

## Event Calendar

Mother's Day, 5/8/22  
 RAB Meeting 5/10/22  
 Board Meeting, 5/16/22  
 Chatham Court  
 Community Center  
 Memorial Day, 5/30/22  
 Office Will Be Closed

### Don't Forget:

All residents have the option to pay rent via "direct debit." With direct debit, residents won't run the risk of a late rent payment.

### COVID-19

#### Antigen Rapid Test

If anyone would like a self-test at home with results in 15 minutes, Holly has two full boxes at Quarry Heights and can personally deliver. (They expire in August)



## Tenant Corner

To help our maintenance team complete jobs quickly and without interference, please do not make requests directly. Contact the main office to set up a work order.

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If a resident has a guest visit and the guest causes damage or disturbs neighbors, it is the responsibility of the tenant to make amends.

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Dogs must be leashed on all Housing property for the safety of children, adults, dogs, and owners.



# PORTLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY MAY 2022 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## April Showers Bring May Flowers



Lily of the Valley is a May birth flower. It is most found in white. The most common association with these flowers is the recognition as a symbol of romance. The Lily of the Valley is also a symbol of good luck and happiness, as they are often put on display in celebration of the arrival of spring. It is also said that because of their sweet fragrance and small white flowers, they blossoms have become a symbol of humility and purity. People born in May exhibit many of these qualities. The friend who seems blessed by random good things happening all the time but still has both feet on the ground was probably born in May!  
 (Chermaine Chee, 6/1/21)

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Happy Birthday to HOH's: Pamela Basiel, Kerry Bodamer, Walter Jackson, and Lawrence Mazzillo of Quarry Heights and Christine Anderson, Odessa Buttram, Crucito Liranzo, Taneaia Pipkin, Giemar Rivera, Marlin Salcedo, and Milca Santiago of Chatham Court.

## News and Information for Everyone

A big thank you to those of you who have introduced themselves to Holly, our new RSC, and/or attended the **Meet and Greets at both Quarry Heights and Chatham Court**. While Quarry Heights was a little light on attendance, it gave those who attended a better chance to win each raffle. At Quarry Heights, Linda Baker won the fabulous summer camp chair and Matt Gayeski won an awesome cooler. At Chatham Court, both Maria Diaz and Anyelina won beautiful plants with pots from A Dong Asian Market in West Hartford and made with TLC by Holly.



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We have a wonderful Chatham resident who has just submitted the application for a **Habitat for Humanity** home in East Hampton, CT. Let's keep our fingers crossed for our resident to become a first-time homebuyer with Habitat for Humanity.

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How about an enjoyable evening out with your friends and/or family this summer? The Portland Summer Concert Series will return to the Riverfront Park in July. For more details call: (860) 342-6757.

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Remember to sign up for **free heating and water assistance** (applications due by May 31, 2022). Receive up to \$1015 in heating assistance, and up to \$3600 per child in tax credits. Learn more at: [www.ct.gov/dss/waterassistance](http://www.ct.gov/dss/waterassistance), [www.ct.gov/staywarm](http://www.ct.gov/staywarm), and [www.simplifyct.org](http://www.simplifyct.org).

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**Town-Wide Tag Sale, Saturday, May 7th:** If you by chance need to spring clean and would like to donate something, or, maybe you just need something more in your apartment and do not want to pay store prices, check out the Portland Historical Society's website [www.portlandhistsoc.org](http://www.portlandhistsoc.org) then click the link to register or just attend on May 7<sup>th</sup> and enjoy. For further information, call: (860) 335-8581. By the way, membership for seniors is only \$10/year, individuals \$15/year, and families \$25/year. Your support is essential to their success at collecting, preserving, and sharing Portland's history.

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In the 4/1/22 River East News Bulletin, it was mentioned that the Town of Portland unanimously approved an easement allowing public access to the river through the Tilcon property on Airline Avenue (very close to Chatham Court) and will also soon be a potential boat launch for non-motorized watercraft. Not only will residents be able to take advantage of access to the river, but small businesses hope to benefit from out-of-town visitors.

## Office Main Phone Line:

**(860) 342-1688**

**Holly Kobayashi, ext. #115**  
[hkobayashi@portlandha.org](mailto:hkobayashi@portlandha.org)

**Susan Nellis, ext. #113**  
[snellis@portlandha.org](mailto:snellis@portlandha.org)

**Carol Diaz, ext. #110**  
[cdiaz@portlandha.org](mailto:cdiaz@portlandha.org)

**Dan Rafaniello, ext. #112**  
[drafaniello@portlandha.org](mailto:drafaniello@portlandha.org)

**Jeffrey Costa, 860-519-3251**  
 For emergencies

### Hours of Operation:

Monday-Thursday  
 8:30-4:30 p.m.  
 Friday  
 8:30-1:30 p.m.

**Please call before visiting**



When opportunity knocks, open the door. Book a résumé appointment with Holly. The timing could not be better: lots of jobs now.



Among other qualifications for the resident service coordinator position, she is a professional résumé writer and career consultant.



A new résumé is the best way to land an interview that will lead to a fabulous new job.

While most scholarship applications have expired in April, any high school graduate (youth or adult) who is interested in college and/or training this fall or will be a senior this fall and would like to garner information and/or seek advice, Holly worked in higher education and has a good understanding of the admissions process. Feel free to call her for an appt. to discuss in more detail.

**Gardening:**

There is a sign-up form on the Community Room entrance bulletin board. Jeff and Sean, our maintenance crew, are building a gardening bed. Spots will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.

**Inspirational Quotes for May 2022**

The key to success is action, and the essential in action is perseverance. -Sun Yat-sen



“The Service you do for others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.” Muhammad Ali



**Chatham Court**

For female residents interested in starting up a business, look no further than the Women’s Business Development Council for financial assistance and support services. Launched in 2020, the initiative has provided \$924,000 across 98 grants to women-owned businesses with Bank of America recently announcing a \$100,00 contribution to better the communities they serve. (Paul Scott, “Middletown Press,” 3/29/22). Check out the website:



<https://ctwbdc.org/equity-match-grant-program/> for eligibility and match requirements.



**CONN-NAHRO 2022 John J. Kelly Memorial Scholarship:** Three **\$3,500 scholarships** awarded to college-bound high school seniors and/or continuing college students who are residents of Connecticut public housing or Section 8 housing. All Housing residents who have been accepted into a two (2) or four (4) year institution of higher learning working toward a full-time associate degree, bachelor’s degree, or full-time vocational training/certificate beginning in the Fall term of 2022 and who are in good standing with their housing authority are eligible. Completed applications are to be received by 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2022, at CONN-NAHRO). If interested in applying, contact Holly, RSC, ASAP (860) 342-1688, ext#115.



Parks and Recreation accept financial request forms to help defray summer “Quest and Kids” programs. Submission deadline is June 1, 2022. For more information: <https://portland.recdesk.com/> or call (860) 342-6757.



To keep your youth busy and having fun, Parks and Recreation has opened registration for 3 Golf Junior programs in grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. The 3 programs take place Tuesdays, 5/31-6/21, Wednesdays, 6/6-7/27, and Mondays, 9/12-10/3. Your children will learn to play an awesome sport that is of low impact on the body. Golf is a game of honor. Children learn tremendous etiquette and life lessons. Sufficient golf clubs are available for use and if a resident signs up through Parks and Rec., Parks and Rec., will work with Youth and Family Services to defray the cost. For more info., call (860) 342-6757.



**Second Chance Babysitting Course:** 6/8-6/9 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Foreman Community Center. Many resident teens have shown an interest in summer employment and part-time jobs. This is the perfect opportunity to become CPR and First Aid certified by the American Heart Association and land great local babysitting jobs. There is a fee of \$80 for residents but, if you call Holly, RSC, she can work with Youth and Family Services to help defray the cost. Call Holly at (860) 342-1688, ext.#115.



**Middletown Summer Youth Employment Program:** All applications are DUE by 4:30 PM on Friday, 6/3/22. Questions can be directed to Lorenzo Marshall at 860-347-6924 or [lorenzo@middlesexchamber.com](mailto:lorenzo@middlesexchamber.com).



**Middlesex Youth Career Development Services:** Designed to empower out of school youth ages 18-24 providing them with on-the-job training, paid internships, or certificate programs at Middlesex Community College. Students work with the program coordinator to set specific employment and/or education goals. They are placed in employment upon completion of the certificate program and exited from the program. Follow-up services continue for four quarters. Youth who lack the basic vocational background to comply with the entrance requirements of vocational training receive Vocational ABE instruction to obtain a GED certificate or HSD. For details: (860) 347-6924.



**Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park Job Fair:** at Brownstone Park 161 Brownstone Avenue, Portland, on Saturday, 5/7 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for this summer season. The following positions are available: Retail Agents, Lifeguards, Belayers, Wakeboard Instructors, Lot Attendants, Bus Drivers, Food Services, Harness Assistants, and General Laborers. Competitive wages, paid training, employee discounts, and access to the park will be provided. Applications are available online at [www.brownstonepark.com](http://www.brownstonepark.com). Residents may submit applications directly through the website or print, complete, and bring to the Job Fair. For more information, contact Deb Bensenhaver, 860-894-2206.



Summer Meals ♦♦♦ Summer Reading/Fall Tutoring ♦♦♦ Summer Camp TBA

## Quarry Heights



Be Kind to your fur baby!!

### Carol Culley's Easter Meal News

You may know, in Carol's former life, she was first-class caterer. Carol decorated the Community Center, cooked, and hosted a grand Easter meal for 15 family members and close friends. Enjoy a photo of her extravagant feast.



### Inspirational Quotes for May 2022

"The most wasted of days is one without laughter."  
- E. E. Cummings

"Some people look for a beautiful place. Others make a place beautiful."  
-Hazrat Inayat Khan



### Quarry Heights Guys & Gals:

Stop by and say hello to Holly. She is there to help meet any need in any way she is able.



**Renters Rebate:** If you are 65 or disabled, and have rented in CT during 2021, you may be eligible for a rebate from the State of Connecticut Applicant's income in the calendar year of 2021 must not exceed \$38,100 if unmarried or \$46,400 if married. Call Lynn Tracey, Senior Services Administrator, directly for an appointment: (860) 342-6760.

For qualifying **gas or electric customers experiencing financial hardship**, service cannot be turned off between November 1 and May 1. For more information on these assistance programs, visit [Eversource.com/BillHelp](https://Eversource.com/BillHelp) or call 1-800-286-2828. Eversource will work with you one-on-one to find the best program for you. For additional information, check the Senior Center website or the link: [9e6474\\_e869fff9e13e477295524f057ba1e024.pdf \(portlandct.org\)](https://www.portlandct.org/9e6474_e869fff9e13e477295524f057ba1e024.pdf)

Keep in mind that the **energy assistance pre-application** process begins August 1<sup>st</sup>. When pre-application period opens, call Community Renewal Team (CRT): (860) 347-4465.



**Foot Care:** held at the Senior Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month. The fee is \$35 cash or check. Call: (860) 342-6760 to make an appointment.

**Free Hearing Screening:** The second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. with Virginia Duclos of "All Ears," in Portland No registration necessary (and you can even walk over-78 Marlborough Street).



Don't forget, **BINGO** every Wednesday in the Quarry Heights Community Room from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Players are looking for a few more participants to join.

Do you like to read? Did you know that the **Portland Library** now has a no-fine policy for late return of most items! When you return an item after its due date, except for short-term popular items (currently, these include only outdoor yard games and museum passes), fines will NOT be charged and will not appear on your record. Even better, you can walk over to check out a book.



**Gardening:** Please Quarry Heights Residents, periodically look at the Community Room entrance bulletin board as there will be postings of upcoming events, notices, etc. This month, there is a sign-up form for gardening. Jeff and Sean, our maintenance crew, will be increasing the gardening bed for those who would like to take advantage of the great spring/summer weather and be outside getting exercise gardening flowers to decorate your living and dining room tables and/or vegetables "farm to table" cooking. There is a form on the bulletin board, and we are reserving spots for gardening on a first-come-first-served basis.



There has been minimal participation by Quarry Heights residents in the past and recently for events, meetings, etc. If residents have any ideas on how to encourage more engagement in activities, please feel free to share with Holly, resident service coordinator.

The mission of the Senior Center is to provide opportunities for maturing town residents age 50+ to find resources, support, friendship, activities, and much more. It is a place to join old and new friends for social occasions, educational and recreational programs, as well as monthly travel outings. Call the Senior Center to be placed on their monthly newsletter list and they will email to you. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Friday's from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and some evening programs as well! Join the Center and enjoy the activities. They will keep you young, healthy, and mentally engaged.