

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
December 15, 2021

- Jeffrey Coutts has assumed Librarian II responsibilities in Adult Reference and Programming at Burroughs Library, replacing Stephen Kwasnik who recently retired.
- FEMA vacated its Disaster Recovery Center that was set up in the Popular Room at Burroughs Library. This departure, without incident, was a few weeks earlier than the December 31 date they had planned. Street parking on State and Broad Streets has been restored.
- The first of 25 of 75 hotspots have been delivered to each branch for loaning out to the public. 50 more are currently being procured by T-Mobile and will be funded through E-Rate's Emergency Connectivity fund so that each library branch will receive an additional 10 hotspots.
- While COVID-19 vaccination rates are up in Connecticut, infection rates are still a concern in Bridgeport. In light of this, we have decided it best to move our Staff Development Day to a virtual format. Staff will be able to attend the all-day event teleworking or at an on-site library location designated for staff who need reliable connectivity.
- Community outreach for November included attending the American Rescue Plan Workforce Development & Second Chance Press Conference that was held on the campus of the University of Bridgeport. Serving on this granting committee provided a wonderful opportunity for the library to be seen as a valuable part of the city's recovery and to reminded community leaders and grantees that the library is still here as a place of not only lifelong learning but also as a place where community support is available.
- I met with Lisa Labella, Director of Development and Community Outreach at The Center for Family Justice to discuss the many programs they offer for families how we can collaborate to strengthen our outreach into the community.
- Staff reports on activity in the branches and Burroughs Library follow this report.

Respectfully Submitted by
Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian