

Bentley Happenings

September 2026



Why a Library?

"I discovered me in the library. I went to find me in the library."

— Ray Bradbury

[Visit our Website](#)



Follow us on Facebook at Bentley Memorial Library.

Bentley Memorial Library

206 Bolton Center Road
Bolton, CT
860-646-7349 bentley@biblio.org

Hours

Mon. - Thurs., 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Library Closings

Bentley will be **closed on Saturday, September 5** and **Monday September 7** in honor of Labor Day.

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month

Is your library card lapsed? Do you have a friend or loved one who doesn't have access to all of Bentley's many resources? Have you been putting off renewing your library card? Come on in and let's get you back in the fold!



New Addition to the Bentley Team!

Join us in welcoming Mary!

Mary Harrington is a Library Assistant 1 (Circulation Asst.) here at Bentley Memorial Library. She holds a Library Technical Assistant Certificate from Three Rivers Community College and has worked in public libraries for the past fourteen years. Outside of work, she enjoys anything crafty, and loves reading a good mystery or piece of historical fiction, and always with a good cup of coffee.

Did You Know.....

- Bentley Memorial Library is **fine free** since 2025!
- The items you borrow from Bentley **auto-renew** after one loan period, unless another patron puts a hold on that item.
- Bentley Memorial Library provides complimentary **WiFi** for all of our guests. The password is: **bmlbooks**



- If you run a private book club outside the library, Bentley can help with ordering books. Contact the circulation desk and we will let you know if your selection is available and have copies delivered to the library.
 - The **Bolton Regional Lions Club** continues to collect donated prescription eyeglasses and prescription sunglasses at Bentley Memorial Library.
 - The **study room** at Bentley is open for use by our patrons. The room must be reserved and patrons must check in at the circulation desk upon arrival.
 - DOE & EPA have developed a guide for automotive fuel economy. An electronic version can be found at <https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/printGuides.shtml>
 - Bentley and **Bolton Social Services** thank all of the many people who donated to the **Food Bank** this Summer. Your donations made a difference in the lives of your friends and neighbors!
-

Announcing DEEP's Laptop ConneCT Program

It's just been announced that the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is providing laptops for libraries all over the state of Connecticut. Bentley is partnered with Bolton Social Services to help make sure these laptops can do the most amount of good in our community.

More information is incoming, but for now you can sign up for further updates on this exciting opportunity.

The program is funded by the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund. It is approximately a \$7 million initiative that loans laptops and related accessories to eligible Connecticut residents through public libraries.

Tech Assistance in the Fall

Bentley will be providing technical support for our patrons throughout the Fall. If you need assistance with email, Hoopla, Libby, Facebook, your online account, or other tech related issues – we're here to help. To schedule your in-library session, please call Bentley at 860-646-7349 or email us at bmlprograms@biblio.org to select your date and time slot. Advance registration is essential to ensure that we are prepared to offer you the most useful assistance possible

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program

This program is open to any child from birth until they enter kindergarten.

Register at the library circulation desk and receive a welcome bag with program information, a log sheet, and a dot marker to track your progress.

When you complete each milestone sheet, bring it to the library and pick up your next sheet. The library will provide a sticker for each milestone and a small prize for 500 and 1,000 books.

What counts toward the 1,000 books? Books you read to your child, books they hear in storytime, audio and video books, as well as favorite books that you read over and over all count!

Reading to a child develops literacy and language skills and builds their vocabulary. Stories engage the imagination and help set them up for success in school and life.

Large Print Books at Bentley

- Due to popular demand, the **Large Print** collection has been separated from the general Adult Fiction books.
- **Two dozen Large Print titles have been ordered from the Connecticut State Library for a three-month loan to supplement the collection.**
- The library purchased **16 new Large Print** titles to enhance our collection.



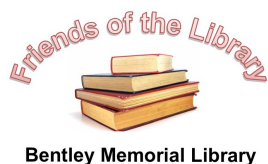
Wowbrary!



