

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

North Branch October 2024

Submitted by: Paula Keegan and North Branch staff

November 6, 2024

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 48 Number of visitors: 5,268	Number of questions answered: Total 6,302 (Reference 3,173, Technical 752, Other 2,377)	
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 104,713	Total Added: 216	
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 5,217 (39.7% of BPL total)	In-house: 1406 Grand total: 6,623	
Public Internet Usage Total: 1,283	Public computer Users for the month: 536	Total Wifi connections: 668	
Room Usage by outside groups Total: 64/156	Room use: 7 Bookings, Attendance: 81 Study room uses: 66. Attendance: 86		
Programming 75 Programs Attendance: 1636	Virtual: 4 Mindfulness: 20 In person on-site: 1 Police Community Mtg: 20 9 First S Tennis: 275 1 Halloween Hullabaloo: 724 1 BCHS (Wicked Bpt): 25 1 Family Paint: 12 1 Crochet: 30 3 Gifted Girls: 32 12 E Sports: 67 1 Medicare Info: 4	In person on-site continued: 1 Lawyers in Lib: 9 7 Learn English: 30 4 Little Bears: 90 5 Mahjonn: 42 2 Forest Bathing: 6 5 Mindfulness meditation: 26 4 Playtime: 57 1 Safe Driving: 7 2 Ollie's Book Club: 15 1 Sewing: 6 4 Yoga: 96 4 Quilting: 26	In person off-site: 1 Watermark Book Discussion: 12
Other Services	15 Digital Navigator: 35 Passport: NA	9 Notary: 21 ILL requests processed for BPL system patrons: 2 patrons/ 8 items requested	October Coloring sheets: 805 3 Info Tables: 85
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached Sunday, October 13: Columbus Day Parade, 600 people Thursday, October 17: McLevy Green Farmer's Market, 100 people, 6 new library cards		
Staff Dev and "outside" meetings	Bina W: Malka Penn Awards, School Readiness Council.		

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"In October any wonderful unexpected thing might be possible." — Elizabeth George Speare, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

October was a busy month! Geri Floyd and her Fairfield County Coalition for voter registration hosted a table in the lobby to encourage everyone to register and vote (see photo). We handed out many tickets for the Council of Italian-American Societies of Greater Bridgeport 35th annual U.S. Marine Band concert, and encouraged everyone to also attend the Library's Orquesta Afinke Concert later in the month. Bina W. attended that concert to help. Paula Carlson and Deb Stanley joined Beardsley's Elvis Molina and Board member Tom Errichetti at the Columbus Day Parade and handed out hundreds of books to parade goers (see photo). Debbie also helped staff the Library table at the downtown Farmers Market one day.

We had our Halloween Hullabaloo with our partners Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse and Sports Academy and Gifted Girls. Those many hands were essential for success, with an attendance over 800. The library events included face painting, rock creatures, a coloring contest, and trick or treating through the library. The photo booth was very popular, and a few of our props have mysteriously disappeared...(see photos).

Our regular and special programs went well as usual (see our list). Keeping our programs running smoothly requires much time, patience, and attention to detail. The garden is winding down but many patrons still enjoyed scooping up a tomato or two on their way out the door after checkout. Paula K introduced a patron to baby okra one afternoon. He's one of our daily walkers and was standing outside the garden wondering what it was. Now he has a seed pod for his garden and is very excited. Digital Navigator and Notary appointments kept Monika quite busy. Joel H has been helping with the tech assistance. He has also decorated the displays with some beautiful handmade leaves, adding dimension and depth.

Displays included spooky and Halloween books, TV adaptations of books (Paula C), artifacts from the 1939 World's Fair in NY (Joel H made another great banner for this lobby display), fall reading to curl up with, Columbus, movies for October (Joel H reports that Scarlett Johansen's "Ghost in the Shell" went out 4 times while on display). Joel's special Spooky Season bookmarks had patrons double dipping... Hispanic Heritage Month ended and Italian Heritage Month began.

Dana H noted that several staff members were involved in the major weeding project of DVDs that haven't circulated in many years. Bina and Debbie have been weeding in the children's department as well, and relabeling titles with faded labels. The work of the Library never ends! We are already planning next summer's reading program, as well as restarting 1000 Books Before Kindergarten.

We are still hoping to do some major pruning and trimming of the overgrown shrubs outside the windows and the vines crawling up the walls. Some shrubs have been trimmed back in readiness for the upcoming Bridgeport mural project. We are quite chilly some days waiting for the boiler to be replaced. We are looking forward to the roof project. We are also looking at ways to make the Madison Avenue sign more noticeable.

Some technology glitches are still in need of fixing. We continue to look forward to updating our programming technology soon.

Fall is in full swing in spite of the boomerang weather. We are planning for programs through this year and into 2025.

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