

**BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN  
For the Month of February 2026**

Final planning was made for the upcoming BPS library visits to occur throughout the month of March for all third graders. We have coordinated with the Superintendent's office to arrange for the school bus transportation and will receive a discounted price for the Friends of BPL, who will be paying for the school visit transportation. During the month of March, the Library will also collaborate with BPS to promote their Reading Challenge, where students commit to reading for 15 minutes per day. Some Library staff will visit schools on March 12 and participate in Read Aloud Day

A bid for Internet Service for a five-year cycle starting July 1, 2026 was facilitated for the Library by Kellogg & Sovereign through the Erate program. CEN was awarded the bid. In addition, a bid for network hardware and equipment was won by Total Communications. We are seeking library board acceptance of these bids at this meeting and the items will be placed on the July 2026 vouchers, which is the start of the award cycle. Amounts are as follows:

- Internet Services: \$16,200 for all BPL Libraries starting 7/1/2026
- Network Infrastructure upgrades: 179,562.52 minus 85% (Erate discount) = \$26,934.38  
Library cost, due: 7/1/2026.

Managers and Supervisors participated in trainings this month along with others within the City of Bridgeport. These trainings are valuable to ensure that as managers and supervisors we are all not only following city policy, but also learning, by lecture and collaboration, the soft skills necessary to manage an effective workforce.

East Side staff and Library administration met with Antinozzi Associates to review the furniture selections for the branch. The colors are mostly in line with the muted colors at the Beardsley Branch. Staff examined the furniture choices and gave feedback on the utility of the furniture choices. All selections were satisfactory and the next step is to work with the purchasing department to place orders using state contracts. The total cost of furniture is \$215,000.00, an increase over what has been initially budget, so approval is sought for this purchase.

The Library has been invited to the Interfaith Dinner at the BICC on March 8. I attended last year and look forward to attending again. The Bridgeport Islamic Center led by Chairman and founder Dr. Afifi brings together - from Bridgeport, Milford, Trumbull Fairfield and Stratford -elected and appointed officials, community leaders, residents and families for fellowship and meaningful discussions that cross common ground and build community.

We met with Coach Don Wilson to finalize details of bringing the Esports program to Newfield. We are anticipating a start to the program in April.

The Library hosted many programs for adults and children for Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and Take Your Child to the Library Day. We received great coverage from News 12 for the latter event.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite  
City Librarian  
March 18, 2026