

Check it out...



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A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library Jan 2025

Portland Library hours:

Monday — Thursday 10:00 a.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

The Library is closed Wednesday, January 1st for the New Year Holiday

The Library is closed on Monday, January 20th for Martin Luther King Day

Quilts and Quilting

Wednesday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.

Join us as Mary Macilvain delves into the rich history of quilting and the artistry behind its timeless patterns. Discover how these intricate designs tell stories of tradition, culture, and craftsmanship. Whether you're a seasoned quilter or a curious beginner, this event is sure to inspire and ignite your creativity! **Registration is requested.**



Adult Craft Night: Knitting Without Needles

Wednesday, January 29, 6:00 p.m.

Learn the fast and fun knitting craze called arm knitting. At the end of the program, patrons will know how to cast on, knit and bind off a cozy infinity scarf.



Registration is required and space is limited.

Monthly Writers' Café

Saturday, Jan 18, 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The first hour will be quiet, communal, writing time with the final 30 minutes set aside to chat about your project with fellow writers!

Adult Winter Reading Challenge: Winter Reading is Oh "Sew" Cozy!



**Thursday, January 2 -
Friday, February 28**

Portland Library's Winter Reading Challenge is back! This year's theme is a textile-based challenge that's all about staying warm and cozy.

Visit the library on or after January 2 and we'll give you a quilt to fill in with the books you read. Once you've read 9 books and have a complete quilt, you will have completed the challenge and will win a small prize.

Everyone who completes the challenge will be entered into a drawing. The winner will select a book (up to a \$40 value) to be added to the library's collection.

Wednesday Movie 1:00 p.m.

January 8th

It Ends With Us



It's All About Family, Building Your Family Tree Saturday, January 18, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.



This presentation by Mary Maki will cover using the census, important websites (many are free), building family trees, keeping organized, and the all-important, but not so much fun, citing your work. A detailed handout will be available. **Registration is required.**

Youth Services News and Events

Winter Reading Challenge: Winter Reading is Oh “Sew” Cozy! Thursday, January 2—Friday, February 28



Portland Library’s Winter Reading Challenge is back!
This year’s theme is a textile-based challenge that’s all about staying warm and cozy.

Visit the library on or after January 2 and we’ll tag one of the quilt squares on our bulletin board with your name. Each time you check out materials in January and February (up to once per day), we’ll give you a jumbo craft stick to color and we’ll add it to your quilt square. Watch our community quilt grow as you check out books and other library materials throughout the winter! Once you’ve added eight craft sticks and have a full square, you will have completed the challenge and will win a small prize.

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS!

Saturday, January 25 @ 10:30 a.m.: *Jigsaw Puzzle Competition for Kids and Adults*

Saturday, February 1: *Take Your Child to the Library Day*

Saturday, February 8 @ 11:00 a.m.: *Health Care Heroes Storytime with Middlesex Health*

Monday, February 10 @ 6:00 p.m.: *Tangled and Ingested Workshop with Kat Owens*
(ages 11 and up; younger with sewing skills)

Tuesday, February 18: *Snow Day at the Library*



Winter 2025 Storytimes

Registration is now open and can be done by calling the library at 860-342-6770 or registering through our library calendar at www.portlandlibraryct.org.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 27
(no program February 18)

Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose

Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m.

January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14,
21, 28

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition Saturday, January 25 at 10:30 a.m.

What’s more cozy than staying in and working on a puzzle together? Create a team with friends and family, come up with a group name, and register for our second jigsaw puzzle tournament! Teams may consist of 2-4 people of all ages who will compete to finish the same 500-piece puzzle in the least amount of time. Coffee, tea and hot cocoa will be available.
Space is limited to 7 teams so register early.



Youth Services News and Events

Family Craft Night: Salt and Pepper Shaker Snowmen

Wednesday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m.

This month we'll be transforming ordinary salt shakers into charming winter figures. With a variety of supplies such as paint, scarves, buttons, and mini accessories, you'll create your very own unique snowman to take home and display. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision.

Registration is required and opens on January 2 at 10:00 a.m.



