

**BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
For the Month of October 2025**

The Library attended the ribbon cutting event of M&T Bank's grand opening of its new branch at the Honey Locust Square in the East End. As a part of the event, the Friends of Bridgeport Public Library was presented with a ceremonial check for the \$6,000 that the bank has pledged to support an expansion of the eSports program at the Newfield Branch. The eSports programs at Newfield and North Branches will run from February until August.

Policies for Bridgeport Public Library that have been approved by the state library for statutory compliance have been included in this month's board packets. Once approved at tonight's meeting, the draft minutes will be sent by the December 1 deadline to the state library and the minutes of the approved board minutes in December. With this sequence of events, the Library will be in full compliance.

The Library has referred the resolution of accounts at Baker & Taylor to the City Attorney's office. The library has a credit balance of \$50,000 for the East Side opening day book collection and approximately \$42,000 in outstanding invoices. Since Baker & Taylor is ending business operations as early as January 2026, it is imperative that we resolve all accounts and receive any monies due us as soon as possible. With the City Attorney's involvement it is hoped that our business with Baker & Taylor will be wrapped up in quick order.

I attended the Digital Summit held at Hartford Public Library on October 7. In recognition of Digital Awareness Week, this event gathered many in the library community and community partners together to look at the progress that has been made towards providing digital equity to our patrons and clients. David Morales, Library Assistant I and Digital Navigator for BPL, joined a panel where participants in the Regional Digital Navigator Grant Project gave updates and impressions on the program. The two-year grant program has completed as of October We 2025. Participating in this regional grant was very good for Bridgeport Public Library. Our staff has gained invaluable experience, and we are one of the leading libraries across the state to support a digital navigator program with opportunities for individual and group technical training.

Comcast has confirmed that they will donate \$20,000 to Bridgeport Public Library for our digital navigator program. These funds will be used to purchase refurbished laptops that will be distributed to digital navigator clients in need. Childrens' Department staff have begun selecting toys that will become Traveling Toys Circulating Collections at Burroughs-Saden and the North Branch.

The Library, in partnership with the Klein Memorial Auditorium, presented the Zamonies, a well-known-both locally and nationally, rock group that writes songs about hockey, on October 24. The attendance for this concert was 75-100 people. While our next two concerts will most likely have larger audiences, it is the opinion of library administration that we rethink this concert series and see if we can use the programming funds to support an author series or "one city-one book" type of program designed to reach a large number of participants.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
November 19, 2025