



April 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The neighborly thing to do.....

The ultimate goal is to live in peace and harmony, and even though that's not always possible, you can at least do whatever it takes to prevent hostilities and long-lasting hard feelings. It may be time to revisit some age-old adages, like: love thy neighbor, do unto others, sharing is caring and a friend in need is a friend indeed.

As warmer weather approaches, the PHA would like to remind everyone to please be considerate of others and to follow the visitor and guest policy. Please be mindful that you live in a community setting where neighbors are in close proximity to one another.

We received a few complaints last year from neighboring homes about loud music being played during the daytime on the weekends. While we understand that people enjoy listening to music outside, please keep the volume at a reasonable level. Not everyone wants to hear music from a distance, and loud noise can be disruptive to others who may be working from home, resting, or simply enjoying a quiet environment.

We kindly ask that you respect your neighbors' personal space and privacy and be aware of noise levels. You never know what someone may be going through emotionally or physically, so a little consideration goes a long way.

Avoid gossiping about or bullying your neighbors. If you have an issue with someone, we encourage you to address it directly with that person in a respectful and adult manner whenever possible.

The PHA has also noticed that on Monday mornings at Chatham Court the property is often left with candy wrappers, cups, and food packaging scattered throughout the grounds. We kindly ask that you please speak with your children about cleaning up after themselves and properly disposing of their trash.

Keeping the property clean is everyone's responsibility. Please remind your children to throw away any wrappers, cups, or food containers in the trash after spending time outside. This helps keep our community looking nice and prevents litter from attracting pests.

As we welcome Spring please be aware that our location at Chatham Court, its proximity is near the woods and wetlands. Avoid attracting local wildlife please refrain from planting vegetables outdoors—it acts as an open buffet for local wildlife. Please keep your front and back yards free of clutter, as piles can provide shelter for wildlife and unwanted critters. Please do not leave trash or garbage bags outside your front door for extended periods of time, especially sitting in the sun all day!



PHA CALENDAR

4/1/2026– HAPPY APRIL FOOLS DAY !
4/3/2026– GOOD FRIDAY– OFFICES CLOSED
4/20/2026– PHA Regular BOARD MEETING-at QH has been Cancelled.

PHA MAIN OFFICE

We kindly ask for your patience and understanding as the main office works to respond to all requests. We strive to get back to you within 48 hours of receiving your request. Please note that not all requests are considered emergencies, but we will address each one as promptly as possible.

Call Before Visiting:860-342-1688

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

- **Allen H.** Ext. 111 E.D
Aharrison@portlandha.org
- **Carol D.** Ext. 110 D. D
Cdiaz@portlandha.org
- **Susan N.** Ext. 113 Coordinator
Snellis@portlandha.org
- **Waleska M.** Ext. 115 Office Asst.
Wmiranda@portlandha.org
- **Dan R.** Ext. 112 Staff Accountant
Drafaniello@portlandha.org
- **Juliano B.** Ext. 114 Maintenance Staff. Emergency
860-519-3251

RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM 2026

Application may be made at the Portland Senior Center by appointment, between April 1st and October 1st. Please contact the following people to schedule your appointments.

Waverly Senior Center
Sarah Elliott Caratasios
Senior Service Administrator
Selliott@portlandct.org
860-342-6760

Keep in mind of the following

Eligibility:

- Recipient or spouse must be 65 years of age or older, or be 50 years of age or older and the surviving spouse of a renter who at the time of the renter's death had qualified and was entitled to tax relief provided such spouse was domiciled with such renter at the time of the renters' death (responsibility for proof rests with the surviving spouse), or
- 18 years of age or older and eligible to receive Social Security Disability benefits.
- Must meet a one-year state residency requirement.

Documentation:

- Social Security 1099, TPQY or benefit verification letter from the preceding year
- Income tax return, or copies of all income received from the preceding year
- Rental receipts showing amount paid by applicant from the preceding year.
- Utility receipts showing the amount paid by applicant for electricity, gas, water, and fuel from the preceding year.



