

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
April 21, 2021

The Burroughs Saden will to reopen Burroughs-Saden Library for limited browsing and computer access on Monday, April 26, 2021. We are still waiting for the customized reference desk and information pod, however with our computers connected we can open our doors to the public with safety measures and PPE in place.

The city's Legal Services department is reviewing Westech's contract for security services, which we anticipate to begin in mid-May, pending a review of the contract by Legal Services.

Among this month's documents is the library's revised reopening plan that I present to the library board for approval. I have also presented a report detailing new computers that have been deployed system-wide and a plan for computer and equipment purchases to accompany this month's voucher request. The plan for completing the computer upgrade in July is also included. Once our computers have been replaced, we will then draft a Technology Plan and Computer Equipment Replacement Plan to guide us as we move forward.

I submitted a preliminary staffing plan for the Personnel Committee's review on 4/14. While the plan will undergo some adjustments and several approval processes, it does set the stage for staffing the 21st century library here. This month all library staff have engaged in a goal-setting activity that will result in achievable goals that align with our mission and strategic plan to carry out in the next twelve months.

The State Library has sent notice that we have satisfied all requirements of the New American Collection Grant. I have included the narrative report for the grant in the Staff Reports for your review.

First aid training for nine staff will take place on April 29 as part of a Safety Committee initiative to train staff. This first group includes branch and department managers or their designee who will be able to share what they have learned with the rest of the staff. We will send more staff for this training in July.

The Library has successfully applied for continued E-Rate discounts for Internet Service and Fiber Maintenance for all of its locations. We have postponed applying for the Upper East Side Branch until we have a timeline for completion of the tech center.

I have received notices of several funding opportunities from the Division of Library Development that I and my staff will be attending, such as the FCC's New Emergency Broadband benefit for low cost broadband and device, and the American Rescue Plan Act Grants, aimed as a continuation of the CARES Act and Governor Lamont's Everybody Learns Grants.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian