Silas Bronson Library
Books and Happenings

The Newsletter of Waterbury's Public Library **Winter 2026-27**

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LAPTOP CONNECT

The Silas Bronson Library is a Laptop ConneCT Library! A limited supply of laptop computers are available to borrow from the library.



In order to borrow a laptop from us, you must meet the following criteria as required by the State:

- Be at least 18 years old;
- Have a valid Silas Bronson Library card;
- Participate in at least one qualifying assistance program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)/ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Medicare, HUSKY Health (Medicaid/The Children's Health Insurance Program);
- Do not already have a comparable internet-enabled computer or laptop in your household;
- Attend two information sessions held at the library.

Stop by the library to register for an information session, or call us at 203-574-8225. You can also register online through our website.

WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

The library is usually open even when the schools are closed. Weather-related closures will be announced on our social media and website; closing alerts will also be sent to area news stations.

ART EXHIBITS



In December, we will exhibit art by Joshua Ramos, a self-taught artist working in ink, pottery, and painting. His practice is one of continuous exploration-evolving across mediums and driven by a passion to create, grow, and inspire other to do the same.



January's artist is Andre "DRE" Wright, who pushes the boundaries of how art can communicate through using simplistic composition and vibrant colors to convey deeper and raw emotions. DRE sees all his piece of work as memories from very important period in his life using his Caribbean roots and black experience to put soul and passion into his work, every one of his pieces have a story to tell using amazing color schemes and musical references to incorporate his own unique style.

News from the Friends of the Library

ABOUT US

The Friends of the Silas Bronson Library is a volunteer-run 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the library's operation and mission through fundraising, outreach, and other volunteer activities. The Friends provide vital funding for library programs, especially those for children. A contribution is made to the library each year to support public programs and services. Additionally, all sales from our Readers' Garden Bookstore go directly to the library to support programs and services.

The Friends oversee the Philip V. Benevento Fund for Cultural Programs for Adults at the Silas Bronson Library. The fund was established in 2016 in honor of Waterbury's City Historian and former Silas Bronson Library Board member Philip V. Benevento. The fund continues to grow through individual donations made to the Friends of the Silas Bronson Library and allows the library to present programs they might not otherwise be able to afford.

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FRIENDS

Second Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m.
December 8, January 12, February 9
Hybrid: Auditorium and Zoom
Are you interested in supporting the library? Come to our meeting and find out how you can get involved!

To register for Zoom participation, email us at silasbronsonfriends@gmail.com or sign up on the library's website at bronsonlibrary.org/programs

Membership Fees

Members of the Friends receive this newsletter in the mail. Membership rates start at $15/year for students and seniors; $25/year for individuals; $50/year for patrons; and $100/year for corporate memberships. To join, please send a check payable to the Friends of the Silas Bronson Library, P.O. Box 2853, Waterbury, CT 06723 and indicate that it is for a new membership.

Readers Garden Book Store

The Friends of the Library book store is located on the first floor of the library. Purchases can be made using cash, credit card, or check at the library's front desk.

Book Store Pricing

Hardcover: $1.00
Paperback: 50¢
Audiobooks: $3.00
DVD: $1.00
CD: 50¢
VHS: 25¢
Children's books:
25¢ (paperback)
50¢ (hardcover)



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

AFTERNOON COMPUTER CLASSES



Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.
Computer Classroom
Need help using computers?
Come to one of our classes and learn something new!

December 1: Computer Basics
December 8: Internet Safety
December 15: Internet Basics
December 22: PowerPoint
December 29: Word
January 5: Computer Basics
January 12: Google Docs
January 26: Your Phone's Settings
February 2: Online Searching & Website Navigation
February 9: Computer Basics
February 23: Chat GPT

EVENING COMPUTER CLASSES



Wednesdays, December 9 & 16, January 6 & 20, February 3, 6:30 p.m.
Computer Classroom
Brush up on the computer skills you need for work or school.

December 9: Computer Basics
December 16: Windows 11 Basics
January 6: Word
January 20: Chat GPT
February 3: Computer Basics

CLASES DE COMPUTACIÓN Y TECNOLOGÍA

Miércoles, 30 de diciembre, 27 de enero, 2:30 p.m.
Computer Classroom
Participa en nuestras clases gratuitas para principiantes, impartidas en español, y gana confianza al usar una computadora.

