

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
October 20, 2021

- Senior Librarian Jay Aiken has given notice of his intent to retire as of November 4, 2021. Jay was the Branch Manager of the Old Mill Green Branch and most recently working at Burroughs Library in the capacity of Acquisitions and Collection Development.
- For September's Library Card Sign-Up Month events we attended the Mayor's Re-Entry Initiative's event at the DMV on September 13. Staff report that 20 people stopped by the library's table. A second event at the DMV was postponed due to the weather.
- The Library also attended the Bridgeport Regional Business Expo at the Holiday Inn. The event was well-attended and many business and non-profit organizations were there. I will be following up with Gwendolyn Brantley of ACCESS Bridgeport, who has already started partnering with Newfield Branch for this summer's gaming program at the Taylor Center.
- Library Card Sign Up Month was also promoted at the library, and through our webpage and social media accounts.
- I was selected to serve on the City's Re-Entry/Second Chance ARPA Grant Funding Program Selection Committee to award \$1.5 million dollars for programs that address the needs of re-entry residents in Bridgeport. This committee will review applications for innovative and expanded programs that serve the city's re-entry residents as they reconnect with their families, seek housing, employment and other supports as they work towards rebuilding productive lives after incarceration. Serving on this committee provides an opportunity for me to meet and work closely with community leaders and promote the library as valued community resource.
- The library continues to work with various hospitals, the city's Department of Health, and the State of Connecticut to deliver vaccinations and Covid19 tests at selected library locations.
- The East Side Branch Manager reports syringes found outside the branch on a regular basis despite increased lighting, cameras, and signs that warn that the area is under surveillance. Chief Garcia was notified concerning the syringes and overnight drug use. The Narcotics Unit has been alerted, so we hope the situation improves shortly.
- Michele Jacobson (Black Rock Branch) has applied for an AARP grant.
- Supervisors attended a webinar entitled, "The Nuts and Bolts of Being a Supervisor," sponsored by the City of Bridgeport. Luis Rodriguez, East Side Branch Library Manager, has been selected to attend a series of leadership webinars with CLA (Connecticut Library Association).
- Second round of ECF funding started Sept 28. We will request an additional \$40,000 worth of refurbished laptops, tablets and new Chromebooks for loaning and remote use.
- I have submitted an Organization Chart for Board approval as a prerequisite to preparing a staffing plan.

Respectfully Submitted by Elaine Braithwaite, City Librarian