

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Burroughs-Saden October 2025

Submitted by: Tanarha Smith-Dixon

November 10, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 81 Number of visitors: 7,760 Number of questions answered: (549 Reference, 341 Technical, 980 Other)
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 263,727 Total Added: 110
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 3027 In-house: 2468
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: 995
Room Usage	Room: 12 Bookings, Attendance: 127 Adults, 60 teens, 7 children,
Programming	Adult Services February Programs • Chess Club: 15 adults, 8 children • Computer Class: 76 adults, • Virtual Talk: 15 adults • Classic Movie Matinee: 19 adults
Other Services	Digital Navigator: 0 Notary: 67

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

	Passport: 3 Community Outreach: 4
Adult Services Staff Report	Librarian Jeffrey Coutts: • Made carts for Brodart, Overdrive and Midwest Tape. • Continued the film screening programs. Films showed in October: ◦ Frankenstein ◦ Psycho and The Exorcist. ◦ Bride of Frankenstein ◦ Nightmare on Elm Street ▪ Attendance ranged from 2-6 people. • On October 29th, I administered a virtual talk with H.P. Lovecraft scholar S.T. Joshi. ◦ We had 15 participants. ◦ Due to not being able to take my virtual programs remotely after library closure, I had to change the times of my virtual program from 7-8 PM to now 6-7 PM. I have noticed now that attendance has suffered. I used to get around half of the signups to attend, now it is much less than that. • Continued planning for an adult board game club in November and gained considerable interest from a local board game Facebook group. • Worked with John Ash on planning and promoting 3D Printing. ◦ We had an October 22nd 3D printing class with 5 people attending. ◦ John Ash noted that attendance and interest are building for 3D printing, and several people have asked him to 3D print their prototypes. • Completed the "Staff Picks" and "Bridgeport Yesterday" portions of the weekly newsletter. Librarian Adam Cleri: • Twice for October I, attended an online and in-person Media Committee meeting • Did outreach with LAIII Robert Jefferies at HCC Community Fair, supporting the Library and answering questions. • Called food pantries to find information, and made a list of those in operation in Bridgeport, along with Librarian Jaime Pettit. • Created a food pantry display in Adult Services (includes pantry list, SNAP FAQ, mobile pantry flyer, and a 211 brochure. • Created and acquired materials for an escape room run during BHC's Open (Haunted) House

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

- Prepared for a podcast with Mayor Ganim, and communicated with Danielle at the mayor's office
- Worked with Mat Blaine, now an editor of the newsletter, to improve and beautify the newsletter
- Edited and uploaded "Why get a library card?" podcast with Mat Blaine
- Ran weekly chess club
- Write for, edit, & sent weekly newsletters, & posted them on Facebook

Burroughs-Saden/Bridgeport History Center

Programming Milestones

- The highlight for programming this month was the Bridgeport History Center's Open (Haunted) House. Archivist Jaime Pettit devised a program of games and interactive events that were designed to acquaint the public with various aspects of Bridgeport History as well as teach patrons how to use the BHC material, databases, and equipment. The BHC was heavily decorated for Halloween. Children who came with their parents were invited to create exhibit items that would have found a home in P.T. Barnum's American Museum. Snacks and treats were also provided, and a good time was had by all. The department will continue to work on getting more adults and teens back into the BHC for live visits in addition to writing remotely for assistance. The BHC would like to thank fellow BPL staffer Kate Mozier-Tichy for helping throughout the Open House day and providing supplies from Youth Services. A special thanks also goes out to Librarian Adam Cleri of Adult Services for creating an ingenious game that featured solving the murder of Bridgeport benefactor James Beardsley. BHC Library Assistant Michael Hawkins assisted visitors and showed them BHC web content throughout the day.
- This Memoir Writing Workshop was cancelled for the month of October due to illness. Professor Wallace will conduct two programs in November, one on-site and one ZOOM only.
- City Lights Gallery installed an exhibition of works by local artists that feature the iconic red and white striped Bridgeport smokestack. The BHC and BPL have advertised it heavily through their websites and social media.

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Staff Development	• Archivist Jaime Pettit successfully planned and executed the BHC's first-ever Halloween-themed Open House. • Pettit has joined the library-wide media committee and is helping to disseminate BHC publicity.

Highlights

- Image requests continue unabated. Many local businesses decorate with BHC images.
- Intensive planning and supplies expenditures for the BHC Open House. Report available.
- Michael Hawkins has completed his work inventorying and boxing BHC's valuable phone book collection.
- Past BHC Archivist David Palmquist visited the BHC/BPL for the day and provided useful information about older accessions.
- Surveys of specific collections indicate that BHC will need to order substantial archival supplies.
- More books from the 7th floor have been packed for the CT River Book Auction. They will be brought to CTRBA by a volunteer.
- BHC has been hosting or planning visits from representatives of important partner organizations such as HCC.
- BHC has received a few in-person visitors who were regulars in the pre-pandemic era.
- BHC new microfilm cabinet has provided a huge amount of additional space for film, current, and future acquisitions. When the budget allows for the buying of desks, the smaller film cabinet in the newspaper room could be removed in order to provide and more flexible space for a new desk arrangement.