Wowbrary is a nonprofit service that provides free weekly emails about your local library's most recent acquisitions including new books, DVDs, and CDs. Our service reaches both avid library patrons and those who haven't used libraries in years. Wowbrary serves as an attractive online version of the new-book shelf, but one that spans all library branches, includes items that are checked out, and comes by convenient email. By showcasing the latest arrivals and allowing patrons to click through directly to the library website, Wowbrary makes it easy to scan quickly what's new and encourages greater library use.

Signing up to receive weekly emails

Go to <https://www.wowbrary.org> and type your ZIP code in the upper left box. Then hit the Go button. Wowbrary will display Bentley Memorial Library and other area libraries. Check Bentley, enter your email address and then click submit. You will start receiving updates within a week of the library's latest purchases.



Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library had their bi-monthly meeting on August 27. They reviewed the year and discussed future book sales, the coffee bar, and program and refreshment support.

The **Library book sale** features **Cook Books** for the months of September and October. In addition to book sales, the Friends are selling cloth Book Bags to help keep your library selections together. Please stop by Bentley to help support our sales. All proceeds will be used to support future activities at the library.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library for providing refreshments and supplies for our programs throughout the year and for the complimentary coffee bar.

If you'd like to learn more about the Friends of the Library, please ask a librarian how you can attend the **next meeting**, which will be held on Thursday, **October 29** at 5:00.

eGO The Palace Project

Download the app for free books!

The Connecticut State Library now has over 54,000 titles in its collection of online books. These books include mysteries, thrillers, and backlist bestsellers. Our patrons are often looking for a standalone mystery or a mystery series – eGO Palace Project has both!



To access the eGO Palace Project, download the "Palace Project" app on your mobile device from the App Store or Google Play, then log in using your library card number and PIN to browse and borrow ebooks and audiobooks from the Connecticut State Library's eGO collection; you can access both your local library's collection and the statewide eGO collection through this app.

The [All CT Reads](#) program is in full swing for 2026! To support participation in this amazing program, the Palace Project has purchased all available copies of this year's titles. The Palace Project has also created an All CT Reads 2026 lane on every library's interface for improved discoverability.

Coming in September!

CT's Kid Governor "Meet the Candidates" Traveling Exhibit Coming to Bentley

September 14- 28

The exhibit celebrates the students who ran for the position of Connecticut's 2026 Kid Governor. More than **10,000 fifth graders** voted in the eleventh annual election which took place November 3-11, 2025 in schools across the state. The exhibit showcases the candidates for Kid Governor and highlights their community issue, three-point plan, an explanation of why their issue is important, and a brief candidate bio.

The exhibit will travel to schools and libraries all over the state, allowing students and adults to learn more about these important issues and Connecticut 5th graders who want to make a difference in their communities. Bentley is honored to be hosting it in mid-September.



The Search Begins

New Scavenger Hunt in September

The September Scavenger Hunt -welcoming students back to the new school year will be unveiled on Tuesday, September 1st.

Toddler Playtime

Thursdays in September

10:00-11:00



Come and join our parent-led toddler group which is designed for children from birth to age 3. A trained parent will lead age appropriate play and interactions. Toys will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Parents and care-givers are all welcome!



Storytime at the Library

Thursdays

September 10, 17, & 24

12:00 to 12:30

Storytime will be held on the following **Thursdays** in September; 10th, 17th, & 24th. Feel free to bring your own snack or lunch. Watch for separate notices of weekly theme.

Heritage Farm Commission Holds Reception

Thursday, September 17

6:30-7:45

The **Heritage Farm Commission** will be hosting a reception at Bentley for the unveiling of the brand new artifact display case, featuring items recovered from archeological digs at the Heritage Farm.

The Library will also be hosting a special visit for the 4th and 5th grade students of BSC on Friday, September 19th so they can learn about the unique history of Heritage Farm.

Refreshments provided by the **Friends of the Library**.

This is the first event in a weekend full of programs around town celebrating Bolton history and the recovery of these precious historical artifacts.

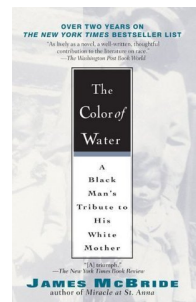
September Book Discussion at Bentley

Wednesday, September 23

Noon

Join us for a lively book discussion about the New York Times bestselling book "The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother" by James McBride.

