

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
July 2022

- Funding for the Digital Navigator Pilot has been confirmed by E-Rate. We will receive a total of \$357,117.00 from the Emergency Connectivity Fund to purchase mobile devices and hotspots from Verizon and T-Mobile. In addition, we have expanded our service in the pilot to include technical support for smartphones, since staff have noted a growing demand for such assistance. These phones will also be used for outreach demonstrations.
- Marketing and outreach for the pilot will start in September. We will use the Staff Presentation portion of the Library Board meeting in September to fully update the Library Board on this pilot. Andre O'Connor and Robert Jefferies have been selected as Digital Navigator Coordinators and will manage the administration of the pilot program under the guidance of Vivian Bordeaux, Head of Technical Services and the City Librarian.
- Emergency Connectivity Funding in the amount of \$16,000.00 was applied to our recent purchase of 40 Dell laptops. These laptops were used in June for stem-based programming and will be distributed to each branch shortly for outreach, in-house programming and digital literacy instruction.
- Applications for reimbursement of for 25 Verizon hotspots that are currently being loaned to the public and 102 Chromebooks has been submitted to E-Rate under the Emergency Connectivity Fund in the amount of \$81,137.00. The Chromebooks will enable Bridgeport Public Library to implement new procedures to streamline our operations and increase collaborative communications and workflow productivity. Chromebook will also be distributed at each branch for in-house use by the public.
- Outreach efforts continue to expand as the library attended events at the Cape Verde Association's Annual Event. We also supplied Library card applications and materials to the Friends of the Library for the Bridgeport Mission's Block Party. The City's Backpack Giveaway provided a great opportunity for staff to interact with over 500 students and their parents to not only give away library card applications and encourage them to visit our branches, but to demonstrate our online services such as Tutor.com and Hoopla. Such demonstrations will become a regular part of our outreach effort moving forward. We have been invited to participate in Housatonic Community College's Orientation this fall, in cooperation with the college's library.
- Requests for hiring Beardsley staff and replacing key vacancies are being prepared for submission to the City. After that, personnel issues continued from FY 2022 will be addressed, with the assistance of the City Attorney as needed.
- Installation of the LuxerOne Library Locker at the Beardsley Branch is underway and will be supervised by Dominic Madigan, our Construction manager at Downes Construction.
- Library Office priorities at this time include continuing to submit recurring purchase requests that have been approved by the Library board in June and July.
- Kathy O'Shea of LVGBT has been introduced to Reverend Rock of the St John's Episcopal Church to revive the ESL Program there.

Respectfully Submitted by
Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
August 17, 2022