

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Burroughs-Saden May 2025

Submitted by: Tanarha Smith-Dixon

June 3, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 104 Number of visitors: 6,514 Number of questions answered: (655 Reference, 272 Technical, 734 Other)
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 284,748 Total Added: 296
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 2617 In-house: 761
Public Internet Usage]]	Users for the month: 1289
Room Usage	Room: 15 Bookings, Attendance: 68 Adults, 48 teens, 25 children, 0 virtual
Programming	Adult Services February Programs • Chess Club, 14 adults, 1 child total • Computer Class, 53 adults total • Crafty Corners, 10 adults total • Crime Scene Investigations: 15 adults • Fright Night: 10 adults • Board Game Club for Adults: 5 adults

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Other Services	Digital Navigator: 13 Notary: 41 Passport: 3
Adult Services Staff Report	Librarian Jeffrey Coutts: • Continued to make carts for Baker and Taylor, Overdrive and Midwest Tape. • Led meetings regarding the programming budget and submitted a proposed programming budget for the next fiscal year. • Hosted a bird watching event at Seaside Park on May 7, which had 3 attendees. • Coordinated a visit to the Mozaic Senior Center, where I gave residents books to check out and provided library cards with the help of Library Assistant Joyeisha Smoak. • Continued to complete the "Staff Picks" and "Bridgeport Yesterday" portions of the weekly newsletter. • May 22nd administered the program, Fright Night at the Library, with local horror writers. We had 10 participants. • Administered a board game club on May 31 in partnership with Ethereal Lounge in Shelton. We had 5 participants. • Planned for a June escape room program for the summer reading kickoff. • Continued to advertise for the BCIE entrepreneurship center on Facebook. • May 15th, administered a program with retired police detective and current forensic science professor, Bridget Brosnahan, who discussed cases that she worked on. We had 15 participants. Librarian Adam Cleri: • Met with New Books Network (NBN) about podcasts with authors • Conducted a talk about librarianship at Curiale School • Edited a podcast episode at Beardsley, and posted it. • Lead a Digital Navigators computer class (on Google Sheets) • Attended programming meetings & posted programming meeting minutes onto SharePoint Librarian Katherine Mozier-Tichy: • Confirmed May program: "True Crime Uncovered: Digging Up the Past" author panel • Confirmed early June Program with National Women's History Alliance (NWAH) • Continued working on Quarter-Acre of Heart Ache book release

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- This includes 2 events: tour and book event at Paugussett reservation
- Met with "New Books Network" - a podcast network of all author/book talks
 - Librarian Adam C, Librarian Andre Massa, and Branch Manager Margaret joined the meeting.
 - Offers Free service
 - provides resources for interviews, editing services, and more
 - Scalable - we host on their channel, which will eventually allow the library to create our own channel.
 - The network is willing to syndicate past releases of the BPL podcast
 - This will help make academic/scholarly writing more accessible to our patrons.

Burroughs-Saden/Bridgeport History Center Monthly

Programming Milestones

- BHC hosted 24 Central High School Class of 1966 graduates for a brief program on the Bridgeport History Center and the History of Bridgeport.
- Historic Preservation Program with CT SHPO and Preserve CT staff, May 17th; 6 attended.
- Memoir Writing Workshop, Saturday, May 17th, 4 on site; 5 via ZOOM.
- BHC hosting travelling art exhibit by Edith Reynolds on the 3rd floor.
- Monthly work with the Reference Department to coordinate programming and budgeting for programming continues.

Highlights

- Reference requests submitted by email, phone, and mail continue unabated. May saw a continued uptick in visitors.
- BHC hosted a few more tours from Mercy Learning Center. BHC Staff explained the department's offerings and the My Town, My Story project so that these newer residents of Bridgeport can contribute to the digital archive.
- Mr. Gulotta from CT River Book Auctions came to take 27 boxes of books. See next item below.
- Continuing project: Pettit and Van Tuyl together with the assistance of Librarian Vivian Bordeaux have made progress with their inventorying and removal or cataloging of books on the 7th floor. Many items have been either deaccessioned, added to the collection, or have replaced current, identical publications in poor condition. Dozens of works on local history and genealogy have been added to the special collections. New shelving areas for certain special collection book categories have been established.

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- 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 library and archives, or historical societies.
- For the second time within a month, a patron came to use the A.H. Nilson archival collection. He is the world expert on many of the A.H. Nilson machines and BHC has valuable blueprints and Nilson publications that provide specifics on Nilson machinery.
- BHC interview volunteer Beth Lazar conducted more interviews for the BHC oral history program.
- The University of Kentucky has accepted issues of some rare 19th-century Kentucky newspaper titles.
- 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.
- Continued cataloging work in BHC's collections management software.
- Maintenance Crew staff A. Dionisio built a long-desired metal shelf for the BHC 7th floor cage. He will also repair part of the cage wall, which will free up one entire vertical shelving unit for storage.
- BHC is continuing its search for homes for certain bibliographic encyclopedia and dictionary series. It may be necessary to rent a small dumpster to dispose of certain items.

