

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

North Branch March 2025

Submitted by: Paula Keegan and North Branch staff

April 8, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 48 Number of visitors: 4,962	Number of questions answered: Total 5,000 (Reference 2,538, Technical 388, Other 2,074)
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 103,571	Total Added: 408
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 4,753 (39.2% of BPL total)	In-house: 1,225 Grand total: 5,978
Public Internet Usage Total: 983	Public computer Users for the month: 640	Total Wifi connections: 600
Room Usage by outside groups Total: 83/159	Room use: 8 Bookings, Attendance: 109 Study room uses: 83. Attendance: 110	
Programming 66 Programs Attendance: 917	Virtual: 4 Mindfulness: 20 3 VITA Tax: 42 In person on-site: 1 Bullet Journal (Learn To): 6 1 Sewing (Learn To): 2 1 AARP Safe Drive: 6 4 Playtime: 72 1 Quilting: 4 1 Financial Literacy: 10 3 Gifted Girls: 30 5 E Sports: 38 4 AARP Tax Assist: 142 1 Drop In Art: 3 1 Tea with Gifted Girls: 40	In person on-site continued: 1 Literacy Vol Info Session: 10 1 Lawyers in Lib: 8 4 Learn English: 17 4 Little Bears: 113 5 Mahjongg: 43 4 Reiki: 8 5 Yoga Saturdays: 165 1 BCHS: Columbia Records: 22 4 Yoga Wednesdays: 22 1 Adult book Discussion: 9 1 Games for Half Days: 8 1 Little Bears Birthday: 32 1 Anti-Aging Workshop: 14 1 Art with Veronica: 9 1 Mental Health Roundtable: 10 In person off-site: 1 Watermark Book Discussion: 12
Other Services	2 Digital Navigator: 4 Passport: NA	7 Notary appts: 11 docs March Coloring sheets: 426 1 Info Tables: 20 ILL requests processed for BPL system patrons: 4 patrons/ 5 items requested
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached 27 March, G Johnson School Community Resource event, 300	
Staff Dev and "outside" meetings	Paula K: Winthrop School Governance Council Bina W: Audies Gala in NYC Monika A and Dana H: Acquisitions refresher webinar	

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"Every day happens something good."

-a North Branch staff member

March blew in, gave hints of spring, then blew back out. The roofers were here a couple days. Thanks to Antonio D we have new locks on the Community Room Kitchen door and can open, close and lock it easily again. Paula K and Monika did a little (a lot of) spring cleaning in the projection room (read that as long storage...) and reorganized and cleaned the Community Room kitchen just in time for the Gifted Girls to have their annual Tea and use the unearthed and newly washed china. Dana H had some success getting the abandoned cars removed from the parking lot. I'd like to shout out Margaret Girgis for the idea of asking staff for a shout out to a colleague each month. It is terrific to hear the affirmations staff gives each other. This month custodian Gregory Barnes' name came up as a welcome ("great" was the word used) addition to North.

Tax Assistance continued, but with a loss. Hank Hofflich, a volunteer for many years, and our volunteer coordinator for a substantial part of that time, passed away. He will be missed. Tax Assistance by AARP volunteers in person, and SHU VITA remotely, helps hundreds of patrons every year. All programming went well (see the full list). BCHS has switched from evening programs to afternoon to increase senior attendance. It seems to be working. A planned Room Box series had to be rescheduled to May, but interest is very high. Saturday Yoga attendance continues to grow.

Joel's Celebrate Herstory DVD display was popular, as well as Paula C's Spring into a Good Book and Staff Favorites options. Deb S covered the displays in Children's with Women's History Month, Ramadan and Passover suggestions, while Monika had all things Irish on display for St Patrick's day in addition to Women's History Month. Donated puzzles have helped us keep up with the rapid puzzle-doers at the puzzle table, and everyone enjoys Joel's original poems he posts there. The staff continues with ongoing projects such as relabeling, weeding, shifting, adding and inventorying. Collection building is happening all the time, and everyone takes a part. Program planning, promoting and implementing is important work that goes on as well. I announced my retirement coming up in June, so staff is preparing for that as well.

Bina and Joel represented the Library at G Johnson School's Community Resource Night. Joel reports the pizza they had was (gasp) *almost* as good as Pepe's. On a day off, Bina relayed: "Kristin Munley, former BPL librarian Jan Fisher, and I went to NYC for the Audies Gala—the awarding of the awards for the best audiobooks of the year. All three of us have been judges for this award for several years now. Held at Pier 60 in the Chelsea Piers made for a lovely spot right on the river. The most exciting part was that Whoopi Goldberg was there to accept her award for narrating her own book."

We are still awaiting programming technology upgrades. We are looking forward to completed roof work, and the beginning of this year's garden. Maintenance is starting to prepare the front area of the library for the artists who will work on the new mural in June. Once completed, the mural will "greet" everyone as they come up the driveway. Summer is coming and we are planning for that as well.