

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

North Branch January 2022 Monthly Report

Submitted by: Paula Keegan

February 2, 2022

Service Statistics	<p>Number of new library cards: 25 Number of visitors: 1,592</p>	<p>Number of questions answered: 3,184 Number of interlibrary loans (in/out): 158/406 Number of online database sessions: n/a</p>
Collection Statistics	<p>Adult: 49,864 (188 added in January) Teen: 4,724 (0 added in January) Children: 37,688 (11 added in January)</p>	<p>A&V materials: 13,757 (0 added in January) Magazines & Newspapers: 1,535 (67 added in January) TOTAL: 107,568 (266 added in January)</p>
Circulation Statistics	<p>Adult: 1,157 plus 154 inhouse use Teen: 88 plus 14 inhouse use Children: 621 plus 215 inhouse use</p>	<p>A&V materials: 267 plus 0 inhouse use Magazines & Newspapers: 39 plus 0 inhouse use TOTAL 2,172 (35.7% of total BPL circ) plus 383 inhouse use</p>
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: 260	

<p>Programming Milestones TOTAL: 38 programs Attendance 3,138</p>	<p>Inhouse programs: 3 Vaccination clinics: 167</p> <p>Virtual programs: 7 Virtual LITT Chess: 120 4 Mindfulness: 31</p>	<p>Outreach:</p> <p>Other: 24 Daily COVID testing (Attendance estimated): 2,820</p>
---	--	---

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Staff Development,
meetings etc.

Bina W.: LibLearnX (ALA Midwinter)
School Readiness Council

All staff members: January 28th Staff Development Day

Highlights

“You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.” -Martin Luther King, Jr.

January brought the cold, ice and snow, and plenty of it all. The effects of weather issues, compounded by a sharp COVID surge, affected much of library life. We are the “North” Branch after all!

Testing and vaccinations had some cancellations. Overall, both have seen a decline in activity. Patron use declined as well as well. Too cold, too many viruses. The latter affected staff as well and there were several absences. Phone reference stayed fairly high as people tried to get a jump on the Tax Assistance appointments, which will start in February. Our stalwart tax assistance volunteers are at the ready. AARP will have live 1-1 appointments with multiple safeties and protocols in place. VITA Assistance with our SHU students/professors will be virtual again this year.

Junior Librarian Cynthia Hilliard retired mid-month. We wish her well. She was particularly instrumental in getting regular tween and teen STEAM programs working well here, before the pandemic. She also worked with student volunteers and some of the branch’s community partners.

Cynthia’s retirement adds to the short staffing (vacancies and illness) that is severely crippling our ability to continue programming, but we continue to try new ways to program virtually and when able, in person. We are now missing (in all meanings of the word) seven (7) positions: one (1) Junior Librarian (which would transition to a Librarian I upon completion of MLS degree), one (1) Library Assistant III, one (1) Library Assistant II, one (1) Library Assistant I, one (1) Part-Time Library Assistant 1, and two (2) Part-Time Library Pages. This appalling staff shortage affects basic service as well as programming.

Little Bears was on hiatus in January but will be back in virtual form the first week of February. Chess for tweens and teens remains very popular, but continues virtually until further notice. Forest Bathing is also on hiatus for cold and staff absences. Patrons are still drawn to weekly virtual Mindfulness.

Staff continues to work hard at all of the never-ending scores of tasks necessary to keep on keeping on. Our staff is amazing.