30 de diciembre: Conceptos Básicos de la Computadora
27 de enero: Microsoft Word

CLASES DE COMPUTACIÓN Y TECNOLOGÍA

(Clases Nocturnas)



Jueves, 10 de diciembre, 14 de enero, 11 de febrero, 6:30 p.m.
Computer Classroom
¡Descubre nuevas herramientas digitales y aprende habilidades prácticas para usar la tecnología con más confianza en tu vida diaria!

10 de diciembre: Microsoft Excel
14 de enero: Conceptos Básicos del Correo Electrónico
11 de febrero: Consejos Prácticos para Usar tu Teléfono Inteligente

ONE-ON-ONE COMPUTER HELP

By Appointment Only
Have a tablet, but don't know how to use it?
Need to figure out how to set up an email account?
Wondering how to use the library's Wi-Fi?
Want to learn how to use our online resources?
What about resume or job search assistance?
Our skilled and friendly staff are available to help you!
Schedule your appointment by calling 203-574-8225, visit the Reference Desk at the library or visit the Book a Librarian page on our website

Programs for Adults

WINTER READING BINGO



Tuesday, December 1, 2026 – Saturday, January 30, 2027

Get cozy with a good book this winter! Pick up your winter reading bingo card at the main library or Bunker Hill Branch and complete 3 activities in a row. Return your card with completed squares to the Reference or Teen Desk or Bunker Hill Branch to be entered into a raffle.

MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, January 12, 1:00 p.m.

Bunker Hill Branch Library



Join us every other month at the branch for a mystery book discussion. In January, we'll be discussing *Jar of Hearts* by Jennifer Hillier. Copies of the book are available to borrow from the library.

BUNKER BOOKIES

Thursdays, December 10, January 14, February 11, 1:00 p.m.

Bunker Hill Branch Library



Join us for a monthly book club at the Bunker Hill Branch Library. Copies of the books are available to borrow from the library.

December 10: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab

January 14: *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See

February 11: *Train Dreams* by Denis Johnson

SISTERS TO SISTERS BOOK CLUB

Thursdays, December 10, January 14, February 4, 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium



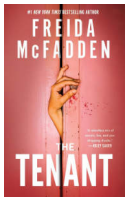
New members welcome. Copies of the books are available to borrow from the library. Note: In January, we will meet in the Main Reading Room.

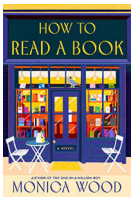
December 10: *Kin* by Tayari Jones

January 14: *The Tenant* by Frieda McFadden

February 4: *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood







BRASS BOOK CLUB

Thursdays, December 17, January 28, February 25, 12:30 p.m.

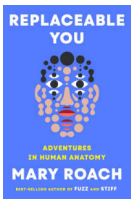
Zoom

Seniors 60+ are invited to join us for a monthly book discussion. Copies of the books will be available at the main library and the Bunker Hill branch.

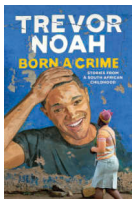
December 17: *Replaceable You* by Mary Roach

January 28: *Homeseeking* by Karissa Chen

February 25: *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah







Advance registration is required for this Zoom program. Sign up at bronsonlibrary.org/programs

Programs for Adults

TAKE HOME CRAFTS



Stop by the Reference Desk to pick up a take-home craft every month. Kits will include supplies and instructions to make each craft at home. Available while supplies last.

December: Penguin Bookmark
January: Book Page Snowflake
February: Heart Garland

JIGSAW PUZZLE HOUR



Tuesdays, December 15, January 19, February 23, 3:00 p.m.
Main Reading Room
Drop in to socialize, meet fellow puzzle enthusiasts, and collaborate on a large-scale puzzle. Don't worry if we don't finish; the fun continues at our next session!

OUTSMART THE SCAMMERS!



Tuesdays, December 15, January 26, February 23, 4:00 p.m.
Auditorium
Join Liberty Bank to learn how to spot scams, prevent fraud, protect your personal information, and take action if you become a victim-including how to recognize and prevent elder exploitation. Enjoy Fraud Bingo with prizes! Presented in English and Spanish.

