

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Burroughs-Saden August 2025

Submitted by: Tanarha Smith-Dixon

September 4, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 69 Number of visitors: 6,775 Number of questions answered: (695 Reference, 331 Technical, 749 Other)
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 264,369 Total Added: 402
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 2976 In-house: 578
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: TBD
Room Usage	Room: 14 Bookings, Attendance: 61 Adults, 20 teens, 2 children, 15 virtual
Programming	Adult Services February Programs • Chess Club: 16 adults, 4 children total • Computer Class: 40 adults, • Crafty Corners: 10 adults total • Literacy Volunteer Training: 43 adults • Canva class: 5 adults • Virtual Talk: 16 adults • Passport Fair: 100 • Classic Movie Matinee: 13 adults

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Other Services

Digital Navigator: 26
Notary: 73
Passport: 17
Community Outreach: 4

Adult Services Staff Report

Librarian Jeffrey Coutts:

- Made carts for Baker and Taylor, Overdrive and Midwest Tape.
- Attended the Digipalooza Conference in August.
 - This conference, put on by Overdrive (our eBook vendor), provided useful information about maximizing your eBook budget, promoting events on Libby (the eBook platform), creating social media posts that connect with audiences and relevant author discussions, among other sessions.
- Continued my film screening programs.
 - Screened Monty Python and the Holy Grail.
 - Screened Odd Man Out.
 - There were 5 participants for each event.
- Conducted a virtual author talk, Karl Marx in America, with author Andrew Hartman, and we had 15 participants.
- Continued planning for an adult board game club
- Worked with John Ash on planning and promoting the next 3D Printing and business speaker series events.
- Continued to complete the "Staff Picks" and "Bridgeport Yesterday" portions of the weekly newsletter

Librarian Adam Cleri:

- Recorded podcast: Author talk about *Diego, Whynd, & the Block Island Ghost*
- Completed a LinkedIn course: "How to Develop Friendships & Connect Meaningfully with Work Colleagues"
- Wrote script and performed a recording for Library Card Signup Month clips
- Printed Tutor.com promotions for Library Open House
- Collaborated with Librarian III Vivian B and CIRI Portuguese interpreter
 - CIRI helped translate library card applications
- Ran weekly chess club
- Wrote for, edited, and sent weekly newsletters

Burroughs-Saden/Bridgeport History Center

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Programming Milestones

- A substantial number of visitors continue to come by the 3rd floor exhibit area to view the two exhibits installed there: "From Bridgeport with Love" by BHC's Jaime Pettit and "Collages" by community member Beth Lazar.
- Archivist Pettit processed a collection found in BHC holdings and uploaded the finding aid for patron access.
- BHC staff continue to meet with Adult Services as part of the RandR Team to discuss ways to share resources for programs. The team will submit requests to the BPL Friends later this year.
- BHC programming will start up again in September.

Highlights

- Reference requests submitted by email, phone, and mail have been mixed this month, with an emphasis on both image and genealogy requests.
- BHC staff have made significant progress on stack and storage remediation on both the sixth and seventh floors. This work is crucial to make more space for new collection items and will continue into the Fall. Some major changes have been made to BHC storage areas, and doing that work takes time.
- Storage remediation works in conjunction with deaccessioning. BHC made significant progress in identifying more books, periodicals, and other items that can go to other institutions, be auctioned, or be disposed of.
- [continuing from last month] LA Michael Hawkins is still inventorying BHC's large collection of original newspaper issues. This time-consuming and supply-dependent project is intricately tied to storage remediation in one area of the 7th floor. It is also an important step in providing the BHC and CT State Library with an accurate account of which newspapers BHC has. Some out-of-state newspapers have been deaccessioned to major state libraries, archives, or historical societies.
- Additional finding aids for BHC collections have been added to the BHC website, Connecticut Archives Online, and now, back onto the CTDA.
- Continuing project: Continued corrections/additions to current online sources such as finding aids and collection guides. This is a work-intensive project and takes time. CTDA has eliminated finding aids on its site; therefore, the BHC archivists will have to update finding aid records on the CAO and BHC websites. Discoverability of BHC collections is the ultimate goal.
- BHC is in communication with some HCC and some secondary schools about visiting and making use of the department.
- BHC staff spent part of August planning new programs and initiatives for the Fall.

