

Bentley Happenings

July & August 2026



Why a Library?

"I have an unshaken conviction that democracy can never be undermined if we maintain our library resources and a national intelligence capable of utilizing them."

- **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

[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, July 4th** in observance of the holiday.

We will also be **closed every Saturday in August** through Labor Day Weekend.



Durring the Summer we continue to celebrate America's 250th birthday!

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**
- 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.
- 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.





Summer 2026 Passports!

Get Your America 250th Passport at Bentley!

America 250/CT Commission has provided Passports that educate patrons about many of the fascinating historical sites in our own backyard. The passport book features over 50 color pages that show off sites around Connecticut and encourages both residents & tourists to explore Connecticut's history.

Free for any Bentley patrons! **Pick up yours today!**

Ask about our **discounted** passes for the following attractions included in the Passport:

CT's Old State House

New England Air Museum

New Britain Museum of American Art

Mystic Seaport Museum

Summer Reading 2026 at Bentley!

Celebrating Our Country's 250th Anniversary

Join us all Summer long for Bentley's **Summer Reading 2026** celebration.



We are supporting and have displays for three Summer Reading programs this year.

1. **Bentley's Summer Reading 2026:** America's 250th!
2. **Second Lady, Usha Vance's Summer Reading Challenge:** American's 250th!
3. **The Connecticut Governor's Summer Reading Challenge:** "Plant a Seed, Read"

For Bentley's Reading Program: Children in Grades 5 and up will get a special prize for reading 2 or more books of American historical fiction or nonfiction American history.

There's plenty of activities to do around the library this Summer to celebrate Summer Reading.

Sign your name on a 'hand' and add it to our special American flag Bulletin Board, have fun with some themed coloring sheets, Book Walks and Scavenger Hunts themed around all three Summer Reading Challenges and join us every Thursdays for stories and special activities at noon.



Bolton Social Services Pantry Collection

Bentley will be collecting all Summer

Bentley will have a box out to collect items for the **Bolton Social Services Pantry** all throughout July and August.

While any nonperishable items are appreciated, here is **a list of what would be most utilized:**

Baked beans, canned chicken, canned chili, coffee, conditioner, crackers, deoderant, dish detergent, flour, fruit, home-style soup, jelly, ketchup, laundry detergent, mayonaise, napkins, oatmeal, oil, pancake mix, paper towels, pasta (canned, chef boyardee), peanut butter, rice, rice pilaf, salad dressing, shampoo, snacks, sugar, tea, toilet paper, tomatoes (crushed & whole peeled).

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.



Cub Scout Field Trip

The Bolton Cub Scouts are taking a trip to the Library in August for a special Teddy Bear Sleepover. The Scouts will get to enjoy lawn games, storytime and book selection. Scout Leaders will give a presentation on how to set up a tent properly and the Scouts' favorite stuffed animals and toys will sleep in the tent overnight in the library!

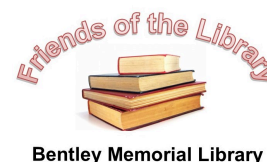
Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library had their bi-monthly meeting on June 25. They reviewed the year and discussed future book sales, the coffee bar, and program and refreshment support.

The **Library book sale** is "**Beach Reads**" for the months of July and August. 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, August 27** 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.

The Bentley Memorial Library Patio

The BML patio is open for the Summer and we have additional seating and an additional coffee table. Enjoy a picnic with a book in this fine weather!



News of Note

- **Storytime at Bentley Library** will continue to be on **Thursday's** at noon through the Summer following Toddler Playtime at 10:00. Please let us know how this new schedule works for you!
- 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>

July & August Programs!

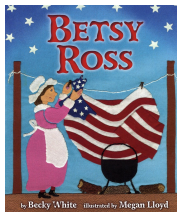
Register online, by phone at 860-646-7349, or by email at bmlprograms@biblio.org.

The Search Begins Scavenger Hunts in July & August



The July Scavenger Hunt - celebrating America's 250th birthday will be unveiled on Wednesday, July 1st.

The August Scavenger Hunt - themed around the CT Governor's Reading Challenge - "Plant a Seed, Read" will be revealed on Monday, August 3rd.



Get Those Steps In! Book Walks in July & August

The "Betsy Ross" Book Walk will continue through the month of July.