HISTORIC HOMES OF WATERBURY

Tuesdays, January 5, February 2, 6:30 p.m.
Auditorium



Join us each month as we take virtual tours of Waterbury's historic homes and apartment buildings. Learn the history of each building and the people who used to live in it, and find out how you can learn more about your own home.

BILINGUAL DOMINO

Wednesdays, December 2, January 13, February 3, 3:00 p.m.
Auditorium



Play domino in English and Spanish. Meet new friends and have fun! We will provide dominoes and snacks.

MEDICAID & MEDICARE

Wednesdays, December 16, January 20, February 17, 3:00 p.m.
Auditorium
Confused About Medicare or Retirement Planning? We Can Help! Join Blanca Vasallo, Independent Broker with American Senior Benefits, for a free presentation on:

*Medicare & Medicaid
*State assistance programs
*Avoiding insurance overpayments
*Retirement & life insurance planning

Enjoy complimentary snacks, helpful resources, and free giveaways! Presented in English and Spanish.

EXERCISE YOUR MIND

Thursdays, December 10, January 14, February 11, 2:30 p.m.
Auditorium



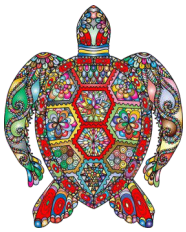
Stimulate your brain with games, puzzles, and conversation! Bring a friend or meet new friends!

Programs for Adults

COLORING & CONVERSATIONS

Thursdays, December 17, January 28, February 25, 2:30 p.m.

Auditorium



Meet and chat during our Coloring and Conversation Club. Whether you are looking to relax and destress, practice your English, or meet new people, you are welcome to join us! Coloring pages and supplies will be provided.

WRITERS CAFÉ

Thursdays, January 14, February 11, 5:30 p.m.

Auditorium



Come write with us! We'll have tea, coffee, snacks, and a quiet spot to work with other writers.

WATERBURY WRITERS

Thursdays, January 28, February 25, 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium

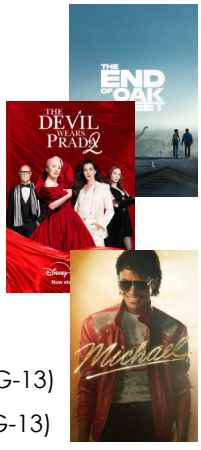


Writers of all experience levels are invited to share their WIPs, brainstorm ideas, or simply connect with other writers.

FRIDAY MOVIE MATINEE

Fridays, December 11, January 15, February 12, 1:00 p.m.

Auditorium



Join us each month for a featured film, complimentary popcorn, and a relaxing afternoon at the library. We look forward to seeing you!

December 11: *The End of Oak Street* (PG-13)
January 15: *The Devil Wears Prada 2* (PG-13)
February 12: *Michael* (PG-13)

FUN FRIDAYS

Fridays, December 4 & 18, January 8 & 22, February 5 & 19, 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium



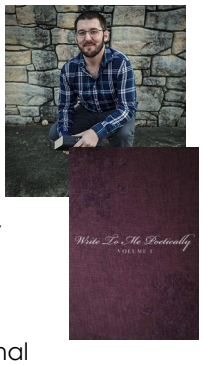
Join us for a different in-person craft activity each session.

December 4: Book Page Tree
December 18: Holiday Bulbs
January 8: Snowman
January 22: Snowflake Sun Catchers
February 5: Gratitude Jars
February 19: Hanging Heart Garland

FIND YOUR VOICE IN VERSE

Saturdays, December 12, January 16, February 20, 11:00 a.m.

Auditorium



Ready to explore new forms of creative expression? Join Find Your Voice in Verse, a new interactive writing group led by Waterbury's own, Joseph Adomavicia (a.k.a. Joe the Poet). Guided by the journal *Write to Me Poetically, Volume 1*, attendees will dive into everything from traditional Japanese styles to concrete and blackout poetry.

TINY BEANIES

Tuesday, December 8, 4:00 p.m.

Auditorium



Add a handmade touch to your holiday celebrations! Create a cute mini beanie ornament from yarn that's perfect for decorating your tree or gifting to someone special. Enjoy a relaxing crafting session with all supplies and snacks provided.