Copies are available to borrow now!



[Preregister here](#)



Planting Seeds of Intention: A Crystal Terrarium Workshop Led by Kim Larkin, certified Aromatherapist and licensed commercial chocolatier

Thursday, September 24

6:30 - 7:45 PM

This class gives a fun overview of the benefits of gems and crystals. A display case of various crystal samples will be set up so that patrons can freely explore. We will learn how to best incorporate each crystal into our

homes and living spaces as well. A fun crystal quiz follows and then we assemble our glass terrarium using small plants, soil, small assorted crystals and sands. Most importantly, we will plant our "seed of intention" into the soil! Calming music and tea will set our mood. A great calming experience for all.

[Preregister here](#)

On Display in September

The **Main Display Case** will feature an informative presentation by the Bolton Greater Together Community Fund Committee.

Visit the **Sumner Sisters' Display Case** to view a display of beautiful vintage Pyrex, presented by Bolton resident Daniel Bergin.



The Display Case at Bentley "We want you!"

Would you like to share your craft, art, travel or event with our fellow library patrons? Consider signing up to display your work in the main display case at Bentley Memorial Library. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your talent! OCTOBER and NOVEMBER are coming and we have slots available for you. Library patrons always enjoy admiring the display case presentations.

The Art Walls in Adult and Children's sections at Bentley is available for all local artists who would like to display their art. Please contact the library at 860-646-7349 or bmlprograms@biblio.org

Animals of Bolton
by Dorothy Hall



The **Tuesday Night Knitters** are looking for new members. All are welcome!
Every Tuesday at 6pm under the Whale. Bring your own project and join for some crafts and some laughs.

Coming in October!

The Minerals of MINECRAFT

Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 pm

Led by Louis Fazzina of Apple Valley Minerals

Back by popular demand, Louis Fazzina returns to Bentley to lead a fun program about the real life minerals from the popular game Minecraft.

Preparing Your Garden for Winter & pH testing!

Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 pm

Led by Jean Laughman, Bolton Master Gardener and Master Wildlife Conservationist

Jean Laughman will bring her typical warmth and humor to teach how to properly prepare your gardens for the winter, including raised beds, lawns, vegetable gardens, and ornamental beds. Jean will also be offering pH soil testing.

October Book Discussion

Wednesday, October 21 at noon

Celebrate Spooky Month with Stephen King's chilling novel "Misery".

July and August Program Wrap-up

We hope you enjoyed your Summer this year, it was a busy one for us at the Library. On the 250th anniversary of its original release, Bentley co-hosted (with the Bolton Historical Society) a reading of the Declaration of Independence by WTIC talk radio host Morgan Cunningham. One patron called it a "spiritual experience."

For our younger patrons, Bentley hosted storytime as well as multiple lawn game days. Kids enjoyed exploring the Library with two different scavenger hunts and a Book Walk. They also did a good job of filling up our America 250 flag bulletin board with their handprints.

Bentley was pleased to be invited by Carter Cochardo of the Bolton Recreation department to co-host their first movie screening in the BCS gymnasium. We provided the movie, "The Wild Robot" and librarian Sam Bahre read the picture book version of the story before the screening.

Local author Jen Trueman received a warm welcome from Bentley patrons when she read her book "Fuzzy Friend Plays Pretend" for a special Saturday morning storytime in late July.

The Bolton Cub Scout Troop came through for a night of fun in early August and enjoyed storytime, book selection, and lawn games. Their favorite stuffed animals camped out in a tent in the front lawn and got up to all sorts of mischief in the Library that night. We ended the Summer off with a packed pajama storytime on a rainy night in late August that included a fun craft and scavenger hunt.

Bentley was graced with weekly visits by therapy dog Reese who soothes patrons and librarians alike with her presence.

As always the Tuesday Night Knitting group were stalwarts and met every week.



Bentley's Policy on Unaccompanied Minors in the Library

Library service to children, parents, and adults working with children is an important part of the Library's mission.

