

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

North Branch April 2025

Submitted by: Paula Keegan and North Branch staff

May 8, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 38 Number of visitors: 4,291	Number of questions answered: Total 4,306 (Reference 2,091, Technical 296, Other 1,919)
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 102,828	Total Added: 196
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 4,471 (39.3% of BPL total)	In-house: 1,051 Grand total: 5,522
Public Internet Usage Total: 983	Public computer Users for the month: 554	Total Wifi connections: 571
Room Usage by outside groups Total: 83/159	Room use: 5 Bookings, Attendance: 138 Study room uses: 90. Attendance: 119	
Programming 69 Programs Attendance: 971	Virtual: 5 Mindfulness: 25 2 VITA Tax: 30 In person on-site: 1 Gardening with BYL: 45 1 Sewing (Learn To): 4 1 AARP Safe Drive: 10 4 Playtime: 63 3 Quilting: 13 1 Financial Literacy: 3 3 Gifted Girls: 44 2 E Sports: 23 2 AARP Tax Assist: 76 1 Fancy Cookie Painting: 19 1 Medicare: 2 1 Mindfulness: 5	In person on-site continued: 3 First Serve Tennis: 102 1 Lawyers in Lib: 14 2 Learn English: 7 2 Little Bears: 74 5 Mahjongg: 50 5 Reiki: 12 3 Yoga Saturdays: 102 1 BCHS: Columbia Records: 23 5 Yoga Wednesdays: 17 1 Adult book Discussion: 12 3 Vacation Games: 17 1 Little Bears Birthday: 50 1 Mask Making with Iyaba: 12 1 Art with Veronica: 15 2 Mental Health Roundtable: 4 1 Moms vs Gun Violence: 10 In person off-site: 2 BPL Strategic Plan Forums: 11 1 Thursday Night Café: 65 1 Watermark Book Discussion: 12
Other Services	5 Digital Navigator: 10 Passport: NA 2 Tests proctored: 4	12 Notary appts: 20 docs April Coloring sheets: 365 1 Info Tables: 25 ILL requests processed for BPL system patrons: 2 patrons/ 6 items requested
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached N/A	
Staff Dev and "outside" meetings	Paula K: Winthrop School Governance Council Bina W and Paula C: Narcan Training	

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Shoutout to Dana H for the work she does with the plants in the building: “(the plants) give the library a fair bit more life and character.”
-a North Branch staff member

April brought spring and staff and patrons welcomed it with open arms! Coach Don has started prepping the garden, and the first of our planned garden programs has resulted in a host of seedlings flourishing in our southern facing adult area windows. In January, when it is pleasant to plan for warmer weather, we learned of the Burpee/Ocean State Job Lot Gift of Seed, distributed through the Master Gardener Program New Haven County, University of Connecticut Extension College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (try saying that three times fast...). We applied for a variety of seeds right away and our request was granted! We have enough seeds to use in our garden and to share with patrons. Urban gardening is a positive response to the growing food insecurity problem.

Bina W reports: When the program planned for Gifted Girls fell through, I created a collage program for them. Amazing how creative these girls are! We have their art hanging in Community Room B. The highlight of the month was the mask making workshop with Iyaba Ibo Mandingo. He brought cardboard mask bases and let the participants create their unique masks. I had a lot of "bits and bobs" which we used. The parents joined in too—very fun and funded by the Westport supported Camp Explore program. During vacation week, we set out puzzles and games for families to play in the afternoon. Each day several groups had a great time.

Paula C covered Little Bears one week in addition to her successful Playtime program. In preparation for a class visit she and Dana H prepared library cards for the children who didn't have one yet. Another year of Tax Assistance concluded. We had a very successful Thursday Night Café with a full roster of local entertainers. There can be no doubt Bridgeport is rich in talent. All programming went well (see the full list). Interest in our hobby and craft programs continues to grow.

The lobby display case features memorabilia showcasing the History of Long Island Sound's Oyster Industry. Joel H's April media display paid tribute to stars no longer with us. In addition to some spring decorating, his in-house made bookmarks celebrating Poetry Month were popular enough that many patrons had a hard time limiting their selections. Paula C's fun April Reading Wrap Up highlighted novels with April in the title and authors named April. Deb S' Children's Department displays included Autism Month, Passover, Easter, and Earth Day. We were able to share Deb S with Black Rock one day during a staffing crunch there. The staff continues with ongoing projects such as relabeling, weeding, shifting, adding and inventorying. Collection building and maintenance is happening all the time, and everyone takes a part. The work of the Library never ends!

We are still awaiting programming technology upgrades. Our cobbled together work arounds and failing equipment are embarrassing, especially when something fails in the middle of a program. We are looking forward to completed roof work, and this year's garden. Maintenance is preparing the front area of the library for the artists who will work on the new mural in June. Excitement is building for the mural. Summer kickoff and summer programming are coming up quickly and we are busy planning ahead.

Another shout out, this one for Monika A from a colleague: “real good at answering questions” and “always willing to lend a hand”.