

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

The third grade library visit for Bridgeport Public Schools took place this month. The library hosted thirty classes across all library locations. Students participated in crafts, story time, and browsed library shelves. Each student was allowed to borrow a book during their visit. Overall, the visits went very well and we look forward to continuing this initiative in future years.

Furniture is being ordered for the East Side Branch. Antinozzi Associates provided all specifications and state contract pricing that has been sent to the City's purchasing department for approval. Once the City's process results in an approval number, Antinozzi Associates staff will be able to place the order. Books and other library materials are also being ordered for the branch.

I attended an owner's meeting for the East Side Branch. The construction is progressing. All structural work has been completed, and internet cabling and electrical work was in the process of being installed. Since the library construction contract has expired, payments through the current purchase order has been blocked. I am working with the Finance department to get payments processed with the library's surplus funds.

The Outreach Committee coordinated our first major event of the year, the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Black Rock. Everyone wore lovely green T-shirts with the library's logo and the slogan "Lucky to Be in Bridgeport." Black Rock branch manager, Margaret Girgis and outreach coordinator, Joyiesha Smoak designed the T-shirts. We have started our outreach event planner for the year as we receive invitations for various events.

I met with the Media and Marketing committee to discuss upcoming priorities, such as a bid for a new website design that will go out in the coming week. The security service bid draft is near completion and should be sent to the Purchasing department in April.

Several members of the Bridgeport state delegation held a "community conversation" event at the Main Library on March 26. The event was very well attended. The League of Women Voters sponsored the event and had a table with information and voter registration applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
April 15, 2026