

Happy February!

PORTLAND HOUSING /FEBRUARY 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

EVENT CALENDAR:



February 14th: Valentine's Day arrived in America via English settlers, gaining massive popularity in the

1840s with Esther Howland's mass-produced, lacy cards, turning it from handwritten notes into a commercial holiday of love, chocolates, and flowers, built on medieval traditions and romantic poems but exploding with industrial-era printing and cheaper mail.



Happy Valentine's Day !

-2/16/26—PRESIDENT'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED

-2/17/26- PHA BOARD MEETING at Quarry Heights at 3:30pm

-2/9/23 & 2/23/26- MOBILE FOOD SHARE

The Office:

Call Before Visiting
860-342-1688

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm & Friday: 8:30am-1:30pm

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Can you believe it's already February 2026? Time really does fly!

This is a friendly reminder to please have all Christmas holiday décor put away no later than **February 9, 2026**. We appreciate your help in keeping the community looking great for everyone. Please refrain from decorating trees on the property with any holiday décor.

The 2026 Black History Month theme is, "**A Century of Black History Commemorations**," marking 100



years of national efforts to recognize Black history and culture, highlighting its transformative role in shaping the modern world and encouraging deeper exploration of its significance. It will focus on the 100th anniversary of Black History Month, initiated by Carter G. Woodson. Exploring the profound impact of Black history commemorations on Black people and society. In 2026, the theme invites reflection on the ongoing fight for inclusion and accurate historical representation, especially amidst challenges to teaching Black history in schools.

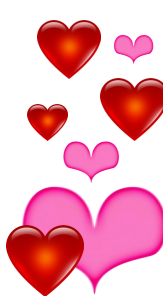
With cold weather upon us, it can be tempting to start your car and let it warm up. However, vehicle thefts tend to increase during the winter because drivers may leave their cars running and unattended. To stay safe, consider using a spare key so you can lock your vehicle, or ensure your doors are locked if you use a remote start. Stay warm—and stay safe!



The PHA office enforces a zero tolerance policy.

ANY USE OF PROFANITY, VERBAL THREATS, OR ANY ACT OF VIOLENCE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

PROFESSIONAL AND RESPECT CONDUCT IS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES.





CHATHAM COURT RESIDENTS:

With the snow season here upon us, we kindly ask for your cooperation in keeping fire lanes clear at all times. If you plan to have visitors, please remind them not to park in designated fire lanes.

During snowstorms and at any time when vehicles are blocking fire lanes or preventing our snow plows from properly clearing the property, those vehicles may be towed at the owner's expense.

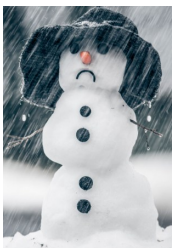
As temperatures drop, we kindly remind everyone to keep windows closed to help prevent frozen pipes.

Thank you for helping us maintain safe access and keep the property clear and safe for everyone throughout the winter season.



Free tax filing in Connecticut for the 2026 tax season is available through several programs, primarily the **Volunteer Income Tax**

Assistance (VITA) program and the **AARP Tax-Aide** program, which offer free preparation and e-filing for eligible individuals. The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS) also offers a direct free e-filing option for state returns. You can call 211 for locations or you can call or stop in and see Nichelle for assistance.



Winter got you feeling down, case of the "winter blues"... plan a trip to **Kid City!** If you show your WIC/SNAP info it's only \$6 per person! Check them out! Located at **119 Washington Street** Middletown Reservations are recommended!

Here is a list of some **FUN and FREE** activities and **Support Groups** just over the bridge at the **Middletown library.**

2/7/26 Children of all ages are welcome to drop into the Activity Room to make a Valentine card for someone special. Available while supplies last. 2:30-4:00 pm.

2/10/26 For a fun family story time where we will read books and share rhymes and songs for kids birth to 6 years old and their families. 10:30-11:00.

QUARRY HEIGHT RESIDENTS

Tenants Please refrain from posting notes throughout the community room and or laundry room. If there is a problem please notify staff as soon as possible by calling the main office. The main office will address the issue.

We kindly ask all residents to please complete the tenant update form if you haven't already done so. This helps us keep our records accurate and up to date in case something happens to you.

We will be reaching out to any residents who have not submitted the form by the deadline.

Smoking is not permitted inside units or anywhere on the property.



Please keep in mind that many of your neighbors have medical conditions, and some rely on oxygen tanks. Smoking indoors or on the property creates a serious safety concern. We kindly ask everyone to refrain from smoking in these areas and help us maintain a safe and healthy environment for all residents. Tenants have been charged \$150 and placed on legal for violating this rule.

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) helps residents pay for their home heating costs. Applications typically take 30-45 minutes to complete.



- **Benefit amounts:** \$295-\$645 for the 2025-2026 season, based on household size, income, and heating source.
- **Payment process:** Benefits are usually paid directly to your utility company or fuel vendor.
- **Extra Help:** Households using deliverable fuels (oil, kerosene, propane) may be eligible for additional fuel deliveries. CEAP recipients may also qualify for payment matching plans, shut-off protection, and heating equipment repairs or replacement. **CEAP is an annual benefit, so you must apply each year to receive assistance.**
- **Online applications:** Open Monday, September 1, 2025, through the CEAP online portal.
- **Deadline:** The last day to apply for benefits is May 29, 2026. Applications sent by mail must be postmarked by this date.



2/13/2026 at 1pm
BINGO at
QH community
Rooms
Refreshments
and Prizes!

COME PLAY
AND SOCIALIZE !



IMPORTANT

SNAP & CASH

Benefit Loading Dates Are Changing

MARCH 1ST 2026

WHAT'S CHANGING?

- **CASH benefits** will issue on the **first day** of the month
- **SNAP benefits** will issue during the **first 8 days** of the month

HOW? Payment date is based on the **last 2 digits** of the **EBT card** as shown to the right:

Client ID:	Loading Date
00-12	1 ST of the month
13-24	2 ND of the month
25-37	3 RD of the month
38-49	4 TH of the month
50-62	5 TH of the month
63-74	6 TH of the month
75-87	7 TH of the month
88-99	8 TH of the month

PLAN AHEAD:

Match your Client ID with the day of the month to know when your SNAP benefits will load.

NEED YOUR CLIENT ID?

Use the last two digits of the **Client Number** from your **Connect Card**.
(ex: ID ending in 34 loads on the 3rd)

