

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

All budget transfers approved in November have been completed. The YTD Library budget reflects these transferred amounts.

The Library closed for Staff Development Day on December 2, 2024. The day was very productive. Most of the staff surveyed found our main speaker, Maxine Bleiweiss, to be an excellent and inspiring library professional. As part of her presentation, staff brainstormed on ideas that they would like to see implemented to create a welcoming place for our patrons. We will form a taskforce to put some of these ideas into practice.

Branch Managers and supervisors attended a training on writing effective procedures.

The Connecticut Library Association's Legislative Committee held a series of Meet & Greets for new and returning state representatives. Library directors were able to present common concerns and our agenda for the new session. CLA is seeking to restore funding for essential library services cut in 2008, for such essential services the State Library provides CT libraries, such as DeliverIT and programming support. We received advice from attending legislators on how best to strategize as we lobby on our issues in this legislative year. I appreciate Director Patton's attendance at the Meet & Greet. Library directors in attendance included those from West Haven Public Library, Fairfield Public Library, and Stamford Public Library. I met with Cristin McCarthy Vahey, State Representative, who serves Bridgeport and Fairfield. She expressed interest in visiting Bridgeport Public Library. She also acknowledged that State Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox received my invitation but was not able to attend due to other commitments. Once again, Bridgeport's representation in this Meet & Greet was very well-received and the representatives expressed their positive sentiments to offer more support to the City of Bridgeport.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
January 15, 2025