding continues. I am excited that we added over 300 items this month, with quite a few more on the way. I am especially excited that we have started to streamline patron requests so that we order them through one of our secondary approved booksellers; the items come more quickly (but uncatalogued). While not feasible for our general collection purchasing, it does make getting books into patron hands more efficient (creating, I hope, a happier patron).

Programs

Related to collections, but definitely in the program category, we were able to order several copies of each of the 4th-6th grade Nutmegs this year. Trina has been kind enough to take on a new book club for this grade level, using the Nutmegs, and I hope we can participate in voting when the time comes.

We took a break from our Monthly STEM programs as the baby farm animals we wanted to host are still too little...but we will be welcoming the Stamford Nature Center back in May, with those animals, big enough to present and teach us about farm life.

We benefited from our two Community Conversations this month, led by several members of our Board of Directors as well as Elaine and Laura. While these conversations were designed with the Board and the new Strategic Plan in mind, Mat and I have already started mulling over the thoughts we heard expressed at the meeting held in Black Rock. Of particular interest was that at both meetings patrons expressed a distinct lack of awareness with what we were doing (in some cases this was stated and in others feedback patrons were suggesting illustrated it) and this is both concerning and illuminating. It certainly shows us that we must, at a minimum, up our game in terms of advertising (which we currently do regularly through the Black Rock Library newsletter, through social media (FB) and occasionally through the main newsletter or via the BOE. It is something to think about as we start to work with the new Marketing group.

Outreach and Networking

Just one outreach this month, with Black Rock School. This month, Latara and I attended their family Literacy Night. We spoke to most, if not all, of the parents and kids that attended, and parents were excited to see what we were offering. Of note: we did have parents that spoke little to no English attend; we have started translating some of our flyers and will probably extend this to many of our flyers; I think it will be beneficial, and it can be done quite accurately through Canva. Summer is shaping up to be busy for us again this year; the Black Rock Parade is June 8 and we have been invited to return to the Farmer's market.

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Concerns:

No major concerns at this time, but I do want to bring up our facade, which I know David, Elaine, Laura and the Board are aware of and addressing...we have had multiple complaints about it from patrons and regulars; one of our mailmen brought it up, at least two patrons have offered their services to work on it, and one other offered to donate money toward it. In fact, this last patron told Mat and me that he thought we were a closed (abandoned) building when he first pulled up. It is a shame that we don't present better to the public; we already have locals who don't know we are a library, and if our facade is such that people are turning away assuming we are abandoned, it is doing all the work we do both here and as a system a major disservice.