

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

North Branch December 2021 Monthly Report

Submitted by: Paula Keegan

January 10, 2022

Service Statistics	<p>Number of new library cards: 52 Number of visitors: 2,624</p>	<p>Number of questions answered: 5,799 Number of interlibrary loans (in/out): 190/393 Number of online database sessions: n/a</p>
Collection Statistics	<p>Adult: 50,316 (93 added in December) Teen: 4,522 (63 added in December) Children: 38,035 (343 added in December)</p>	<p>A&V materials: 13,817 (2 added in Dec.) Magazines & Newspapers: 1,444 (56 added in Dec.) TOTAL: 108,134 (557 added in December)</p>
Circulation Statistics	<p>Adult: 1,224 plus 80 inhouse use Teen: 103 plus 17 inhouse use Children: 749 plus 363 inhouse use</p>	<p>A&V materials: 392 plus 0 inhouse use Magazines & Newspapers: 93 plus 5 inhouse use TOTAL 2,561 (37.3% of total BPL circ) plus 465 inhouse use</p>
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: 334	

<p>Programming Milestones TOTAL: 60 programs Attendance 5,901</p>	<p>Inhouse programs: 5 Vaccination clinics: 1,077 3 Live LITT Chess: 96 5 1-1 Computer classes: 5 3 Mahjongg: 18 1 Adult coloring: 4 3 Little Bears: 30</p> <p>Virtual programs:</p>	<p>4 Virtual LITT Chess: 40 5 Mindfulness: 38</p> <p>Outreach:</p> <p>Other: 28 Daily COVID testing (Attendance estimated): 4,580 3 Forest Bathing: 13</p>
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Staff Development

Bina W.: Set the Stage: Project Ready Discussion

Highlights

“To be under occupation, to be under siege, is not a good inspiration for poetry.” -Mahmoud Darwish

North Branch is under siege! In December vaccination and testing sessions exploded in popularity, as did the crowds and questions about them, in person and on the phone and on the phone and on the phone. Lines for testing reached past Winthrop School or into Trumbull across Old Town Road. It became very difficult for patrons of the library to access the building, even with police and National Guard members helping with traffic control. Inside, people waiting for their vaccination number to be called filled every available space. Fortunately, with only a few exceptions, everyone was pleasant and understood the situation, even when they had to be turned away because of the wait and time running out.

Paraphrased from Bina:

Gail has been madly processing new books. Gail and Pat have been doing yeoman's work shelving since we have no pages. Switching up holiday and seasonal book displays is a monthly job that they do. I have begun weeding in non-fiction. With printed shelf lists, I mark books I will consider for weeding and take note of topics that need to be updated. In January, I will take those lists to the shelves and pull pull pull. Things I have noted: Since we stopped having standing orders with some of the non-fiction publishers, our books on countries are way out of date, as well as some of the science books. Programming has been great...Little Bears in person has had a small but safely sized group of kids. I am revisiting formats and content as the age is skewing lower these days. As of late December, I am back to Zoomin'. Chess has been very popular, especially the Thursday night class and the Saturday scrimmage. While we lost both scrimmages, our players are dedicated to improving. Again, Chess will be virtual until further notice.

Other news:

We are already getting tax assistance questions and planning is underway to provide virtual VITA assistance and a small number of 1-1 AARP assistance appointments with socially distanced tables, acrylic shields and all the rest of the protocols that have become so familiar. We will try to continue Computer 1-1 classes with the same type of protocols as we are able.

Short staffing (vacancies and illness) is severely crippling our ability to continue programming, but we continue to try new ways to program virtually and when able, in person. Mahjonn is on hiatus because of the inhouse programming limits placed during this most recent Covid surge. Virtual Mindfulness continues. We had to delay our scheduled Adult Day Care visits as well.

Hoping for all good things in the new year!

“I believe in the power of poetry, which gives me reasons to look ahead and identify a glint of light.”

-Mahmoud Darwish