

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
Report for the Month of March 2022

As we begin planning the Newfield Grand Opening, we have settled on Friday, June 10 since many Juneteenth celebrations will be occurring on the following Saturday. What is the board's budget for the event? We estimate the major items to be catering, decorations and entertainment.

New staff committees met on Tuesday, April 29: Outreach, EDI (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion), and Technology. These committees are open to all staff and will provide greater engagement and participation among library staff in these important areas. Some of the activities in progress are:

- Developing an events calendar for programming and outreach
- Compiling a master list of community partners
- Preparing an EDI policy for Board approval
- Create plans for digital literacy (including Digital Navigator Pilot) and technology
- Survey staff and the public on service outcomes – Strategic Plan
- Demo new technology

We continue to interview and hire staff to fill open positions. There have been many impressive candidates to select from and we look forward to having a full staff to meet the needs of the residents of Bridgeport as we slowly recover from the COVID19 pandemic.

Ana Tollinchi and Nicholas Roman have been promoted to Library Assistant III positions, and we wish them the best success as they carry out their new responsibilities.

Taslina Sultanta, the library's new Passport Acceptance Agent, has been awarded a \$1,000 Scholarship from the Fairfield Library Director's Group. This competitive award is given to staff attending an accredited program in Library Science. There will be an acknowledgement ceremony at the Connecticut Library Association's Annual Meeting on May 5, 2022.

The ACLB sent a survey to be completed by board members. If the forms can be completed and sent to me by May 18, 2022, I will have plenty of time to meet the submission deadline.

A third and final window will open shortly for E-Rate's Emergency Connectivity Fund. The library will request funds for devices with internet service that will be used in a pilot digital navigator program. Our digital navigator program will train individuals with unmet needs for connectivity, and we will loan devices with internet service for an extended loan period, with periodic follow ups on recipients. Our pilot program will be one of many models being implemented as part of the larger State Library's initiative to close the digital divide.

Respectfully Submitted by
Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
April 20, 2022