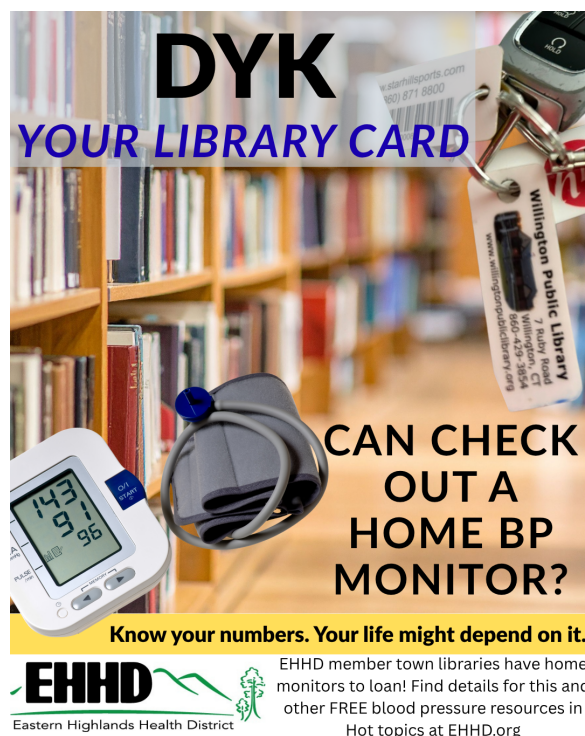
It is not the Library's function or purpose to provide supervision or care for children while or other supervising adults are outside the Library. We observed unaccompanied minors in the Library during the Summer concerts on the town green. Guardians should be aware that the Library is a public building open to all individuals. The following policy has been designed to communicate the Library's concern for the safety and welfare of the children it serves.

- 1) In accordance with Connecticut state law, "Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing supervision of any child under the age of twelve years who knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public accommodation... that presents a substantial risk to the child's health or safety," may be found guilty of a misdemeanor. (Public Act NO. 97-298).
- 2) Parents/ guardians are, at all times, responsible for the conduct and safety of their children on library premises. They must provide appropriate supervision based on the ages, abilities, and the levels of responsibility of their children.
- 3) Children under the age of 12 must not be left unattended in the library at any time. Children over the age of 12 must follow the library's policies; if they're disruptive they may be asked to leave the library.
- 4) Children, like all library users are required to respect library property, and act in a manner appropriate to the use and function of the Library. Parents of guardians of children who are not using the library appropriately, or who require excessive staff attention or supervision, may be asked to monitor their children more closely.
- 5) At closing time, during power failure or other emergencies departure from the building is necessary. Children over 12 left alone in the library or on library grounds could be vulnerable. Every effort will be made to contact parents prior to closing. Two staff members will remain with a child left unattended at closing time. If at closing time the child is not picked up, the resident state trooper will be called. Staff members will wait with the child until the trooper arrives. Under no circumstances will a staff member drive the child home.

Approved by BML Library Board of Trustees 2020

Home Blood Pressure Monitors Available to Borrow

Eastern Highland Health District member town libraries (such as Bentley Library) have home blood pressure monitors for LOAN! FREE! Check. It. Out. Find more info on this and other FREE blood pressure resources in Hot Topics at **EHHD.org**



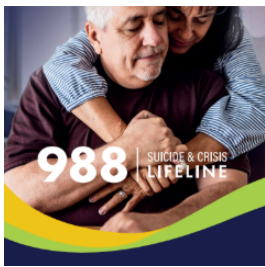
DYK
YOUR LIBRARY CARD

CAN CHECK OUT A HOME BP MONITOR?

Know your numbers. Your life might depend on it.

EHHD
Eastern Highlands Health District

EHHD member town libraries have home monitors to loan! Find details for this and other FREE blood pressure resources in Hot topics at EHHD.org



United Way of CT - 988 Suicide Prevention Program

988 - Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

Depression is **not** a normal part of aging. Reach out to a loved one if you are struggling. Talking saves lives.

Call 211 in CT

Call/Text 988

Chat @ 988LifeLine.org

PreventSuicideCT.org

Bentley Memorial Library | 206 Bolton Center Road | Bolton, CT 06043 US

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