Programs for Adults

CROCHET HOUR

Saturday, December 12, 1:00 p.m.

Auditorium



Interested in finding other lovers of crocheting or looking to try something new for the first time? Instructor Linhchi Kompare will help guide interested participants in pre-selected projects or feel free to bring projects you are already working on from home if you need extra guidance. Supplies for pre-selected projects will be provided.

NOTES OF JOY

Thursday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium



Get into the holiday spirit with fun and creative card making! Create a handmade holiday card to spread some cheer to residents at a local nursing home. Then make additional cards to share with family and friends.

WELLNESS TRENDS

Tuesday, December 22, 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Curious about the latest diet trends? Discover where they began! Join Estevan Miranda, City of Waterbury Onsite Health Coach, for a fascinating look at the history of diets, from ancient food traditions to today's hottest wellness trends.



CPR BASICS

Saturday, January 16, 1:00 p.m.

Auditorium

Learn how to respond confidently during a cardiac emergency with presenter Clarismely Toribio, a Certified Basic Life Support (BLS) Instructor. This informative presentation will introduce the basics of CPR. *Snow Date: February 13*

Benevento Cultural Program

Black History Month Celebration

Wednesday, February 10, 6:00 p.m.

Main Reading Room



Our Culture Is Beautiful returns to the library for a special program combining African-American history and drumming. Stories about Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Ida B. Wells, and other positive role models who made a difference in the world will be intertwined with drumming and story props.

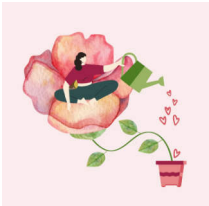
Snow Date: Wednesday, February 24, 6:00 p.m.

The Philip V. Benevento Fund for Cultural Programs for Adults at the Silas Bronson Library was established in 2016 in honor of Waterbury's City Historian and former Silas Bronson Library Board member Philip V. Benevento. The fund continues to grow through individual donations made to the Friends of the Silas Bronson Library.

SELF-CARE 101

Thursday, February 18, 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium



Take time for yourself and discover simple ways to care for your mind, body, and overall well-being. We will explore practical tips for managing everyday stress and share easy activities that can be incorporated into your daily routine. Learn how small steps can make a big difference in creating a more balanced lifestyle.

Geekdom Programs

CHESS CLUB

Tuesdays, December 8 &22,
January 12 & 26, February 9 & 23, 6:00 p.m.
Auditorium



Meet up with fellow chess enthusiasts and get hands-on guidance from an experienced instructor. Each session includes lessons, strategy tips, and open play time to practice what you've learned. All ages and skill levels welcome!

DND 101

Wednesdays, December 2, 16 & 30,
January 13 & 27, February 24, 5:30 p.m.
Auditorium

Answer the call to adventure at the Library! Join our D&D Club: a learn-as-you-play Campaign where you'll build a hero, team up with others, and level up. All experience levels welcome.

WARHAMMER 40K: LEARN, PLAY, BATTLE

Wednesdays, December 9,
January 20, February 10, 6:00 p.m.
Auditorium

Curious about Warhammer 40K or looking for a place to play? Join us for an introduction to the world of Warhammer 40K. Participants will get a hands-on chance to explore the game, learn how matches work, and try out tabletop battles.

TABLETOP EXPLORERS GUILD



Wednesdays, December 23,
January 6, February 3, 6:00 p.m.
Auditorium

Curious about the vast world of tabletop role-playing games? Come learn the basics, create characters, and play through a short adventure to see what each one has to offer.

CHECKMATE CHALLENGE

Thursdays, December 10, January 14 & 28,
February 11 & 25, 4:30 p.m.
Zoom



Join us for a virtual chess session focused on solving fun and challenging chess puzzles together. Each meetup, we'll work through tactical scenarios, discuss strategies, and improve our chess skills as a group. Great for beginners looking to learn tactics or seasoned players wanting to stay sharp.

Advance registration is required for this Zoom program.
Sign up online at bronsonlibrary.org/geekdom

SATURDAY CHESS MEETUP

Saturdays, December 5 & 19, January 9 & 23,
February 6 & 20, 1:00 p.m.
Auditorium



Can't make it to chess on Tuesdays? We also have chess meetups on Saturdays! All ages and skill levels welcome.