WE'RE HIRING
TOWN OF PORTLAND

Current opportunities:

- Temporary Accounting Coordinator
- Youth & Family Services Administrator
- Supervisor of Water Pollution Control Facilities
- Seasonal Parks & Rec Summer Camp Counselors

WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN ?

With the nicer weather approaching, we kindly ask that parents keep a close eye on their children while they are playing outside. Children must be supervised at all times. Please also note that children are not permitted in the community room unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian and the room has been requested by a tenant. The front of the PHA office is a place of business and not intended as a play area.

These guidelines are in place to help prevent any misunderstandings and ensure a safe environment for everyone. We kindly ask that you please speak with your children about this. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

VISITOR POLICY PER YOUR LEASE

Residents may have **guests or visitors**, but they must not stay **more than 7 days within a 45-day period**, or it will be considered **unauthorized occupancy**.

If a guest plan to stay **more than 3 consecutive nights**, the resident must get **prior written consent from PHA**.

The resident must **report the guest and their vehicle to the PHA**.

Visitor vehicles parked on the property for more than 7 days may be towed.

Residents are **responsible for the behavior of their guests and visitors** and must ensure they follow all community rules.



PACKAGE DELIVERIES

Please note that the PHA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or misdelivered packages. If you experience an issue with a delivery, we kindly ask that you contact the carrier directly, as they are typically able to assist with refunds or alternative compensation 100% of the time.

For this reason, please do not contact the main office regarding missing packages, as the carrier customer service rep. is best equipped to resolve these matters. If necessary, you may also contact your local police department to report the incident. They will reach out to us if follow-up is needed as part of their investigation. If you believe a neighbor may be taking packages, please contact your local police department to report your concerns. As a reminder, the PHA does not have control over the actions of individual tenants.

There are alternative ways to receive packages more securely, such as having them held at your local post office for pickup or arranging delivery to a trusted family member.



AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY IN CROMWELL

Middlesex Habitat for Humanity is building two new homes in Cromwell and will soon begin accepting applications for qualified homebuyers. Join us at one of our Application Information Meetings to learn about the program and how to apply.

HOME LOCATIONS IN CROMWELL

286 MAIN STREET
3-BEDROOM | 2-BATH HOME

18 SOUTH STREET
3-BEDROOM | 2-BATH HOME
VETERANS BUILD - FOR A MILITARY OR VETERAN HOMEOWNER

INFORMATION MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026
8:00 PM - 7:00 PM
MIDDLESEX HABITAT RESTORE
34 SHUNPIKE RD, CROMWELL

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
CROMWELL TOWN HALL - ARCH ROOM
41 WEST ST, CROMWELL

HOW THE HABITAT HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM WORKS

Habitat homes are built with the help of volunteers and community partners and sold to qualified applicants with an affordable mortgage.

Applicants are evaluated based on three primary criteria:

- **Need** - You are ready for homeownership but cannot afford to purchase a home on the open market.
- **Ability to Pay** - You have stable income and demonstrated creditworthiness to support monthly mortgage payments.
- **Willingness to Partner** - Participants complete financial education and volunteer hours helping build their home alongside Habitat volunteers.

Applications will be available at the meetings.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Middlesex Habitat for Humanity does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, national origin, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Attendance at an Application Information Meeting is strongly encouraged for anyone interested in applying.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Middlesex Habitat for Humanity
34 Shunpike Road
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-398-6485
www.habitatmiddlesex.org

Portland Parks & Rec

KIDS' BLAST

After School Child Care
Grades K-6 | Brownstone Intermediate



LEARN MORE
AND REGISTER YOUR
CHILD



REGISTER ONLINE AT
PORTLAND.RECDESK.COM



(860) 342-6757
Parks & Rec Office
265 Main Street

YOUTH and FAMILY SERVICES

Little Hikers

APRIL 14 @ 10:30AM - PORTLAND REC COMPLEX, RT 17
MAY 5 @ PORTLAND AIRLINE TRAIL, MIDDLE HADDAM RD LOT
JUNE 2 @ 10:30AM - PORTLAND RIVERFRONT PARK

