

Check it out...



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A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library October 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.



Monday, October 13th
Library closed in honor of Columbus Day

Adult Craft Night: Felted Pumpkins Monday, October 27, 6:00 p.m.

Learn the joy of needle felting with Pop up Art School and create a felted pumpkin. You'll gain the basic skills of needle felting, walking away with a finished piece, a foam block, needles, and the confidence to continue your felting journey independently. Each patron will make one felted pumpkin.



Registration is required and opens on Monday, Oct 6th at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited.

Banned Books Week October 5th to 11th

Censorship Is So 1984 — Read for Your Rights

"With the escalation in attempts to ban books in libraries, schools, and bookstores around the country, George Orwell's cautionary tale "1984" serves a prescient warning about the dangers of censorship. This year's theme reminds us that the right to read belongs to all of us, that censorship has no place in contemporary society, and that we must defend our rights." - the American Library Association

Join us in reading and advocating for the freedom to read diverse literature.

Friends of the Portland Library Annual Book Sale



Friday, 10/17, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Members Only Preview Night.

Books will be available at \$10/bag. All other items will be available as marked. Existing 2025 Membership honored and new memberships may be purchased that evening for \$15, or prepaid through Venmo at www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org/

Saturday, 10/18, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Books will be available \$10/bag from 10 a.m. to Noon. Books, CDs and DVDs will be available \$10/bag from Noon – 2:00 p.m. All other items will be available as marked.

Sunday, 10/19, 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

ALL DAY BAG SALE! \$3/Bag (but only \$2/bag for Members!)

Halloween on Main

Friday, October 24, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Portland Library will be giving away books in front of the Police Station again!

Contact Courtney Fitzkee
<CFitzkee@portlandct.org>
from Portland's Youth and Family Services Department for information on how to sign up to have a table at this event!



Youth Services News and Events

Fall Storytimes

Fall storytimes began in September and are currently full; new registrations will be added to a waiting list.

**Preschool Storytimes (ages 3-5):
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

October 7, 14, 21, 28

Stories, songs and rhymes that encourage literacy and social skills and help get your preschooler prepared for kindergarten. We will offer a craft each week that can be done at the library or brought home.

**Toddlers and Tots Storytime (ages 0-2):
Wednesdays at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m.**

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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.



Painting with Plants Thursday, October 16 at 3:30 p.m. Grades K-5 On the Portland Town Green

Join Portland Library and Everyone Outside for this outdoor program! We will make our own paint brushes by tapping on red stick dogwood until it frays and then create masterpieces using natural materials such as pokeweed berry juice, mud and flowers. Registration is required and opens on Monday, September 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Late Fall Storytimes

Fall storytimes will begin on November 12.
Registration is required and begins on
Monday, October 27.

**Preschool Storytimes (ages 3-5):
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

November 18, 25, December 2, 9

Stories, songs and rhymes that encourage literacy and social skills and help get your preschooler prepared for kindergarten. We will offer a craft each week that can be done at the library or brought home.

**Toddlers and Tots Storytime (ages 0-2):
Wednesdays at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m.**

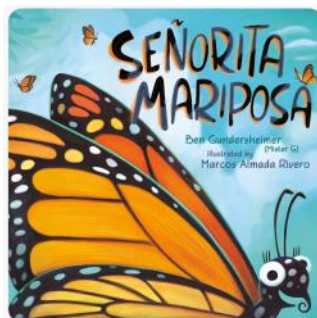
November 12, 19, 26, December 3, 10

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.

New StoryWalk® at Riverfront Park: *Senorita Mariposa*

Our fall StoryWalk® is up at Riverfront Park! This bilingual Spanish/English title takes a child-friendly look at the journey that monarch butterflies take each year from Canada to Mexico.

StoryWalk® is a fun, educational activity that places a children's storybook along a popular walking route in the community. StoryWalk® was created as a way for people of all ages to combine physical activity with books and to help build children's interest in reading while encouraging healthy activity for all.



Youth Services News and Events



Fire Truck Storytime Saturday, October 11 at 11:00 am On the Town Green

October is Fire Safety Month! Join us for a short storytime on the Town Green followed by a visit from Portland firefighters and a fire truck!

All ages welcome, no registration required for this event.



Cooking with Apples Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. October 30 and November 6 Grades K-2

A staff member from Food Explorers will teach us how to create two different apple-themed recipes during this two-week program. Learn how to make apple fritters and apple crumble from scratch!

Registration is required and opens on Monday, September 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Teen Program: Haunted Doll Houses Monday, October 6 at 3:30 p.m.

Students in grades 6 and up are invited to join us as we take traditional doll houses and turn them into spooktacular haunted homes.

Registration is required and opens on Monday, September 29 at 10:00 a.m.



Family Craft Night: Ghost Portraits

Thursday, October 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Create your own spooky ghost portrait or ghost family portrait using felt, fabric flowers, stars, and other materials we have on hand. You provide the creativity, we'll provide the 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 opens on Monday, September 29 at 10:00 a.m.



Portland Library
www.portlandlibraryct.org



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

More News...



October Book Club Picks

T.A.B. Talk about Books

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

The Measure

by Nikki Erlick

1st Thursday Night Book Club

Thursday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.

Home Before Dark

by Riley Sager

Mystery Lovers Book Club

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

Mother-Daughter Murder Night

by Nina Simon

Thank You

Donations:

Endowment Fund:

Leaf from Portland Library Staff - in celebration of Karen Slocum's 28 years at Portland Library.

Happy Retirement Karen!!



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!

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?

New Museum Passes



Connecticut Museum of Culture & History

Free Family admission: 2 adults and up to 4 children. <https://www.connecticutmuseum.org/>
Printable



Mattatuck Museum

Free admission for 2 Adults (Children under 16 admitted Free)
<https://www.mattmuseum.org>
Printable

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 Portland Library

Monday, September 29, 7:00 p.m.

Library Board of Directors:

Thursday, October 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

October Book Displays at the Library:

Scary Fiction, Banned books, Fall cookbooks, Local Authors, and our favorite Staff Picks!