The August Book Walk - themed around the CT Governor's Reading Challenge - "Plant a Seed, Read" will be unveiled on Monday, August 3rd.

Toddler Playtime Thursdays in July 10:00-11:00



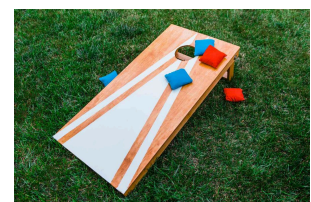
Come and join our parent-led toddler group which is designed for children from birth to age 3. A trained parent will lead age appropriate play and interactions. Toys will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Parents and care-givers are all welcome!



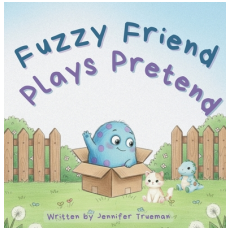
Storytime at the Library Thursday July 2, 23 & 30 Thursdays in August 12:00 to 12:30

Storytime will continue to be on **Thursdays** throughout the Summer. Join for a Feel free to bring your own snack or lunch. Watch for separate notices of weekly theme.

Lawn Game Fun! July 2 & August 6 12:00 to 12:30



While the younger ones are at Storytime, bring along their older siblings for Summer fun on the front lawn! Games include ring toss, frisbee, cornhole and more!



Storytime with Local Author Jennifer Trueman

Saturday July 25

10:30 AM

Local author Jennifer Trueman will read her book "Fuzzy Friend Plays Pretend" for our younger patrons. The book explores the magic of imagination and helps teach children about spacial reasoning.

On Display in July

This Summer, in honor of **America's 250th Birthday**, Bentley will have a display of movies about American history, freedom, independence and justice. Adult fiction displays will be **beach reads** and Adult nonfiction will be **Summer foods** and **travel**.

July 4th is the **250th anniversary** of America's adoption of the Declaration of Independence which severed the 13 colonies' ties to Great Britain and officially made The United States of America an independent nation.



The **Main Display Case** will feature a gorgeous display of antique glassware celebrating America's 250th anniversary. This display is presented by Jim Dwire and John Toomey of Two J's Glass Collectors.

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

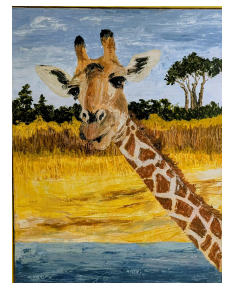


The Display Case at Bentley

"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! AUGUST is coming and we have a slot available for you. We also have openings for October and November. 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



Coming in the Fall!

Fall Book Discussion Announcement Coming in September!

Our monthly book discussion resumes in September with librarian Sam Bahre taking over hosting duties with a series of books that will provide lively and illuminating discussion about American authors and their inspirations.

We start with James McBride's **The Color Of Water** on Wednesday, September 23 at noon. Followed by the chilling novel **Misery** by Stephen King on Wednesday, October 21 at noon. And finally **Franny and Zooey** by JD Salinger on Wednesday, November 18 at noon.



June Program Wrap-up

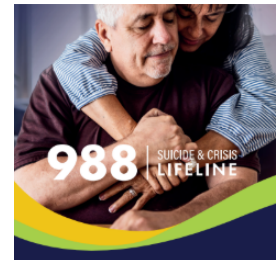
Bentley started the Summer with a . Bentley hosted storytime (now on Thursdays) for our younger patrons who also enjoyed exploring the Library with two different scavenger hunts and a Book Walk enriching scavenger hunt themed around the Juneteenth holiday. We also offered a Book Walk based on the book "Betsy Ross" by Becky White. **The Dirty Blue Shirts** presented an illuminating - and costumed - program on the impact of women and the textiles they created on the American Revolution. Mid-month the Library hosted our **2026 Summer Reading Kick-off** with crafts, coloring pages and book selections. Bolton Master Gardener and Master Wildlife Conservationist **Jean Laughman** brought her wealth of knowledge to teach patrons about what separates good soil from simply dirt (including a brief field trip outside to investigate Bentley's topsoil). And finally towards the end of the month we were joined by a trio of good pups and their wonderful owners when Bentley hosted a **Read to the Dogs** event, thoroughly enjoyed by patrons and canines alike.

As always the Tuesday Night Knitting group went strong and met every week.

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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