Bring your little ones for a short walk (under 1/2 mile) around one of Portland's parks. Strollers welcome! Walks may include a short story, activity, or snack. For more information or questions, contact Jesse (860) 342-6758 jrevicki@portlandct.org



Courtney Fitzkee
860-342-6758
cfitzkee@portlandct.org



Like and follow us on
Facebook & Instagram
<https://www.facebook.com/PortlandCTYouth>

PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

You can register for library programs using the Calendar of Events link on the Library's web page : www.portlandlibraryct.org or by calling the Library at 860-342-6770

Adult Events:

Movie: Wednesday, April 15th at 1:00 p.m. Hamnet (2025; rated PG-13) will be shown. (Run time 125 minutes)

Do you have a Revolutionary War Ancestor?: Saturday, April 11, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. A workshop to help you find your Revolutionary War ancestor will be hosted by the Wadsworth Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in celebration of America's 250th anniversary. Registration is required.

Butterflies and Raptors of the Portland Fairgrounds: Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m. Michael Beck, wildlife photographer, along with local naturalist Beau Doherty will show photographs and talk about birds of prey and butterflies found at the old Portland Fairgrounds and adjacent field. This unique riparian habitat with flood-plain pools and proximity to vernal pools has a history of holding migratory species along with the birds that prey on them. The diversity of plants, flowers and shrubs make it a favorable area for butterfly species. The presentation will be 40 minutes with Q and A after. Registration is requested.

Mysteries, Murders, Killers and Thrillers: Crime writers reveal their secrets: Saturday, April 25, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. In celebration of National Library Week (April 19-25, 2026) the Connecticut chapter of Sisters in Crime will host a panel of crime writers: Sharon Dukett, Christine Falcone, Kathryn Orzech, and Ang Pomano. There will be time at the end of the presentation for the authors to meet audience members and sign their books. Registration is requested.



MEDICAL RIDES

The center provides rides to seniors and/or those with disabilities to medical appointments. The fee for round-trip service is \$5.00 per person. Please give at least a 2 week notice for a ride. Call the Senior Center to reserve a day and time at 860-342-6761

RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT

When the senior center is booked for medical rides, RVT is a great second option!

River Valley Transit RVT is a transit agency operated by the Estuary Transit District. RVT provides a variety of services including traditional fixed routes, ADA Paratransit, Dial-A-Ride, and On-Demand Xtra mile. The service area includes most of Middlesex County and services 17 municipalities. Dial-A-Ride senior 60+ by donation transportation is made possible by a grant from the Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act. Dial-A-Ride Senior Fare requires pre-registration by calling 860-510-0429.



Generations in Harmony

Fresh Congregate Meals

Served at the Waverly Center

Every Tuesday & Thursday at 12pm • \$3 Suggested Donation

Must fill out form • Call 860-342-6761 to sign up!

Must register by 12:00 the day before the meal you want to attend.

4/2: Beef Lasagna and Cauliflower Medley

4/7: Meatloaf with Gravy & Mashed Potatoes

4/9: Turkey Meatballs with Ziti and Marinara

4/14: Turkey Club Sandwich with Broccoli Soup

4/16: Baked Ziti and Meat Sauce

4/21: Tuna Sandwich and Tomato Soup

4/23: Sausage and Pepper on a Sub Roll with Italian Pasta Salad

4/28: Turkey Sloppy Joes and Mashed Potatoes

4/30: Sliced Turkey and Gravy with Mac & Cheese

Each meal is served with a fruit or veggie and string cheese, milk or yogurt

Full meal will be listed each week in the Rivereast News Bulletin

WAVERLY SENIOR CENTER SERVICES

The Heart of Health & Community: Wellness Series

A collaboration between Portland Waverly Senior Center Portland Housing Authority • Chatham Health

Wellness, connection, and community—wrapped up in one feel-good monthly event!

Join us the 2nd Thursday each month for a health check in at the Center!

Time: 10:45am – 11:45am

Includes the Blood Pressure Clinic and Health Chat with Chatham Health

And while you're here... stay for our Congregate Meal, Served at 12:00pm

Register for Lunch by 12:00 the Wednesday before • \$3.00 Suggested Donation for Meal