

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
November 17, 2021

The Library continues to reconnect with the community with the gradual addition of in-person programs planned to start this Fall. Outdoor programs will continue when the weather permits as they have proved to be very popular. Virtual programming will also continue.

The Library hosted school visits and participated in two well-attended events in the community: The Harvest Sunday Event held in parking lot of the Bridgeport Church of Christ on Sunday, October 24, and the Resource Fair for Differently Abled Persons sponsored by the City's Commission for Persons with Disabilities on Saturday, October 30 at the Hartford Health Center. Together, we interacted with approximately 300 adults and children through these events.

We have started the process of hiring staff to replace staff who have resigned or retired in the past year and to staff the Newfield Branch in time for a December soft opening.

The COVID-19 Testing at the North Branch has moved out of the Community Room and is now located outside the branch as a walk-in/drive through operation.

FEMA set up operations on 11/12/21 at Burroughs Library for its Hurricane Ida Disaster Recovery Center and will remain in the Popular Room until 12/31/21. FEMA will operate according to the Library's schedule so no library staff overtime will be needed. They are limited to using the Popular room and bathrooms on the first floor. Parking meters on either side of Broad Street have been blocked off for the duration of their stay.

Bridgeport has been awarded funding totaling \$73,647 from its two Emergency Connectivity Fund grant requests for hotspots, hotspot service, and refurbished laptops and tablets. There will be a third funding window open for applications in the near future. It will be a great opportunity for the library to seek funding for self-checkout machines and the remote locker system intended for the Upper East Side Library Branch.

Planning continues for Staff Development Day. We will focus on safety topics in the morning and professional development topics in the afternoon. Staff will also present on topics of interest, such as going to library school and utilizing technology in programming.

Staff attended workshops on dealing with dangerous library users, library leadership, and interpersonal communications.

Respectfully Submitted by
Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian