

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
December 21,2022

- The highlight of November was seeing an article about our Digital Navigator Program on the cover of the CT Post.
- Andre O'Connor, Coordinator of the Digital Navigator Program, and I were interviewed for an article for the CT Mirror which we hope will be published soon. One of the recipients of a Chrome book was also interviewed for this article.
- As we track the success of the Digital Navigator Program, it appears that the program compliments and enhances the digital literacy services that we currently provide in our libraries. The most pressing need is to have as many Digital Navigators as we can ready to assist with the public's needs. I am currently considering grant opportunities that we can apply for on our own and also in partnership with other CT libraries. In addition, I hope that the Library Board will consider this project worthy of operating budget funds in the upcoming fiscal year. Sustainability of Digital Navigator programs will involve not only outside funding, but a commitment for funding from levy dollars for equipment and qualified digital navigator personnel. For the Staff Presentation, Andre O'Connor will bring the Library Board up-to-date with the most recent progress of the Digital Navigator Program.
- I served as a judge/reviewer for the CT Arts Hero Nominations. The winner's award will be presented on January 18 at the Infinity Hall in Hartford. I was very impressed at the number of Bridgeport artists who were nominated. It is something to be proud of, and while the winner is not from Bridgeport, I believe the library should continue to participate in activities sponsored by the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County (Executive Director, David Green).
- Baker & Taylor's procurement issues have been resolved, and books are arriving at the libraries; Beardsley's books, as well.
- Our search committees are working towards hiring staff by the end of January.
- The library and Friends of BPL continue to attend events in the community. Programming is increasingly including more in-person events, and we continue to offer events through Zoom.
- At the Purchasing Department's advice, we have submitted an RFP for Security Services, with the goal of having a firm in place by May 2023. John Soltis is the point person on this bid.
- Several walk-throughs of the stacks at Burroughs-Saden Library have been conducted by Administration as a routine assessment of our compliance with building and fire codes and adherence to best practices in records retention and management on the Federal, state and local levels.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
December 21, 2022