

Bridgeport Public Library
Assistant City Librarian's Report
July 2023

In July, Tanarha Smith, Robert Jefferies and I interviewed four Pages and extended offers to them. All four accepted, but one had to resign due to scheduling conflicts. The remaining Pages, Jamal Joseph, Randy Mai, and Joshua Sampson, will train at Burroughs and then be assigned their permanent locations. Tanarha Smith, Margaret Girgis, Kristin Graf and I also interviewed three Librarian I candidates and selected two to hire. Katherine Mozier-Tichy will be working in Public Services at Burroughs with Adults and Teens while Matthew Blaine will be working at the Black Rock Branch. Finally, Nykia Eaddy, Alexis Young and I interviewed Gerline Potus, a PT LA, for the position of FT LA, which led to her promotion.

I have had the opportunity to visit all of the locations multiple times to get to know the staff and communities better. During one of my visits to East Side, Luis Rodriguez and I discussed collections and calculated his current linear square feet of shelving. Elaine and the staff also hosted a lovely ice cream social to welcome me.

I attended an overview of Northstar Digital Literacy, a program made available to us through the State Library. It provides online learning modules and assessments, which will be helpful for our Digital Navigator program. We may also be interested in using it for staff training. Additionally, I attended training on how to organize community conversations aimed at developing digital inclusion collaborations. The State Library has stated that there will be many digital literacy grant opportunities in the upcoming year and it is a great time to start talking with other digital literacy partners. One group we have recently been in touch with is Career Resources and we are looking into working with them to provide additional computer classes at the Library. I have also met with Literacy Volunteers and will arrange for them to come to a staff meeting to share updated information. Paula Keegan and I met with Misty Beyer from Music for Youth and we are working towards a number of initiatives including an open mic style Café program as well as concerts with BackCountry Jazz/KEYS and a potential partnership with the schools. Moreover, I met with Angelina Hinojosa, the Campus Director of Library at Housatonic, to discuss getting new students library cards. As a result, Tanarha Smith and I will be attending a Q&A at a new student event at Housatonic in September. I attended a Back to School Event at Columbus School with Taslima Sultana where I was able to connect with students, teachers, and other community groups. In August, I will be attending a new student event at Skane School.

I have been working with the Branch Managers to adjust reporting so that we can compile a side by side branch spreadsheet. Furthermore, I have been learning how to make updates on the website and have been working on a public service SharePoint site where staff can find procedures, helpful resources, etc. Brian Remigio and the City Librarian, Elaine Braithwaite, had previously started an administrative SharePoint where we can find policies, and other important forms and documents. I have attended Managers, Policy, Programming, and Outreach meetings as well as led a Collection Development meeting. I will also be on the Safety and Technology Committees. In August I will be meeting with vendors that offer software for event management and room bookings to see if they can improve service for our patrons and streamline our workflow.

I have been spending time this month absorbing information and I have found the staff to be passionate about the role the library plays in individual lives and the community. I look forward to working alongside them to foster community connections, interest drive learning, creative exploration and skill development through library services.