Burroughs-Saden Youth Services

Programming:

- On Thursdays, October 2nd, 9th, and 23rd, we had our Sweet Tooth program where kids learned the hows and whys of making some super-sweet treats, such as fondue, s'mores, and gummy bears. We had over 31 children attend the sessions on the 2nd and the 9th, while 20 children attended the event on the 23rd.
- On Wednesday, October 8th, we conducted a bilingual storytime & craft program in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. 12 adults and children attended the storytime and created alebrijes, colorful sculptures of fantastical animals based on Mexican folklore.
- Wednesday, October 15th was the first of our Halloween events - Clay & Play: Make a Spooky Clay Magnet! 14 children attended the program and made black cats, jack o'lanterns, and other fun Halloween magnets out of air-dry clay.
- On Wednesday, October 22nd, the Children's Department was attacked by Revenge of the Living Slime, a special Halloween edition of our popular SlimeTime program! 22 kids attended and made some truly terrifying slime!

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

- Where can you catch a Pokemon? At the library, of course! On Saturday, October 25th, 15 kids attended our craft program and made decoupage Pokemon treasure boxes to keep Pokemon cards (or creatures) safe.
- Wednesday, October 29th was our main Halloween event, Spooky Shenanigans at the Library! Approximately 300 people joined us for lots of fun activities, such as Halloween parades (trick-or-treating) throughout the library; games (Poke-a-Prize, Feed the Monster, Pin the Spider on the Web); crafts & coloring; Halloween Bingo with the Queen of Hearts; and a high energy dance party to burn off all the sugar before sending the little ghosts, goblins, princesses, and superheroes home.
- Weekly programs
 - Saturday Drop-In Crafts (passive program)
 - October 4th (5 children)
 - October 11th (11 children)
 - October 18th (10 children)
 - October 25th (13 children)
 - Hola, Pequeños!
 - October 6th (6 children)
 - October 13th - closed for Columbus Day
 - October 20th (6 children)
 - October 27th (15 children)
 - Sensory Safari
 - October 6th (9 children)
 - October 13th - closed for Columbus Day
 - October 20th (10 children)
 - October 27th (16 children)
 - Little Learners
 - October 7th (9 children, 8 adults)
 - October 14th (8 children, 7 adults)
 - October 21st (10 children, 7 adults)
 - October 28th (11 children, 7 adults)
 - Little STEAMers
 - October 1st (6 children)
 - October 8th (8 children)
 - October 15th (10 children)
 - October 22nd (12 children)
 - October 29th - canceled due to Halloween event
 - SlimeTime
 - October 1st (19 children)
 - October 8th (12 children)
 - October 15th (13 children)
 - October 22nd (22 children)
 - October 29th - canceled due to Halloween event
 - Lego Club
 - October 2nd (8 children)
 - October 9th (10 children)
 - October 16th (11 children)
 - October 23rd (15 children)
 - October 30th (11 children)

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Displays:

- In October, we had book displays for: Hispanic Heritage Month, Italian Heritage Month, autumn, Diwali, and Halloween.
- Our bulletin board theme is *LEAF through a Good Book*

Collection Development:

- In response to frequent requests from parents, we continue to look for math, language arts, & science book 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.

Outreach:

- On Tuesday, October 21st, Kristin visited Pre-K classes at Precious Memories Daycare and, per their curriculum, read some books and discussed how people don't always like the same things (except for the library - because everybody loves the library!) with 24 children.
- On Wednesday, October 22nd, we had a visit from 21 of the Adam J Lewis Academy 3rd graders, who are currently studying Ancient Egypt. We displayed some carefully curated, age-appropriate collections, and discussed some of the digital resources that we offer which can help with research.
- On Friday, October 24th, Kristin had a class visit with the three 2nd grade classes at Columbus School. We read some fun stories and talked about all of the great things we can do at the library with 60 children and their teachers.

Continuing Education:

- Ana F attended the following Niche Academy webinars
 - *Figuring Out Fair Use*, designed to give librarians strategies and recommendations for guiding patrons and colleagues through the process of making wise fair use decisions and explain the foundations on which those decisions are made.
 - *Working Well with Your Team: How to Manage Your Staff*, which discussed how to support your staff! This training includes an overview of best practices when managing staff as well as how to promote a culture in which coaching, communication, and feedback are the cornerstones.
 - *Training That Works: A Simple Guide for Nonprofits*, designed to walk through a simple method to build effective training by focusing on outcomes that matter, checking for understanding, and designing sessions that help people succeed.

Passports:

- Joy, Andre, Ana, & Taslima completed 3 passport applications in October.

Successes/Concerns:

- Thank you so much to the members of the Youth Services staff (Taslima S, Ana F, Theresa G, Jawon P, and Kate M-T) for working so hard to prepare and then deliver a wonderful Spooky Shenanigans Halloween party! A huge thank you is also due to our fantastic volunteers from other branches and departments - Linda T, Joy S, Breta H, Jamie P, Trina P,

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

David M - for their enthusiasm and hard work to help us pull off our party! It's always wonderful to see cooperation between departments/branches!

- A note from Kristin: October marks the end of my time as head of Burroughs Youth Services. It has been a pleasure and honor to work for the children of Bridgeport with such a fantastic, dedicated crew for the last 3 and a half years. I'll truly miss everyone. Fortunately, I won't be too far away!

Katherine Mozier-Tichy

Teen Services:

- Continued researching and developing the outreach programs for teens
 - Slides, quiz, and notes are almost complete
 - Have spoken to fellow programming committee members for assistance/support

Programming

- Spoke to Adult Services about collaborating on a holiday music series.

ADULT SERVICES:

- Offered ideas for programming, especially America 250
 - Recommended the IAIS programs
- Gave Librarian Jaime P. the contact information. For David Naumec, a historian

HISTORY CENTER:

- Assisted with the Open House on Saturday, Oct. 25th: prep & execution
- Helped to facilitate kid-friendly activity
- Discussed having further programming geared towards youth