

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

The East Side Branch walkthrough occurred on March 13 and was well-attended. The bid is comprehensive, including architect drawings, and all required documents, including the contract. The bid date is April 10, 2024 at 2:00 pm. In conversation with Dawn LaValle, Construction Grant Coordinator at the State Library, our extension request is on a “consent agenda” and there will be no discussion, simply a vote. While it appears to be a routine matter, I will attend the meeting via phone so that we know the outcome as soon as possible. I recommend that we start planning for a ground-breaking ceremony as early as we can; before the end of May if practical, coordinating with the General Contractor and Antinozzi Associates.

We have welcomed our part-time Communications Librarian and look forward to improved messaging to our residents and stakeholders very soon.

We are gearing up for our busiest months for outreach. I have requested funds to replenish our outreach materials and boost staff interest and morale in our outreach activities. All of our branches are continually performing outreach at schools and community organizations, as you can read about in their monthly reports.

Status on several initiatives remain unchanged for the month of February. I will keep the Board up-to-date with any status changes. These items are: Library Assistant Job Description changes, Social Worker in the library, Blood Monitor Loan Program and the proposed repurposing of the Burroughs’ T & B Room to an entrepreneur-friendly space, open to all.

The Library’s current E-rate bid has been completed. Details of the bid and the financials should be ready to be shared at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
March 20, 2024