

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
June 17, 2020

Staff returned to the library starting May 26 for custodians, and June 1 for all other staff after they took a COVID-19 test that yielded negative results.

The alternating week “Team 1” and “Team 2” schedule for staff is working out well. The progress to date is as follows:

- Plexiglass barriers have arrived and have been placed at customer service and reference desks at each location.
- PPE have arrived, including disposable gowns needed for circulation staff.
- I have arranged a staff training via Zoom for all staff on Friday, June 19, led by Terron Jones of the City’s EOC, Scott Appleby and Lisa Morrissey, the city’s new Director of Public Health.
- Quick Pick-up Service is in the planning stages and we expect to start this service on June 29. Paula Keegan, North Branch Manager will describe this service during the Staff Presentation portion of the board meeting.
- The Summer Reading Kickoff is planned for today, June 17. The staff has planned online programming and “Take and Make” craft bags for children and adults.
- We hope to have a computers by reservation up and running by mid-July. Computers, chairs and tables must be in line with the six feet distancing protocols. When we start this service, all locations will go back to their evening hours pre-COVID-19 so that as many patrons as possible can have access to the now one-hour reserved time slots.
- We will experiment with reserving morning hours for senior citizens or other at-risk populations that desperately need to use library computers.
- City capital project funds are in so I will be contacting OPM to set up the construction budget for the Upper East Side Library.
- We have spent approximately \$12,000 so far on PPE. We will be reimbursed 75% from a FEMA grant that the city has applied for, and 25% from the State of Connecticut. I will follow up to make sure the library is on track to receive its reimbursement.
- The library has been in the news lately with regards to its reopening plans:
 - June 1- The library was featured in a CT Post article.
 - June 3 -The City Librarian gave an interview on WICC Radio.
 - June 15 – The City Librarian was interviewed by Sean McCabe of News 12 Connecticut for an upcoming article on library reopening plans across the state.

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian