

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
For the Month of May 2024

East Side Branch Renovation Phase 2 - I am working on the purchase order for Bismark Construction Co. The timeline is tentative, although we anticipate a construction start date around July 8, 2024. I am requesting Library board approval to close the East Side Branch to the public on or after June 24, 2024, pending a confirmed date to start construction. Items we will plan for include:

- Closing of East Side Branch for construction: minimum two-week notice to the public.
- Messaging via Social Media, Webpage, flyers and press release.
- Pack books, computers and relocate shelving. Secure Data Closet
- Plan for reassignment of East Side Staff as appropriate.

We are starting to publicize the “Coming Soon” message to East Side residents in order to prepare for closing announcements.

I participated in interviews for Regional Digital Navigators this month. We were able to recruit a Bridgeport resident for the program. This is very good news, because it will ensure that at least one digital navigator from the regional grant will be available to service Bridgeport individuals and families. This individual is a native Arabic speaker, so we will be able to broad our outreach to this demographic once the program begins shortly. We reached out to several organizations in the Bridgeport area to recruit a bi-lingual recruiter and our navigator was referred to the program by CIRI (CT Institute for Immigrant and Refugees).

We met with Labor Relations to discuss an MOU establishing library normal hours of operations since it is not included in the collective bargaining contract. To date, there is no update to report on the MOU pending with Labor Relations. I have reached out to the director of Labor Relations and Civil Service for an update on the MOU. A draft should be forthcoming shortly.

We are continuing our process with True North, anticipating the final approval of the Brand House. There will be a staff meeting planned where True North presents the Brand House to staff and answers any questions that they may have on the marketing process.

We are working the Friends of the Library on a “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program to coincide with the Summer Reading Program (date TBA) , which kicks of on June 21, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
June 12, 2024