Burroughs-Saden Youth Services

Programming:

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- On Mondays, August 4th, 11th, and 18th, Jordan Alexander returned to offer a few sessions of Inspire Innovation, his engineering program for ages 8-14. We had a good turnout, with 7 children participating each week.
- On Tuesdays, August 5th, 12th, and 19th, we had presentations on Roblox, Minecraft, and Artificial Intelligence. 6 children showed up for the Roblox and Minecraft sessions, and one for AI. Gaming is definitely more popular among the younger set!
- On Wednesday, August 6th, 13 kids made Perler Beads Axolotl Friends! It was a fun, creative, and popular program - something we will definitely repeat!
- On Monday, August 11th, we had The Breakfast Club, a mini-class for kids on making easy & healthy breakfasts. 9 children and 3 adults attended.
- On Wednesday, August 13th, 7 children and 3 adults participated in *Game On!*, testing out their talents for ping-pong, darts (dull, plastic ones!), mini-golf, and speed puzzling.
- On Saturday, August 16th, the library threw an Education & Literacy Open House. The Children's Department welcomed approximately 125 children & adults. We had a craft (color a keepsake bookmark); a visit from a therapy dog; giveaways; 2 bilingual storytimes; and multiple presentations on AWE stations, ABC Mouse, Launchpads, Wonderbooks, and Habbi Habbi language kits. It was an amazing day, and we hope to participate in similar future events.
- On Wednesday, August 20th, we had Music Tasting: A Musical Instrument Sampler, a program for kids to try out musical instruments, such as drums, kalimba, xylophone, bells, tambourine, rhythm sticks, castanets, and more! The program was well-attended, with 14 kids making beautiful music together!
- Thursday, August 21st, was our incredibly popular live animal program! Critter Caravan brought a snake, a hedgehog, a chinchilla, and more amazing animals! (53 children, 25 adults attended)
- We're Puzzled, a make-your-own jigsaw puzzle program, was on Saturday, August 23rd. 5 children and 3 adults attended.
- On Wednesday, August 27th, we were real knit-wits with Loop & Learn: How to Finger Knit a Blanket. It was very popular with the 12 kids and parents who attended.
- Thursday, August 28th, was the first day back in school for Bridgeport Public Schools, so - in honor of all those kids out there having to walk into a classroom full of new faces - we had a little afternoon program called Making Friends & Friendship Bracelets. 10 children attended.
- **Weekly programs**
 - Saturday Drop-In Crafts (passive program)
 - August 2nd (14 children)
 - August 9th (10 children)
 - August 16th (35 children) - Education & Literacy Open House
 - August 23rd (13 children)
 - August 30th - Library Closed / Labor Day weekend
 - Sensory Safari (passive program)
 - August 4th (9 children)
 - August 11th (5 children)
 - August 18th (8 children)
 - August 25th (6 children)

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- Little Learners
 - August 5th (12 children, 7 adults)
 - August 12th (13 children, 7 adults)
 - August 19th (12 children, 6 adults)
 - August 26th (7 children, 8 adults)
- SlimeTime
 - August 6th (16 children)
 - August 13th (15 children)
 - August 20th (12 children)
 - August 27th (13 children)
- Lego Club
 - August 7th (5 children)
 - August 14th (10 children)
 - August 21st (9 children)
 - August 28th (11 children)

Displays:

- In August, we had book displays for: summer reading, summer, bees, elephants, and back to school
- Our summer reading theme is Level Up at Your Library and our Nintendo Switch bulletin board - titled *Read & Level Up* and featuring elements of Mario Bros games - reflects that theme.

Collection Development:

- In response to frequent requests from parents, we continue to look for math, language arts, & science books that focus on homework help.
- We would also like to add a small parenting section to our department, so we are looking for some general titles for our collection.

Continuing Education/Trainings:

- Kristin participated in the following:
 - B&T Title Source Review
- Taslima (junior librarian) participated in the following webinar:
 - Music Supports STEAM Learning in Early Childhood
- Ana (junior librarian) participated in the following trainings:
 - Social Media Roundup for Librarians
 - Designing Engaging Early Childhood Environments
 - The Total Package: Supporting and Engaging the Learner Before, During, and After Class

Outreach:

- We created a flyer directed toward teachers to remind them of the great things our system has to offer.
- Jawon attended an outreach event at Cesar Batalla School for students about to attend. He and Breta spoke to several families.

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- We are trying to grow a partnership with Sacred Heart University's Horizons program, which is an after-school program (during the school year) and a camp (during the summer). We conducted several off-site visits during the last two weeks of July, which continued into August:
 - August 1st, 7th grade - 9 students, 1 teacher/aides
 - August 1st, 1st grade - 14 students, 3 teachers/aides
 - August 5th, 6th grade - 11 students, 2 teachers/aides

Successes/Concerns:

- We have started doing cross-training with Adult Services and Circulation. I think it will be incredibly valuable for the Youth Services staff to fully understand how the other departments operate and vice versa.

Katherine Mozier-Tichy

TEEN SERVICES:

Programming

- Working on outreach programs for teens
- Creating a weekly drop-in program schedule for teens, something they can do with their friends
- Looking into creating a Discord for Teens

Continuing Education/Training:

- Attended CLA Leadership Institute.
- Watched webinar regarding teen services - "Teen services that matter: Designing supportive library experiences" through WebJunction