

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Burroughs-Saden July 2025

Submitted by: Tanarha Smith-Dixon

August 6, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 103 Number of visitors: 7,425 Number of questions answered: (614 Reference, 367 Technical, 646 Other)
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 284,433 Total Added: 304
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 3192 In-house: 1092
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: 1489
Room Usage	Room: 36 Bookings, Attendance: 178 Adults, 117 teens, 18 children, 0 virtual
Programming	Adult Services February Programs • Chess Club: 19 adults, 3 children total • Computer Class: 82 adults, 2 children total • Crafty Corners: 9 adults total • Literacy Volunteer Training: 43 adults • Canva class: 5 adults • Escape Room: 21 adults, 6 children, 4 teens
Other Services	Digital Navigator: 29 Notary: 94

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	Passport: 14 Community Outreach: 6
Adult Services Staff Report	Librarian Jeffrey Coutts: • Continued to make carts for Baker and Taylor, Overdrive and Midwest Tape. • Administered a film screening of Dial M for Murder on July 25th. We had 6 participants • Orchestrated an event about a local professional baseball player with the baseball player's daughter entitled "My Father's Story in the Negro American Leagues"; we had 8 adults and 4 children. • Continued to promote BCIE events on Facebook and worked with John Ash, promoting the next 3SD printing event for July. • Worked on the "Staff Picks" and "Bridgeport Yesterday" portions of the weekly newsletter. Librarian Adam Cleri: • Booked rooms for public organizations • Ran weekly chess club • Wrote for, edited, and sent weekly newsletters • Staff liaison for CIRI, our partner. Guided a tour and event at Burroughs. • Recorded a video promoting My Town, My Story for BHC. • Worked on the New Books Network podcast, which includes reaching out to bookstores and fielding 7 responses from interested authors, and preparing for an interview with them in August.

Burroughs-Saden/Bridgeport History Center

Programming Milestones	• Jaime Pettit installed her new exhibit, "From Bridgeport with Love: Cards and Correspondence from the Park City". The exhibit features trade, post, and greeting cards from the BHC's holdings. A joint exhibit opening was held for Pettit's exhibit and an installation of collages by local artist and activist Beth Lazar. ◦ The opening attracted a substantial crowd with an initial group of 40 people attending.
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Staff Development

- Michael Hawkins worked on cataloging a set of over 1,000 cabinet cards taken of Bridgeport area residents by mostly local studios between 1860 and the early 20th Century. His work has now been published as a virtual, a.k.a., digital exhibit and can be viewed here in three parts:
<https://bportlibrary.org/hc/ve/vex15/index.htm>
<https://bportlibrary.org/hc/ve/vex19/index.htm>
<https://bportlibrary.org/hc/ve/vex20/index.htm>

Highlights

- Reference requests submitted by email, phone, and mail continue unabated.
 - July saw an uptick in visitors to the BHC both for genealogical research, image requests, and archival research.
- BHC staff 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.
- Patrons continue to request significant numbers of images from the BHC collections.
- Van Tuyl has identified more CT government documents, bound, on the 7th floor that will be moved and joined with the Reference collections where they belong.
- 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 and archives, or historical societies.
- Van Tuyl has reviewed and added additional oral history interviews to the BHC "General Oral History Collection," including an interview with former Mayor Hugh Curran from 2003.
<https://bportlibrary.org/hc/ve/vex14/index.htm>
- Additional finding aids for BHC collections have been added to the BHC website and the Connecticut Archives Online.
- 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.
- Norwalk resident and student of the City & Guilds of London Art School for conservation Gabby Costello has been interning briefly at the BHC before the new semester starts in September. She is performing basic conservation measures on an architectural drawing from the BHC holdings and will also work on an archives-based project, indexing delicate newspaper articles with American Museum advertisements.
- Longtime volunteer and intern for BHC, Lisa Furchtgott, has returned for the summer and is working on an archival collection from a local company.

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Burroughs-Saden Youth Services

Programming:

- On Thursday, July 3rd, we began a series of STEM Adventures with Fireworks in a Jar (don't worry...it was just oil, water, and food coloring)! 11 children attended.
- On Thursdays during July, we held Summer Stitches, our introductory crochet classes for kids. 8 children and 4 adults attended the 4 sessions and made some truly fantastic and creative artwork.
- We began a new program - Sensory Safari - on Monday mornings. This is a passive program which allows kids ages 0-5 to engage with various sensory toys, activities, and experiences.
- On Monday, July 7th, we had a STEM Challenge, in which we asked participants to complete a series of creative, engineering challenges. 7 children attended.
- Tuesdays in July saw the return of a popular program - Pixel Pioneers - a coding class for kids ages 5-12. 6 children attended.
- On Saturday, July 12th, we had the second of our STEM Adventures - They're Bubble-tastic! 11 children and 6 adults engineered bubble wands to try to create new and interesting bubble shapes!
- On Wednesday, July 16th, we hosted Marvelous Marvin's Brain Circus, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Bridgeport Public Library. Marvelous Marvin demonstrated some fantastic magic tricks and physical feats in an effort to show the connection between brain health, exercise, and reading, then allowed kids and parents some time to try out juggling, balancing, spinning plates, hula hoops, and more! 21 children and 11 adults attended - and many signed up for summer reading afterward!
- Saturday, July 19th brought the Children's Department a little touch of magic with our Unicorn Storytime & Craft. 7 kids and 4 adults listened to some fun stories, then made unicorns to take home!
- On Monday, July 21st, 14 kids made Perler Beads Axolotl Friends! It was a fun, creative, and popular program - something we will definitely repeat!
- A group of curious Art Explorers invaded the Children's Department on Wednesday, July 30th! 8 children learned how to use different artistic media (painting and drawing on canvas, tracing with hot glue) to create some truly lovely 3D trees.
- **Weekly programs**
 - Saturday Drop-In Crafts (passive program)
 - July 5th - Library Closed / 4th of July
 - July 12th (8 children)
 - July 19th (7 children)
 - July 26th (2 children)
 - Sensory Safari (passive program)
 - July 7th (8 children)
 - July 14th (9 children)
 - July 21st (4 children)
 - July 28th (5 children)
 - Little Learners
 - July 1st (13 children, 7 adults)
 - July 8th (12 children, 5 adults)
 - July 15th (10 children, 8 adults)

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- July 22nd (11 children, 6 adults)
- July 29th (12 children, 7 adults)
- SlimeTime
 - July 2nd (12 children)
 - July 9th (22 children)
 - July 16th (8 children)
 - July 23rd (15 children)
 - July 30th (9 children)
- Lego Club
 - July 3rd (5 children)
 - July 10th (9 children)
 - July 17th (7 children)
 - July 24th (8 children)
 - July 31st (8 children)

Displays:

- In July, we had book displays for: summer reading, 4th of July, Friendship Day, Shark Week, Big Books, & Summer.
- 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 have been looking 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 watched the following recorded webinars:
 - Weed 'Em & Reap: Getting Your Collection from Awful to Awesome (Webjunction)
 - Library of Things: The What, Why, & How of Lending Objects (Webjunction)
- Taslima (junior librarian) participated in the following webinars:
 - Storytime Success: Crafting Engaging Sessions from Start to Finish (ECI)
 - 10 Easy Ways to Make Your Web Content Better (ECI)
 - Understanding Developmental Screening (ECI)
 - AI Literacy: A Toolkit for Family Engagement (ECI)
 - AI Literacy & Digital Responsibility in K-5th Grade (ECI)
- Ana (junior librarian) participated in the following trainings:
 - How to Talk with Infants and Toddlers (ECI)
 - Human Resources: Creating an Employee Handbook (LinkedIn Learning)
 - Navigating Employee Relations as an HR Professional (LinkedIn Learning)
 - Mindful: Not Mind Full (HEP)

Outreach:

- 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

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have conducted a number of offsite visits during the last two weeks of July & will continue into August:

- July 17th 6th grade - 10 students, 3 teachers/aides
- July 18th Pre-K - 8 students, 3 teachers/aides
- July 24th 1st grade - 16 students, 2 teachers/aides
- July 29th 2nd grade - 13 students, 3 teachers/aides
- July 29th Kindergarten - 11 students, 3 teachers/aides
- July 29th 7th grade - 8 students, 1 teacher/aide
- July 30th 2nd grade (second group) - 10 students, 2 teachers/aides
- July 30th 3rd grade - 17 students, 2 teachers/aides

Successes/Concerns:

- We need to have a serious discussion about renovating both children's bathrooms. They are quite simply old. We have had multiple issues with the sinks, the doors are too heavy for kids to push/pull, there needs to be a changing table in the boys' room, they don't seem to be connected to the HVAC system since they are hot in summer and cold in winter - it genuinely does seem to be one thing after another.
- Summer Reading is going very well - at the halfway point, we already have more kids signed up than last year's program

Katherine Mozier-Tichy

TEEN SERVICES:

Programming

- Planning for Teen & Parent programs for Fall.
 - Crafts and activities that they can do together

July Programs:

- DIY Delights - Tuesday, July 1, 2025 - 3 attendees
- Battle Royale - Thursday, July 3, 2025 - 2 attendees
- DIY Dungeon - Thursday, July 10, 2025 - 2 attendees
- DIY Dungeon - Wednesday, July 16, 2025 - 2 attendees
- DIY Dungeon - Thursday, July 17, 2025 - 2 attendees
- DIY Dungeon - Thursday, July 24, 2025 - 4 attendees
- DIY Dungeon - Thursday, July 31, 2025 - 2 attendees