

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
For the Month of May 2023

I was quite surprised and pleased experience amazing goodwill and congratulations at the City's monthly departmental meeting in May. Everyone, including the mayor, spoke highly about the grand opening of the Beardsley Branch and about the amazing job that the library has done to bring projects like Newfield Library and Beardsley Branch to completion and actively serving the public.

The library continued to hold programs and events for the public, plan for a new season of community outreach, and work on technology projects, such as testing new library app. Once again, we are being invited to community events. Most notably, Councilwoman Pereira invited Beardsley staff to set up an information table at the ribbon cutting of a community dog park on May 21. While Beardsley staff attended this event, our outreach committee staff are also invaluable in honoring the requests for the library's presence at many events that are happening all over the city.

Staff who attended the Connecticut Library Association's Annual Meeting prepared reports to discuss what they learned - from new program ideas to engage adults, teens and children, the latest in bookmobiles, to AI - CLA's conference was a valuable experience for all who attended. The library sent six staff to this conference as first-time attendees. It is vital that the library continue to expose our staff, both professional and paraprofessional, to activities such as the annual CLA Conference, and encourage attendance at local meetings, such as the Intellectual Freedom Committee, Immigration Services Committee, and Youth Services committees, so that our staff will have a broad understanding of not only what we should be offering the public, but also know what the standards are that we must adhere to if we are to deliver quality services and programs to the public.

We are starting to wrap up the Digital Navigation Pilot and begin the assessment phase of the project. One preliminary outcome we have identified is that we need to create synergy between the regular computer help we provide daily with more formal instruction for our patrons. We will also use our assessment data to determine what changes will be made to the Digital Navigation program as it moves into a sustainability phase.

The Toni Morrison Stamp Dedication event at the Newfield Branch was very well attended by the community, city officials and the post masters of surrounding towns such as Fairfield, Trumbull, and Stratford. Having students from the Dunbar School sing at the event created a special gathering for the East End neighborhood to not only honor Ms. Morrison's legacy, but to talk about the closeness and history of the East End community and reaffirm their hopes for the future. It is very rewarding to have the Newfield Library serve as a gathering place for the East End community.

On My 19, staff attended an information session at Housatonic Community College sponsored by the Groundwork Bridgeport and the Trust for Public Land to update the

public on waterfront projects and to answer questions on projects currently being worked on.

Beardsley Branch Manager, Anna Knorovska was interviewed on the morning radio show at WICC radio, discussing the opening of the new branch and its programs and services. The segment aired on Wednesday, May 10, and she did a great job promoting the branch and the services of Bridgeport Public Library.

Burroughs reference staff and I attended the Mayor's State of the city and Luncheon held at the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater on May 31. The Mayor highlighted major business accomplishments and notable projects of the past two years. It was encouraging to see that the Newfield Branch was cited for its role as an important anchor of the East End Honey Locust Square project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
June 21, 2023