ANIME CLUB

Saturdays, December 12, January 30,
February 27, 2:30 p.m.
Auditorium



Join fellow fans at the Library Anime Club! Each month we'll watch the first episode of a new anime series, then wrap up with themed trivia. All experience levels are welcome.

Geekdom Programs

TABLETOP HOBBYIST MEETUP



Saturday, January 30, 12:30 p.m.
Auditorium
Enjoy an afternoon of painting, building, and connecting with fellow hobbyists. Whether you're a seasoned painter or just starting out, all skill levels are welcome. Share tips, learn new techniques, show off your latest projects, and enjoy creativity and camaraderie with fellow hobbyists. Bring your own miniatures and supplies or use ours, and let's make something awesome together!

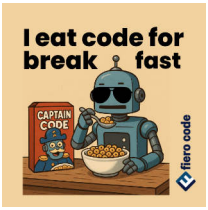
NOT YOUR PARENTS' BOARD GAMES



Saturdays, December 19, January 23, February 20, 2:30 p.m.
Auditorium
Love board games? Join us each month to meet fellow players and enjoy strategy, teamwork, and fun. Bring a favorite game or try one from our collection. Learn something new, and discover a whole new world of board games beyond the traditional choices.

Teen Programs

FIERO CODE FOR TEENS



Thursdays, 5:00 p.m.
Computer Classroom
Learn coding at the library this winter. We'll do one hour of coding each week. Choose your own coding option: vibe coding, coding blocks and more. We'll have snacks to take with you at the end of every session.

BRAINS & BRAWN



Tuesday, December 29, 3:00 p.m.
TeenZone
Shelby Davis, author of *Brains & Brawn: Mind, Body & Personal Growth*, will lead a motivational discussion focused on mindset, wellness, discipline, exercise, and personal growth. Copies of his book will be available for purchase & signing.

BANKING SAFETY

Thursday, January 14, 6:00 p.m.
TeenZone
Learn how to protect your money, ID, and assets from scams. Presented by TD Bank.

SELF-EMPOWERMENT FOR TEENS

Thursday, February 4, 3:30 p.m.
TeenZone



Ms. Alecia from S.E.L.F. (Survivor, Empower, Life Coach, Financial) will help you recognize healthy and unhealthy relationships, understand boundaries and consent, identify red flags and abusive behaviors, recognize stalking and digital abuse, and learn about safety planning and available resources. *Snow Date: Thursday, February 11, 3:30 p.m.*

TALK WITH A LIBRARIAN

Wednesday, February 24, 5:00 p.m.
TeenZone
The YA (or "young adult") book world offers tons of new books every year for ages 12-17. Teens and caregivers are invited to learn about the different genres from one of our Youth Services librarians.



Children's Programs

WINTER READING BINGO



December 1, 2026 – January 31, 2027

Make reading fun this winter! Discover new books, try different reading challenges, and earn a raffle ticket for every four squares completed, either across, down, or diagonally. See how many BINGOs you can get! Return your Bingo card by January 31 to be entered into the raffle. For kids and teens.

TODDLERS, TALES, AND TUNES

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Picture Book Room



Stop by on any given Tuesday to catch a tale and rock & roll. Tune in and listen, then dance and sing. For ages 6 and under.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY STORIES

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Picture Book Room



Join us on Wednesday mornings with our latest kid's librarian, Mr. D, for engaging picture books, creative sounds and movements designed to spark imaginations and conversations.

STORY NOOK THURSDAYS

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.
Children's Room



Come enjoy a story and a craft every Thursday morning.

WHERE IS SILAS THE CAT?

Thursdays, December 17, January 14, February 25, all day
KidZone



Use clues provided by our librarians to find where Silas the Cat, our stuffed animal, is hiding. When you find him, take a photo to show the librarian and win a prize! For ages 2+

CELEBRATE SOMETHING!

Fridays, December 4, January 4, February 9, 1:00 p.m.
Children's Room

Who says you need a big holiday to celebrate? Join us each month as we discover fun, silly, and sometimes surprising national holidays! We'll watch a movie, make a craft, and have a snack inspired by the day's theme.

