

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Black Rock Branch February 2025

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Branch Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	<p>Number of new library cards: 26 Number of visitors: 1679</p>	<p>Number of questions answered: (Reference, Technical, Other) Ref: 144; Tech:108; Other: 113 Total: 365</p>
Collection Statistics	<p>Collection Size: 33991 Total Added: 186</p>	
Circulation Statistics	<p>Total Circ:1384 In-house: 87</p>	
Public Internet Usage	<p>Users for the month: 303 Total Wifi connections: 175</p>	
Room Usage	<p>Room: Bookings, Attendance 8 room/lobby uses; approx. 92 attendance</p>	
Programming	<p>3 Weekly Craft: 19 patrons 4 Story Times: 27 patrons 1 Adult Book club: 4 patrons 7 Adult Yoga: 54 patrons 6 Teen Crafts: 8 patrons 5 est. ESL Conversation Group: 10 patrons 1 Animal Tracking: 7 patrons 1 Owl Pellet Dissection: 14 patrons 2 Take Your Child to the Library Day Story Time: 7 patrons 1 Take Your Child to the Library Day Trivia: 0 patrons 3 Family Movies for Black History :0 patrons 1 Adult movie for Black History: 0 patrons 1 Black History Trivia: 0 patrons</p>	
Other Services	<p>Digital Navigator: 1 appt, 1 patron Notary: 15 appts, 15 patrons, 15 docs Passport: N/A</p>	
Outreach	<p>Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached</p>	

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	No outreach this month

Highlights

Collections: Ordering is going well, particularly in terms of Juvenile NF. We've been able to order quite a few titles to update our collections this year; last year many titles were backordered.

Programs: Our focus on animals seemed to be a hit this month. A small but appreciative group of attendees enjoyed a presentation and craft about animal tracking, and our owl pellet presentation (with the Stamford Nature Center) had parents even more excited than their kids in some cases. Everyone got to take home the bones they found which seemed wildly appreciated. Lisa presented on edible insects last month and will return in May with baby farm animals; she's a solid presenter and I hope to work with her next year as well.

Our Book club is still small but very solid now. Our reads focus a lot on modern societal ills (poverty-driven crime, social media and groupthink, and for March, illegal immigration) and this group really responds well to that. We've got a solid enough group now that we'll be buying multiple copies of our materials rather than relying solely on C-car.

Trina will be starting a Nutmeg book club this spring and we are preparing for that; I really look forward to introducing the idea to Black Rock and St. Ann's; I think their teachers will be excited to promote it and I am considering whether we can even make it a lunchtime or afterschool club.

Teens programs are still struggling; unless we really strongarm teens into participation, they are very shy to do so (though they seem to really enjoy it once they start something). We have 2 teens who are solid groupies of Shauna's, and they return very regularly to craft or just talk.

Our Black History and Take Your Child to the Library Day activities fell flat this month. It was a surprise because we had good participation last year, we had calls about some of the events we advertised, and even TYCTLD started strong with three families showing up at story time but sadly that burst did not hold through the month or even just the day.

Outreach and Networking : nothing major this month, though I have been working with Black Rock School to participate in their teacher Professional Development Day(s) and working with Bridging Voices, a collaboration of Bridgeport organizations that offer educational services to adults, especially ESL services to immigrants in the greater Bridgeport area. One task I specifically have been working on is seeing if the City will host some of our information on their website so interested parties can see all their educational opportunities in one place.

Concerns: No major concerns this month except a dead rodent found in program room 2. It does not seem to be the start of an infestation; there haven't been signs of another rodent in the building.

We are getting ready to make Program Room 1 a bit more welcoming for people looking for a quiet study space. The idea will be to keep the room open and freely accessible during certain times of day. Staffing will be a bit delicate to make this work, but some staff feel strongly that a separate quiet space is needed so we'll try it and see how the public receives it.

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