

# Check it out...



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## A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library Dec 2024

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 closing at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday,  
December 24th.

The Library is closed Wednesday, December 25  
for the Christmas Holiday!

The Library is closing at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday,  
December 31st.

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

HAPPY  
*Holidays!*

### Adult Craft Night

**Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.**

Learn how to fold book pages into a cozy little hedgehog for your mantle with Michele. We'll have some cute accessories for them, but feel free to bring additional craft supplies from home to share! Recycling and an adorable winter craft, what's not to love?



**Registration is required and space is limited.**

### Monthly Writers' Café

**Saturday, Dec 21, 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!

### Silent Auction of Hand Crafted Items at the Portland Library

The Knifty Knitters of the Portland Library and other community crafters have donated handcrafted items for our second annual silent auction to benefit the Friends of the Portland Library. This year the goods include shawls, a handcrafted art book, hats for kids and adults, and a flock of emotional support chickens! Due to anticipated demand no items will have a "buy it now" option this year.

Thank you to the Knifty Knitters, the community crafters, our Friends group and our amazing library staff member Chris Edie and our Friends project liaison Meg Scata who all worked together to make this auction possible!

Bidding begins Monday, December 2nd. Final bids will be due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 13th. Payment by cash or personal check will be due by 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday December 18th at the latest. Check out the display cases at the library now and get a jump start on your holiday shopping!

**Wednesday Movie 1:00 p.m.**

**December 11**

*Thelma (2024)*



### Artist Reception Birds and Bridges along the Lower Connecticut River Valley by Chris Graham Saturday, Dec. 14, 1:00 p.m.

Chris Graham is a Portland resident who has been photographing the area for the last 15 years. He enjoys capturing all aspects of nature, most recently he has been photographing eagles and osprey from his kayak along the Connecticut River. Over the last 3 years he has also been documenting a family of barred owls that lives behind his house. Chris's work has been shared on Fox61, WFSB3 and in several publications.

The exhibit runs through mid-January.  
Reception sponsored by the Friends of the Portland Library.

# Youth Services News and Events

## Late Fall/ Early Winter Storytimes



Registration can be done by calling the library at 860-342-6770 or through our library calendar at [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org).

### Preschool Storytime Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. December 3, 10

Stories, songs, and rhymes that encourage literacy and social skills. A craft related to the weekly theme can be done at the library or brought home.

### Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose

Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m.  
December 4, 11

Mother Goose on the Loose, a fun-filled interactive session for our youngest patrons, uses rhymes, a story, songs, puppets, scarves, and more to stimulate the learning process of babies and toddlers. Two sessions will be offered each Wednesday to keep group sizes small and interactions personalized.



**Celebrate  
Hanukkah!**  
Tuesday,  
December 17 at  
4:00 p.m.

You are invited to celebrate Hanukkah in this program led by Portland residents Barbara Sequenzia and Liz Hibino. Whether you actively celebrate Hanukkah or just want to learn more about this holiday, you are invited to join us for stories, songs, games and some delicious latkes. This program is geared towards kids in grades K-5 and their families, but all are welcome.

**Registration is required.**

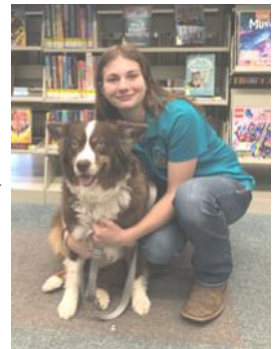
## Read to a Therapy Dog

Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
December 7, 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](http://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



**Elf Academy**  
Thursdays from 3:30—4:30 p.m.  
December 5, 12, 19  
Grades K-5

Do you have what it takes to be an elf? Join us for a three-week training session that will cover all of the basics of working at the North Pole, including cookie decorating, ornament creation, learning how to wrap presents, and helping to feed the reindeer! Registration is required and space is limited.

# Youth Services News and Events

## Family Craft Night: Gingerbread Houses

Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Use your imagination to create a unique and tasty house to bring home with you using graham crackers, frosting and other delicious supplies.

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 space is limited.**



## Meet and Greet with the Snow Sisters

Monday, December 30 at 11:00 a.m.

Calling all fans of Elsa and Anna!

The Snow Sisters will be visiting the Portland Library for a morning of songs, games, crafts and plenty of photo opportunities.

**Registration is required and space is limited.**



## Teen Program: Ugly Sweater Cookie Decorating Party

Monday, December 16  
at 3:30 p.m.

Design your own ugly or festive holiday sweater cookie with our variety of icings and decorations. Hot chocolate will also be offered. This program is open to students in grades 6-up and registration is required.

## 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 pizza and snacks! All Identities welcome!

## Holiday Storytime

Wednesday, December 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Come join Ms. Patty for a festive morning of holiday stories, songs and finger rhymes. A craft will be offered at the end of the program. This program is for ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

**Registration is required and space is limited.**



## Storytime with Santa

Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m.

This evening family program is open to kids of all ages and their caregivers. Ms. Jenn will read some holiday stories and a special guest will join us to talk about his life at the North Pole! Registration is required and space is limited.



**Portland Library**  
[www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org)



**Instagram**  
**@portlandlibraryct**

## More News...



### December Book Club Picks

#### T.A.B. Talk about Books

Tuesday, December 3, 1:00 p.m.

*Ladder of Years*

by Ann Tyler

#### 1st Thursday Night Book Club

Thursday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.

*The Authenticity Project*

by Clare Pooley

#### Mystery Lovers Book Club

Tuesday, December 17, 1:00 p.m.

*The Sunset Years of Agnes Sharp*

by Leonie Swann

# Thank You

#### Donations:

##### Book:

Nancy Sawyer

LeonaMae Page

Paula Brown - in memory of Karen L. (Kirsche)

Miller

##### Memorial Fund:

Henry Strom

LeonaMae Page

Tony Ferraiolo

Mary Maki

Sharon Dukett



#### 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.

#### 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?



Need something to do with the family during these long, dark, cold evenings?

Check out the library's large selection of board games!

We have Rummikub, Apples to Apples, Uno, Catan, Five Crowns, Clue, Cribbage, Yahtzee, Candy Land, Cards Against Humanity (family edition) and many more.

Board games are available to be borrowed for 3 weeks without reservation.

#### Library Meetings:

##### Friends of the Library

Monday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.

##### Library Board of Directors:

Thursday, December 19, 7:00 p.m.

#### To Reach the Library

20 Freestone Avenue

Portland, CT 06480

860-342-6770

Website: [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org)

#### Library Director

Jennifer Billingsley

[jbillingsley@portlandct.org](mailto:jbillingsley@portlandct.org)

#### December Book Displays at the Library:

Holiday Fiction, DIY cards & gifts, Holiday cooking and our favorite Staff Picks!

