

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
August 19, 2020

The library has purchased 50 licenses from Tech Soup for public service computers. This is the limit on discounted licenses for nonprofits that we were able to purchase. These licenses will be used as we ready locations for computer access by appointment. A review of our locations reveal that Burroughs, North and the East Side can have up to eight computers set up near the entrance in order to minimize unnecessary traffic throughout the buildings. We will look at how we can add computer services at Black Rock to see how we can position computers for social distancing and minimal foot traffic in the library at this time.

We have started the process of identifying organizations to donate computers to through the National Christina Foundation. We have also distributed an application for staff to submit if they are interested in receiving a computer.

The Library will conduct a user survey of the public to provide guidance on individual and community needs as we progress through our COVID-19 reopening and position ourselves for what library service will look like post-COVID19. Among the departments we will look at is the Reference and Research department and reviving the bookmobile to serve areas where we do not have a physical presence. The task force set up by Governor Lamont has reached out to library directors in major cities to find out what kind of financial support we need to safely reopen. Expanded wifi coverage for library grounds is one area that we will most likely see funding for, but there will be a great deal of flexibility with what libraries can request. It is very likely we will be able to apply for grants to assist with not only with expanded wifi coverage, and more hotspots, but reviving the bookmobile as a technology “pop-up” library that can visit schools, community centers and housing developments where there are children and families that are in need of the services that the library provides but are not able to travel to one of our existing branches. Talks with members of the Governor’s task force and the state library are ongoing and we are very hopeful that the dialogue will result quickly in funding for initiatives that will help us provide better service to the community during this challenging time.

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian