

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

North Branch February 2025

Submitted by: Paula Keegan and North Branch staff

March 7, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 35 Number of visitors: 3,822	Number of questions answered: Total 4,258 (Reference 2,156, Technical 261, Other 1,841)
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 104,372	Total Added: 328
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 3,868 (37.1% of BPL total)	In-house: 942 Grand total: 4,810
Public Internet Usage Total: 983	Public computer Users for the month: 465	Total Wifi connections: 518
Room Usage by outside groups Total: 83/159	Room use: 5 Bookings, Attendance: 67 Study room uses: 78. Attendance: 92	
Programming 55 Programs Attendance: 780	Virtual: 4 Mindfulness: 20 In person on-site: 1 Bullet Journal (Learn To): 4 1 Tangle (Learn To): 5 1 AARP Safe Drive: 10 4 Playtime: 51 2 Quilting: 9 1 Financial Literacy: 8 4 Gifted Girls: 71 4 E Sports: 40 3 AARP Tax Assist: 102 1 TYCLD Valentine Craft: 25 1 What Could Have Been (CT HBCU): 15	In person on-site continued: 1 Lawyers in Lib: 11 4 Learn English: 14 4 Little Bears: 106 4 Mahjonn: 43 4 Reiki: 12 4 Yoga Saturdays: 123 1 Rails to Whistlestops: 15 4 Yoga Wednesdays: 22 1 Adult book Discussion: 10 1 Blood Pressure Screening: 18 1 STEP Let's Learn About Psychosis: 15 1 BHM Unity Wreath: 2 1 Art with Veronica: 17
Other Services	3 Digital Navigator: 7 Passport: NA	14 Notary appts: 16 docs February Coloring sheets: 270 0 Info Tables: 0 ILL requests processed for BPL system patrons: 0 patrons/ 0 items requested
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached n/a	
Staff Dev and "outside" meetings	Paula K: Winthrop School Governance Council Bina W: School Readiness Council, ALSC Manual Task Force	

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"All that you touch you change. All that you change changes you."

-Octavia Butler

February starts our Tax Assistance season. Every year we spend a lot of time on appointments! On our very first day of assistance, the weather was bad enough to cancel and the library opened late. The volunteers were so generous to give us a makeup day. Bear in mind we are one of several sites where they provide tax assistance every week. By the end of the month, our appointments were full.

North lost our promising new part timer Nita Renee Avery after only a month with us when a family need caused her to resign. We anxiously await a replacement. The staff continues with ongoing projects such as relabeling, weeding, shifting, adding and inventorying. Program planning, promoting and implementing is important work that goes on as well. Bina is exploring the free version of Canva. She was a guest reader at the Black History Month Storytelling at Burroughs. She and some fellow national Caldecott Committee members were treated to a Sunday afternoon in winner (for *Hot Dog*) Doug Salati's Brooklyn studio. I promised I would let one pun in: she *relished* her visit. Another day off was spent at the Westport Library's NYT Crossword Puzzle Competition, where she did very well.

Dana Hernandez has been showing staff members how to use the Square payment system, and tried yet again to get a response for the seemingly abandoned and improperly parked cars in our parking lot. We will see if we get any results. Paula Carlson has been busy with weekly Playtime. She also helps compile our monthly statistics. February's "I Love to Read" display partnered nicely with her Staff Favorites display. Other displays included Deb Stanley's Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day and Presidents' Day displays in the children's department. Romance displays move briskly. Joel Hinohosa's Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Hand displayed documentaries about Civil Rights as well as films directed and produced by Black actors. Joel offered a great library story: "one of our regulars was having an issue retrieving a handicapped placard that fell into a rather inconvenient location in her car. The dealer quoted her \$400-500 to help her but she couldn't afford it. She came in upset and Renee, Paula C and myself all brainstormed ideas to help her. We managed to find a solution and saved her placard and her wallet lol. She was so grateful she came in later in the day with cupcakes for the staff." North staff at it's best: solution needed, solution found.

Programs all went well: see our list and photos.

Building and technology needs continue to be a concern. Programming technology is badly needed. We have been without a full-time custodian since summer 2024. We have heat but can't control it yet. The roof project should start up again soon with the ice melting and spring on its way. We're looking forward to that!



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