



North Branch November 2025

Submitted by: Kristin Graf and the North Branch staff

December 9, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 49 Number of visitors: 3,632	Number of questions answered: Total 2,457 Reference 1,050 Directional 1,085 Technical 322
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 100,858 Total Added: 103	
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 3,461 In-house: 668 Grand total: 4,129 (38% of BPL total) Cultural Passes: 7	
Public Internet Usage Total:	Public computer Users for the month: 501 Total Wi-Fi connections: n/a	
Room Usage by outside groups TOTAL	Room use: Bookings: 9 Attendance: 76 Study room uses: 56 Attendance: 81	

Programming Programs Attendance:	Virtual: 0 Mindfulness In person off-site 1 Watermark Book Discussion: 15 In person on-site: Regular programs 1 Adult book Discussion: 10 0 Bridgeport Community Historical Society 1 Books-In-Between: 3 4 DIG Chess: 25 0 E Sports 4 Gifted Girls: 54 3 Little Bears: 88 4 Little Hands: 49 6 Mah Jongg: 70 4 Playtime: 40 4 Yoga Saturdays: 131 3 Crafts with Vera: 42 4 Quilting with Vera: 42 2 Medicare info: 8	SPECIAL PROGRAMS In Person Onsite Thanksgiving with Gifted Girls: 50 Health Clinic: 25
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Other Services	0 Digital Navigator 20 Notary appts: 22 docs Coloring sheets: 200 0 Info Tables Passport: NA 0 ILL requests for BPL system 0 Tests proctored
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Outreach	Kristin G: 11/18/25, Central HS Literacy Day, Approx. # of people reached: 110
Staff Dev and "outside" meetings	Dana H: Customer service; Workplace culture Bina W: Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media; Malka Penn Award; Connecticut Storytelling Center Board; School Readiness Council Steering Committee (now called Local Governance Partners)

*"I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."
~ Nathaniel Hawthorne*

A quick aside from Kristin: In November, I left the Youth Services department at Burroughs and made the move Northward as the new branch manager. I'm so excited about this opportunity and I look forward to writing the next chapter of the North Branch story together with this fantastic staff and the Bridgeport community we serve! Now, on to the report...

We are so grateful for literature and culture every day, but during this season of thanksgiving, we had to show it! A popular display was the 25 Best Novels of the Century. Also, while so many of you prepared literal feasts for Thanksgiving, we provided feasts for the mind with books about food and dining, and movies about cooking, dining, and family drama on display. In the children's area, our displays were Thanksgiving and Veterans' Day books. Thanks to Monika, Bina, Paula, Lynn, & Ilesha for picking out some great titles to share with our patrons. Lots of new DVDs and audio books have hit the shelves, while some of our less popular DVDs have been pulled to make room for even more new titles. Some very well-loved books and materials have been repaired and put back in circulation, giving us all a great reminder to be gentle with library materials so all patrons are able to enjoy them. Our pages, Joe and Miracle, are doing a great job of keeping the collection organized and getting books on the shelves quickly so our patrons can find what they want.

We are also thankful that the chill hasn't kept everyone inside, as our regular programs for little ones (Playtime, Little Hands, and Little Bears) all saw an increase in numbers. Bina, Paula, and Ilesha have done a fantastic job making the Children's Room and children's programming fun and welcoming! Ilesha recently asked parents in our Little Bears program where they were from & how they are dealing with the cold weather. It opened a dialogue with our patrons and helped us get to know them better, demonstrating the power of a simple question. Our Mah Jongg group has become so popular, they've expanded to two days a week. Monika and David are doing a great job with computer classes, while also organizing and keeping track of our room use. Dana and Paula dreamed up another very popular scavenger hunt – this time patrons hunted for paper turkeys around the library. Successful programming isn't limited to our staff - one of our favorite partners, the Gifted Girls, held a food drive and produced a lovely Thanksgiving meal for our patrons.

Staff attended meetings and workshops about: customer service, workplace culture, digital media, storytelling, and school readiness. Several members of our staff have already joined a system-wide committee to prepare for Summer Reading 2026 – Bina and Kristin are developing the program for children, while Paula signed on to help get those teens reading! And, while we love being in the library, occasionally we get to travel to exotic locations, like Burroughs Main Library to help with a program, or Central High School for their Literacy Day.

A final thought (with apologies to Nathaniel Hawthorne): "Enjoy that autumnal sunshine, but while you're out, stop at the library!" ~ Kristin Graf