December 4: National Cookie Day / *Wonka* (PG)
January 4: National Spaghetti Day / *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* (PG)
February 9: National Pizza Day / *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (PG)







IMAGINATION STATION

Fridays, December 11, January 8, February 12, 3:00 p.m.
Children's Room



Explore, create, and discover every month with fun, hands-on STEM activities, creative crafts, and interactive challenges that inspire curiosity, imagination, and learning through play.

Children's Programs

SATURDAY MORNING MOVIES

Saturdays, December 5, January 2,
February 6, 11:00 a.m.
Children's Room
Bring the kids to the library for a fun movie.

December 5: *Rise of the Guardians* (PG)
January 2: *K-Pop Demon Hunters* (PG)
February 6: *Treasure Planet* (PG)

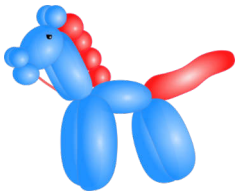






HOLIDAY MAGIC SHOW

Thursday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.
Children's Room
Magician Elac Aviles will dazzle you with electrifying magic and balloon tricks.

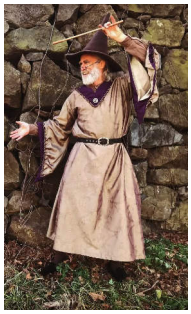


HOLIDAY CRAFTS

Wednesday, December 9, 6:00 p.m.
Children's Room
Spend an evening making ornaments, dreidels, and other small items for the winter holidays. Younger children may need adult assistance.

EARTH HERO MAGIC

Wednesday, December 23, 4:30 p.m.
Children's Room
You too can be an earth hero. Cyril the Sorcerer will show you that you have the power to be heroes for our Earth by learning the secrets of recycling, energy and water. *Snow Date: January 6*



NOON YEAR'S EVE

Thursday, December 31, 11:30 a.m.
Auditorium
Drop by and watch the noon year's ball drop at Silas Bronson Library. We'll have snacks, balloons, and party favors. For ages 3-12.



THREE KINGS CRAFT

Wednesday, January 6, all day
Children's Room
Stop by the library to design and decorate your crown. For ages 4-9.



ANANSI THE SPIDER

Thursday, February 18, 6:00 p.m.
Children's Room
Come celebrate Black History Month with a fun & friendly folktale. Drop in and listen to a tale about Anansi the Spider with Mr. C. Anansi tales were brought all the way from Ghana to the Americas. For ages 6-12.



ONCE UPON A RIVER

Thursday, February 25, 6:00 p.m.
Children's Room
Cyril the Sorcerer presents an enviromagic fairytale in which a young boy is offered all the money he needs to save his farm if he helps a magician steal a river.
For ages 4+. *Snow Date: March 4*



RITA'S AFRICAN SHOW

Saturday, February 27, 2:00 p.m.
Children's Room
Ms. Rita will share arts, crafts, fashion, and dance from Uganda. Kids don't forget to bring your parents.
Snow Date: March 6



SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY
267 GRAND STREET
WATERBURY, CT 06702

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SILAS BRONSON LIBRARY

Something for Everyone

LIBRARY HOURS

Main Library

Monday	9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Tues.-Thurs.	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Note: The library will close at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, and Wednesday, February 17

Check our website for weather and other closings.

Bunker Hill Branch Library

Tuesday	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LOCATIONS

Main Library

267 Grand Street
Waterbury, CT 06702

Bunker Hill Branch Library

192 Bunker Hill Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06708

CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Number:	203-574-8200
Bunker Hill Branch:	203-574-8240
Circulation Desk:	203-574-8206
Director's Office	203-574-8222
Reference Desk	203-574-8225
Youth Services	203-574-8206

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

Christmas, December 25 & 26
New Year's Day, January 1
MLK, Jr. Day, Monday, January 18
Presidents' Day, February 15 & 16

PARKING INFORMATION

Main Library

Kiosk and pay-by-phone parking is available on Grand Street and in the parking lot between the Library and City Hall. Handicapped spaces are available in the parking lot.

Parking Rates: $1 per hour, free after 6:00 p.m.

Bunker Hill Branch Library

Free parking is available in our lot on Aurora Street.