

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

The Staff Association’s revised ‘Library Holiday Hours for Calendar Year 2023’ has been resubmitted to the library board for consideration.

Brian Remigio and I met with Total Communications to review the status of our Network upgrade. All cabling has been complete and two of the three servers that we have been waiting for have been delivered. The third server will arrive in a few weeks and they will be able to complete the upgrade.

Beardsley Branch opened to the public on Saturday, March 18, 2023 to much enthusiasm. Families, individuals, and teens used computers, read books and applied for library cards. Our overall library cards numbers are experiencing a boost, as happened when the East Side Branch opened.

New Library Cards 2023	February	March
Beardsley		1
Burroughs		78
North		80
Black Rock		36
Newfield		23
East Side		29
		247
		357

	Mar-23	Mar-22
Active Library Cards	12,982	11,860

In addition, our total library card holders have increased when comparing March 2022 and March 2023 statistics with an increase of 1,122 card holders.

I commend all staff that were involved in getting new books on the shelves, and putting supplies and equipment in place. All Beardsley staff were enthusiastically answering questions, helping customers, and issuing library cards. We now turn our attention to planning for the Grand Opening on April 22, which I believe will be another well-attended event for the library.

We continue to interview and hire new staff, focusing this month on the Librarian III – Burroughs-Library Public Services Manager and Assistant City Librarian interviews and assessments.

Another focus in March was completing the formal bid process to select a security firm in time to start in July when our existing contract runs out. Our panelists, made up of library staff, completed the pre-scores, interviews of the two highest scoring firms, and submitted final scores. I prepared the necessary

documents to ensure that the library's purchase request would be on the agenda of the next Board of Public Purchases meeting on April 12.

Our Digital Navigation Coordinator has reported that as of March 2023, seven hundred and fifty-six residents have participated in our pilot program. This figure includes devices distributed and instructional appointments that have been made.

One of the Library's goals is to have knowledgeable staff to serve the public. I have managed to increase the workshop offerings for Staff Development Day so that all staff will have several opportunities to learn new skills and information and review procedures that will ensure continuity, consistency and excellence in public service as we deliver a valuable service to the residents of Bridgeport. I am preparing a questionnaire for staff to respond to on staff development day that will provide useful input for the board's current strategic planning.

The Association of Connecticut Library Boards has upcoming webinars that may interest the library board:

Library Board Basics: Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm

Freedom of Information Act, Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00 pm

Intellectual Freedom 101 for Library Boards, Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 pm.

Registration is available through the ACLB website: www.aclb.wildapricots.org. I am available to assist any interested library board member with registration.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
April 19, 2023