



Black Rock Branch

FEBRUARY 2026

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards:	20	Number of questions answered:	
	number of visitors:	1560	[Reference, Technical, Other]	
			REFERENCE: 299 OTHER: 367 TECH: 104	
			TOTAL: 770	
Collections Statistics	Collection Size:	32890		
	Total Added:	311		
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ:	1068		
	In House:	38		
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month:	326		
	Total Wifi connections:	199		
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance			
	Bookings:	5	NOTE: one room was closed all month due to heating issues	
	Attendance:	8		
Programming	REGULAR PROGRAMMING:			
	3 Weekly Crafts:		16 Patrons	
	5 Story Times:		17 Patrons	
	1 Adult Book Club:		4 Patrons	
	4 Adult exercise:		46 Patrons	YOGA
	2 STEAM Thursdays		6 Patrons	
	2 Family Movies		2 Patrons	
	2 Movies for Grownups		4 Patrons	
	2 Lego Club		3 Patrons	
	2 Crafternoon		0 Patrons	
	SPECIAL PROGRAMMING			
	1 Valentine's Day Arts and Crafts		11 Patrons	
	1 TYCTILD Scavenger Hunt		6 Patrons	
2 TYCTILD-Story Times		0 Patrons		
2 TYCTILD-Crafts		0 Patrons		
Other Services	Digital Navigator	5 Sessions	1 Patrons	
	Notary	6 Patrons	6 Documents	
	Passport	N/A		
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached			
Staff Development	Date(s)	Attendee(s)	Title/Topic(s)	
	2/3 & 2/5	Margaret G.	Foundations of Managerial Excellence (COB)	
	2/9/2026	Margaret G.	Reader's Advisory For All	
	2/11/2026	Margaret G.	COB Supervisor Training	
2/14/2026	Mat B.	Virtual Seed Library Conference		

HIGHLIGHTS

- BR has been piloting a test of using a digital meeting room calendar; for the most part it works really well. We have noticed a few kinks that we are still ironing out, though, and would not yet recommend it for all locations. I do expect to iron out those issues over the next few weeks.

COLLECTIONS

- We've had a sudden influx of ordered materials this month, predominantly children's materials.
- We are about to start a second round of massive weeding in children's, assisted by collection assessment reports from Library IQ.
 - Library IQ was able to deep-dive into high-circulating genres and sub-genres, giving us additional search terms and frameworks with which to order new materials. I hope to use this to develop a more accurate purchasing system that takes into account not only professional reviews but deeply reflects current and emerging reading trends among our actual borrowers.
- Mat is working closely with the Black Rock Garden Club to develop a Seed Library, which we suspect will be very popular with our community.
- We discovered some summer carts that were sent had order issues that effectively canceled them without our notice; that issue has been rectified and the materials reordered.
- CT Post is the latest newspaper to stop coming regularly and on time; we are working to resolve that as the Post is a popular paper.

PROGRAMS

- Unfortunately Take Your Child to the Library Day programming was sparsely attended. While we had a couple of new families stop in, the day (already quiet, as most Saturdays are here) was complicated by the extreme cold that settled into the region that weekend.
- Yoga continues to be a popular draw for adults, and Mat reports that the group STRONGLY prefers to practice in the stacks. When we moved them downstairs for a single session (to accommodate our Valentine's Day party/craft for kids there were audible complaints and some attendees even tried to steal back into their usually positions between the books.
- Story times have expanded to included two Saturdays a month; we've already had verbal excited feedback from working parents looking for such an event with their kids. Other Saturday family programs continue to struggle. It is unclear if the times themselves are the issue, if there is a need for better marketing, or if there is simply too much going on in our patrons' lives to add one more activity to the roster.

OUTREACH AND NETWORKING

- There was no outreach this month for Black Rock but plans were laid for the St. Patrick's Day parade (all but one team member is marching!) and for our several 3rd grade class visits.

CONCERNS

- BR phone lines have been broken for over a month now. The phones regularly shut off entirely, and even when on some phones no longer work (even after swapping for new, unused equipment). CT Communications (formerly Voice New England) had been out, as has Frontier but no permanent resolution has emerged. We've been informed by other branches that patrons are complaining, and we've even had instances of phones shutting off mid-call with patrons. Brian is working on the issue but it needs to be resolved as soon as possible as we do receive and make a fair number of phone calls each day.
 - We still await completion of the
 - We continue to have patrons of all
 - I suspect the basement will need
 - We still need to look at adding
- facade. ages indicate that they don't realize we are a library; a ground level sign on the Fairfield Ave side of the building towards the corner would do much to address this.
- one more coat of sealant and our staff workroom floor still needs to be painted.
- cameras; there are entire portions of the outside that are out of camera range. We've had 3 incidents in the past year that camera footage would have assisted with had cameras been positioned nearby.