Cozy Cooking Club

Thursdays at
3:30 p.m.
January 16,
23, 30
Grades K-2



Winter is comfort food season! Chefs in grades K-2 are invited to join Ms. Jenn to create three dishes based on our textile-themed winter reading program. No cooking experience necessary. Space is limited. Please let us know if you have any food allergies or aversions when registering.

January 16: Three Little Pigs in Blankets

January 23: Burrito Blankets

January 30: Pizza Pockets

Registration for this program will open on Thursday, January 2 at 10:00 a.m.



Teen Programs: Fairy Penguin Canvas Art

Monday, January 27
at 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Kat Owens is a plastic pollution researcher, artist and activist. She creates life-size portraits of animals harmed by plastic pollution by hand sewing film plastic onto canvas. She will be visiting the library in February for a workshop where our community helps her create a piece of art. We'll use her craft kits to make our own individual works of art in this teen program. **Registration is required and opens on January 2 at 10:00 a.m.**

LGBTQ+ Teen Game Night

Join QPlus every first and third Wednesday nights for tabletop gaming, pizza and snacks, games, crafts and more. Open to ages 13-18. Free snacks! All identities are welcome!

Read to a Therapy Dog

Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
January 4, February 1

Devyn and Lucy from Middletown High School's animal ambassador program are back for monthly visits this school year! Kids between the ages of 3 and 12 can make an appointment for a 15-minute session to read to Lucy. Register through our website at www.portlandlibraryct.org or by calling 860-342-6770.



BENEFITS:

- Boosts Reading Confidence
- Reduces Stress and Anxiety
- Makes Reading Fun
- Promotes Emotional Connection and Comfort



Portland Library
www.portlandlibraryct.org



Instagram
[@portlandlibraryct](https://www.instagram.com/portlandlibraryct)

More News...



Thank You

Donations:

Books:

Carolyn Freeman

Memorial Fund:

Henry Strom

Sue & Dave Priest in memory of Joan Hughes

Endowment Fund:

Muriel Barlow

January Book Club Picks

T.A.B. Talk about Books

Tuesday, January 7, 1:00 p.m.

Wind in the Willows

by Kenneth Grahame

1st Thursday Night Book Club

Thursday, January 9, 6:30 p.m.

The Whip

by Karen Kondazian

Mystery Lovers Book Club

Tuesday, January 21, 1:00 p.m.

Reykjavik

by Ragnar Jonasson



Ongoing Food Drive

Donate nonperishable food to be delivered to the Portland Food Bank! Fill the shopping cart with love and caring for your neighbors!

Museum Passes & Yard Games

Check out the latest on museums for art, nature, history, and fun! We have Connect 4, Jenga and Dice yard games available for a 3 day loan period.

Go to the library website and click on Library Museum Passes or call to reserve a pass or game. Reservations are recommended.

Library Meetings:

Friends of the Library

Monday, January 6, 7:00 p.m.

Library Board of Directors:

Thursday, January 16, 7:00 p.m.

To Reach the Library

20 Freestone Avenue

Portland, CT 06480

860-342-6770

Website: www.portlandlibraryct.org

Library Director

Jennifer Billingsley

jbillingsley@portlandct.org

Knifty Knitters

Saturdays 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

The Knitters (and Crocheters) of Portland are open to new, adult members of all experience levels, beginning fiber artists welcome! Drop in at this weekly knitting circle where people share ideas, get helpful knitting tips and enjoy chatting with others who enjoy these creative hobbies.



DID YOU KNOW?

Portland Public Library

At A Glance | FY2024



48,712

LIBRARY VISITS

5.17 visits per resident



349 IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

6,288 in-person & virtual program attendees

4,291 reference questions answered



111,542 ITEMS CIRCULATED

11.83 physical & electronic items borrowed per resident



12 PUBLIC COMPUTERS

4,121 public computer sessions

Statistics from "Connecticut's Public Libraries: A Statistical Profile, 2023-2024" by the Connecticut State Library.



January Book Displays at the Library:

Librarian authors, MLK Jr tribute, National Hobby Month, Island of Misfit Books, and our favorite Staff Picks!

