



North Branch May 2026

Submitted by: Kristin Graf, Bina Williams, and the North Branch staff

May 2026

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 51 Number of visitors: 4364	Number of questions answered: Total 3205 Reference 1555 Directional 1313 Tech 337
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 99610 Total Added: 50 Withdrawn	
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 38331 (41% of BPL total) In-house: 1236 Grand total: 5067 (45%) Passes 6	
Public Internet Usage Total: 587	Public computer Users for the month: 587 Total Wifi connections n/a	
Room Usage by outside groups TOTAL 6	Room use: Bookings, 6 Attendance: 62 Study room uses: 47 Attendance: 65	

Programming Programs Attendance:	<p>Virtual: 4 Mindfulness: 20</p> <p>In person off-site 1 Watermark Book Discussion 17</p> <p>In person on-site: Regular programs 1 Adult book Discussion: 7 1 Bridgeport Community Historical Soc 25 1 Books-In-Between 3 1 Crochet 10 4 Computer Class 35 4 DIG Chess 29 6 E Sports: 61 8 First Serve 245 4 Gifted Girls: 74 5 Little Bears: 115 3 Little Hands 36 8 Mah Jongg: 87 3 Playtime 32 2 Pokemon 20 3 Quilting 22 1 SafeDrive AARP 8 4 Yoga Saturdays: 155</p>	<p>SPECIAL PROGRAMS In Person Onsite Class Visits: 1 Kindergarten Winthrop 70 2 Kindergarten St. Andrew's 53 1 Master Financial 4 1 Cybersecurity 5 1 Art with Veronica 13 4 Project Sunshine 31 1 Scavenger Hunt 35</p>
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Other Services	0 Digital Navigator: 0 Notary appts: People: 46 docs 26 Coloring sheets: 200 Info Tables: 0 Passport: NA ILL requests for BPL system patrons: 2 patrons/ 4 items requested 0 Tests proctored: 0
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached N/A
Staff Dev and "outside" meetings	

"In May, everything seems to whisper, 'You can begin anew.'" – George Washington Carver

May at the North Branch practically shouted, "You can begin anew!" It was a lively and productive month, filled with exciting programs (both new and existing), collaborative teamwork, and enthusiastic preparation for the busy summer ahead.

Our weekly programs continued to engage families, with Bina's Little Bears and Little Hands programs (with assists from Ilesha!), Paula leading Playtime, Monika and David presenting computer classes, as well as some very popular programs from outside presenters, covering everything from safe driving (a welcome addition as speed cameras arrive in Connecticut) and financial planning, to crochet, collage art, and film-making. We also sent 32 patrons on flower-themed scavenger hunts through the library (a great way to introduce people to our space).

New titles are coming in regularly and our new book area is full of patrons eagerly scanning the shelves for their next great read. Middle-grade readers gathered for the **BOOKS IN BETWEEN BOOK CLUB**, where a spirited discussion of *Nightbooks* by J.A. White brought just the right amount of thrills and chills. Book displays added color and curiosity to the space - **BOOKS MAKE YOUR MIND BLOOM** highlighted thoughtful fiction, while the **ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH** display saw particularly strong circulation. The AV display, **ARE YOU MY MOTHER?**, provided a cinematic companion to the month's themes of family and connection.

Outreach remained strong as well, with Dana supporting an off-site senior book club attended by 17 readers who read *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah, and a visit to Capital Prep, where David and Kristin discussed our Digital Navigator program, as well as library services and resources that are of use and interest to teens.

Behind the scenes, staff kept the branch running smoothly. Materials were repaired and returned to circulation, new audiovisual items were processed, and interlibrary loan requests were fulfilled. As always, high-demand titles kept everyone hopping, especially as we anticipate a wave of even more new and replacement materials ordered before the fiscal year deadline. May also brought a new face to the North Branch! Part-time Library Assistant, Arabella, is off to a strong start thanks to capable training provided by Paula and Dana.



Looking ahead, preparations for summer reading (**PLANT A SEED...READ!**) and several system-wide youth initiatives are well underway. From **LETTERS ARE CHARACTERS'** literacy backpacks, to circulating toys and games thanks to **TRAVELING TOYS**, to a relaunch of **1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN**, exciting opportunities for young readers and families are just around the corner.

Finally, May also marked Kristin (and her new hip)'s return to the branch. I am delighted to be back here in time to celebrate the waning weeks of this season of renewal, growth, and energy, but looking forward to a vibrant and busy summer at North!