Burroughs-Saden Youth Services

Programming:

- Gizmo's Mental Health Month Storytime - presented in English and Spanish by the Bridgeport Department of Health & Human Services - was on Tuesday, May 6th (11 children, 3 adults attended). They gave away copies of Gizmo's Guide to Mental Health as well as some goodie bags with crayons and coloring sheets
- Mother's Day Storytime & Craft was on Wednesday, May 7th (11 children, 1 teen, and 5 adults attended)
- On Saturday, May 10th, we had a Mindfulness program for kids in order to give children relaxation techniques and tools for de-stressing. Unfortunately, it was the same day as Sacred Heart's graduation ceremony at the Arena, so there was no parking near the Library, which meant there were very few attendees. 2 children and 1 adult attended.
- Later the same day (Saturday, May 10th), we had a Mother's Day soap-making workshop so kids could make soap for special women in their lives. By that time, the streets had cleared up, so 17 children and 9 adults attended.
- On Saturday, May 17th, we had our monthly Saturday Crafternoon and made Yarn Bugs! 8 children attended.
- On Monday, May 21st, we had our third and final session of Making Cents, a 3-part monthly financial literacy series. 6 children and 2 adults attended.
- **Weekly programs**

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- Saturday Drop-In Crafts
 - May 3rd (10 children)
 - May 10th (20 children)
 - May 17th (9 children)
 - May 24th - Library Closed/Memorial Day weekend
 - May 31st (5 children)
- Little Learners
 - May 6th (12 children, 7 adults)
 - May 13th (13 children, 8 adults)
 - May 20th (14 children, 9 adults)
 - May 27th (11 children, 7 adults)
- SlimeTime
 - May 7th (12 children)
 - May 14th (13 children)
 - May 21st (11 children)
 - May 28th (12 children)
- Lego Club
 - May 1st (10 children)
 - May 8th (7 children)
 - May 15th (14 children)
 - May 22nd (11 children)
 - May 29th (12 children)

Displays:

- In May, we had book displays about: Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Mother's Day, bugs, book/movie crossovers, & spring.
- Our seasonal bulletin board is themed "*I'd Rather Bee Reading*," a colorful celebration of reading, springtime, and our friends, the bees!

Collection Development:

- We have a great collection of manga & graphic novels, but many of them are very well-loved & getting a little tattered. We are working to weed and replace popular titles.
- We are looking over our bedtime books & weeding/replacing damaged items.
- 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:

- Taslima attended *Welcoming Deaf Kids and Families at Your Library*, a webinar from the **Towards Inclusive Accessibility in Libraries (TIAL)** series, which is designed to "address the knowledge gaps and biases that exist about people with disabilities and people who are aging, and to aid libraries in extending access to library resources and services."
- Ana attended *The Power of Rhythm: Singing, Dancing and Moving into Self-Regulation and Learning*, a webinar from the **Early Child Investigations** series. The webinar discussed the importance of rhythm in children's brain development and self-regulation.

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Outreach:

- Tuesday, May 13th, 20 third graders from the Adam J Lewis Academy visited the library to research their projects on Ancient Greece. We curated some great books from our collection & also shared how to access digital resources.
- Tuesday, May 20th, Kristin visited the Adam J Lewis Academy by invitation of the third graders. She read a couple of picture books about Greek mythology; brought coloring sheets, event calendars, and bookmarks; and received a fantastic tour of the building from the students!
- Thursday, May 29th, Kristin and Joy visited Blackham School for their PAC's kickoff to summer reading. It was not a well-attended event, but the parents who were there, were very enthusiastic and excited to learn more about what the library has to offer. We brought books; a Summer Reading Kickoff flyer; applications; bookmarks, keychains, & pencils. It was a potentially fruitful visit since we stressed our commitment to the community and attending school & community events, we are hoping we get invited to more occasions like this.

Successes/Concerns:

- Letters Are Characters, an organization focused on early literacy education, procured a grant which will allow us to offer 150 *Letters Are Characters* kits to Pre-K students and 100 kits of *Letters Are Builders* to kindergarteners. The founder of the program, Dr. Caroline Wilcox-Ugurlu, has completed delivery of the kits to the library. We are preparing for a kickoff in June.

Katherine Mozier-Tichy

Teen Service:

- Planned & finalized SRP 2025 Teen programming
 - There will be 2 Weekly "Camps":
 - Craft "camp": 2 sessions per week, for 9 weeks; have 6 projects they can do
 - Coding camp: 1 session per week for 9 weeks; using Code.org for lessons and curriculum
 - Attended the training beforehand for free. Received certification
 - Life-Sized Game Events:
 - July will be the game Payday
 - August will be the game Monopoly
 - Video Game Tournament: being planned by LA Jawon P.
 - It will run for over 5 weeks.
 - The grand prize will be a Gift Card
- LA Jawon P created two displays for the whole summer:
 - Nutmeg winners
 - High School Summer Reading lists