

# BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

## Black Rock Branch December 2024

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Branch Manager

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Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 16 Number of visitors: 1480	Number of questions answered: (Reference, Technical, Other) Reference: 73, Tech: 68, Other: 57 TOTAL: 198
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 37151 Total Added: 91	
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 1375 In-house: 76	
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: 237 Total Wifi connections: 170	
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance 6 Reservations, 39 est.	
Programming	4 Weekly Craft: 12 patrons 2 Story Times: 6 patrons 1 Adult Book club: 0 patrons 3 Adult Yoga: 13 patrons 4 Teen Crafts: 0 patrons 1 ESL Conversation Group: 3 patrons 1 Adult Writer's Group: 0 patrons 1 Rocks and Minerals program: 6 patrons 1 visit with Santa: 56 patrons, est.	
Other Services	Digital Navigator: 3 appointments, 2 patrons Notary: 14 appointments, 20 patrons Passport: N/A	
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached No outreach this month for the Black Rock Branch	
Staff Development	Margaret attended the training with Andrew Sanderback about writing Policy and Procedure.	

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## Highlights

Our biggest highlight this month is the facelift we recently received! The floors are beautiful, the walls are beautiful, and there was even time for a couple of tweaks such as adjusting the bench seating in Aiden's corner to give the picture book a little more room. Patrons have been pleased with the changes, and the space looks much brighter and fresher. We were also able to remove a few more pieces of unneeded (and broken) shelves and cubbies, giving us still more space, and with the downtime due to being closed to the public we were able to get through a large number of weeds that had been stagnating. David's team did an *amazing* job, along with the flooring company, to get so much done in a week, and the BR team did quite a bit of prep work storing and re-shelving materials before and after the construction. On the final page of this document I attached some images for anyone who ahs not had the chance to stop by and view the changes.

One person did come in to see the changes in our space and specifically asked about noise levels with the removal of carpet in favor of LVT. The noise levels do not seem to have increased significantly; in fact, they seem to have dropped. Partly this is due to us taking time last month to move our book processing workflow downstairs. The shift and separation of workspaces has done a lot to combat noise at the desk. Processing books can be a noisy process-from unboxing to printing new labels, to discussing what needs to be done with arriving materials- and removing that from our main, public space has offered a big improvement in sound levels. Plus, now the books can appear on shelves "magically" instead of being tantalizingly close to patrons, but not shelf-ready!

## Collections

We spent a lot of time last month shifting collections and getting many weeds packed and sent out to the book sale or alternate branches; the shelves look much less cluttered and the materials that were shifted are now easier for patrons to find.

## Programs

We offered a Rocks and minerals program in late December that was very interesting (East Haddam Rock/Gem store owner Jeff Fast hosted) and we learned about Connecticut's rich mineral and gemstone offerings. Jeff also helped participants break open geodes, so we now have a few open and beautiful rocks floating around the branch. I hope to have him back in the summer.

Santa returned to Black Rock this year, and while the program started off smaller, by the time we ended several additional kids and parents had turned up. Everyone had a great time.

We concluded our ESL group for 2024 and will resume in January. We continue to get both returning patrons and new ones, and our social media posts about this program are frequently shared. I'm hoping to offer additional groups this year as there is a great need in the city for them.

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