

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Black Rock Branch March 2025

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Branch Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	<p>Number of new library cards: 19 Number of visitors: 1946</p>	<p>Number of questions answered: (Reference, Technical, Other)</p> <p>Reference: 185, Other: 125, Technical: 167, TOTAL: 477</p>
Collection Statistics	<p>Collection Size: 33768 Total Added: 311</p>	
Circulation Statistics	<p>Total Circ: 1555 In-house: 78</p>	
Public Internet Usage	<p>Users for the month: Total Wifi connections: 226</p>	
Room Usage	<p>Room: Bookings, Attendance</p> <p>9 bookings, 45 (est)</p>	
Programming	<p>8 Weekly Craft: 43 patrons 4 Story Times: 23 patrons 1 Adult Book club: 4 patrons 8 Adult Yoga: 71 7 ESL Conversation Group: 17 1 Discovery Science Center ELECTRICITY Program: 6 Patrons</p>	
Other Services	<p>Digital Navigator: 7 sessions, 12 patrons Notary: 8 Patrons, 8 documents. Passport: N/A</p>	
Outreach	<p>Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached 3/14/25, St. Patrick's Day Parade, approx. 300+ people reached (Trina P. attended) 3/19/25, Presentation to all teachers at Black Rock School for Professional Development session. Approx.. 27 teachers attended.</p>	

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Staff Development

All staff have been working their way through a series of LinkedIn Learning questions that Mat and Margaret prepared. With Sarah G.'s retirement imminent, Trina has also been being trained in receiving materials.

Highlights

March was a steady month for us in Black Rock, with some great successes and a few setbacks. A major loss for us is long-time staff member Carmen R., who decided to fully retire after many years of service (and a retirement from FT service nearly 10 years ago). Carmen took care of a lot of the "little things" that add up so quickly and was our only fluent Spanish speaker (both Shauna and I speak Spanish, but not like Carmen), so she leaves a huge void in our staff.

On the positive side, programming continues to progress well. Mat has had enormous success partnering up with Yoga in Our City; they use our Nook area for their winter Yoga and bring in many yoga fans. We continue to do regular computer 1:1's (Digital Navigation), including a patron who walks to us from Fairfield to work with Mat each week, and our story time continues to gain new people each week. In addition, we can see our littlest story time audience starting to grow too, with some of our shyest ones chattering and lighting up when they hear Ms. Trina's or Ms. Sarah's name.

We are also starting to wind down on ordering for the year. We recently placed large orders of materials from almost all our wholesalers so we've started to receive or will soon be receiving a number of new materials in a variety of mediums.

In terms of outreach, March was a little slow. Latara C. marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and we continue to work with the Burroughs Center and Bridging Voices (a group of local agencies serving immigrant populations in Bridgeport) and continue to communicate with our local Senior Center. Margaret was invited to Black Rock School's March Professional Development afternoon where she presented to approximately 27 teachers and administrators a variety of services we offer to patrons and teachers. Several questions were asked, and there is interest in reviving class visits. We also were invited to participate in April's family Literacy Night.

We don't have many huge concerns this month; not one, but *two* rodents were discovered (VERY dead) in the basement in April, which was unfortunate. Jose immediately set new traps out and has been checking for additional activity. Since the 2nd one was found we haven't found new evidence of activity so hopefully the issue has been curtailed. We continue to have elevator issues, but David and the elevator company have been researching to get to the root cause of the main symptom- door slamming. David's team solved our intermittent handicap button issue, though, which has been plaguing us for a while, so a major shout-out to Tony and David for figuring that out!

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