

**BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN  
For the Month of April 2026**

Furniture orders for the East Side Library Branch are still going through the approval process with the City Attorney's Office and the Purchasing Department. We anticipate receiving the purchase orders by the second week of May. Delays were mainly caused by recently the receipt of expired CT state contracts and the need for specific language on the vendor Certificates of Insurance as required by the City of Bridgeport's attorney's office. Despite the delays, we anticipate furniture arriving around the time of the completion of the East Side Library building in July.

With the successful third-grade library visits behind us, the Library-BPS collaboration now focuses on initiatives for upcoming summer reading programs and planning for the new school year. Laura and I participated in a spelling bee at High Horizons Magnet School on April 21. Library staff will participate in upcoming parent advisory and community resource events to promote summer reading, library resources and sign-ups for library cards. Discussions are also underway to expand the library's partnership in the successful "Letters are Characters" partnership to include outreach with Bridgeport Public Schools.

The Solar House project held at Burroughs on April 18 was very well attended, with 16 participants building their own solar houses. This project was in celebration of Architecture Week, and the library appreciates the staff at the CT Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, who extended the program date to accommodate us on the Saturday after the program's official end.

The Security Services Bid is being prepared with an anticipated release date of May 14, 2026. The Pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2026 at Burroughs-Saden Main Library. The bid opening is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24.

Next, RFQ/P for the library website design and architectural/engineering professional services will be prepared for release in late June/July.

Professional meeting attendance for staff include the Connecticut Library Association Annual Meeting, April 26-28, CEN Member Connect, May 6 & 7 in Hartford, and ALA Conference and Exhibition in Chicago, June 25 – 29.

The outreach calendar continues to fill up with invites for library tabling at various locations in the city, including the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants. We have registered to participate in several parades, including the Juneteenth Parade and the Black Rock Parade in June and the Puerto Rican Day Parade in July.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite  
City Librarian  
May 20, 2026