BEYOND THE STACKS

Holyoke Public Library www.holyokelibrary.org October 2026

Library Card Month

During the month of September, the library held a raffle to encourage people to get a library card. Over the course of the month, we had over 100 new library card sign-ups. Recently, we drew a winner for the basket and our lucky winner was Lionel M. Congratulations Lionel!

Don't have a Public Library Card?
Click here, to get information on how to get a card!

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Fall Programming

This fall the Reference/Adult, Teen and Children's librarians are planning some fun and educational programs for patrons to enjoy. Check our calendar regularly for events for all ages.

Some Fall programming (More on calendar):

October 5 – Mahjong 1- 3pm Mondays on the fourth floor near the printer. Open to adults who already know how to play.
October 7 – Mahjong 1- 3pm Wednesdays on the fourth floor near the printer. Open to adult beginners. Call 413-420-8106 or email Abbey at abuedinger@holyokelibrary.org to register!
October 5 – English Conversation Club- 6:45pm Mondays thru 10/26 Meet people and practice English for free! For speakers of any language and level.
October 14 – Adult Movie night 6-8pm Check the website for more information.
October 17 – Exploring Hispanic Genealogy & Indigenous and African Caribbean Roots - 1-3pm See page 4 for more information.
October 24 – Karaoke 12- 3pm and 11/7 Community Rm.
October 30, Nov 20, Dec 18 – Death Cafe 2:30-3pm Monthly on the third Friday.
October 28 – Teen Costume Maker event 3-7pm in Community room
November 3 – 5:30-7:30pm– A House in Holyoke through Time: The Johnson Homes.
December 14- 2:30pm – The Fanfare Brass Ensemble - a 10-part group. Featuring Classical and popular Music. check out a sample
December TBD – DIY Gift Wrapping -all ages event- You bring your gifts and the library will provide paper and tape.

Children's Room News

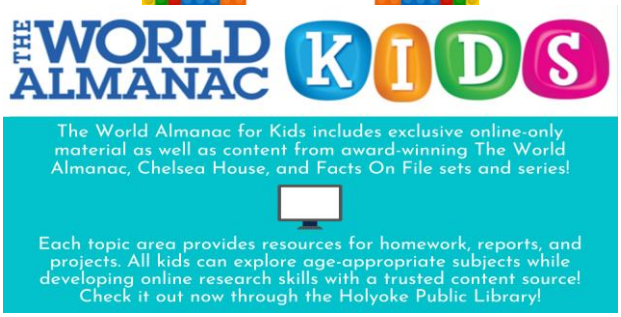
Holyoke Library Children's Room

The Children's Library has many activities planned for fall. We also provide access to quality educational programming year-round.

Come to the Children's room for Storytimes and Crafts this Fall. Check the calendar for specific dates.

The library has Poems from second graders from Kelly school from the 2016-17 school year. Any student who participated in that program is invited to come to the Children's room to check these out.

Come to the Children's room for Lego free build.



Call our librarians, Nathan or Rene at (413)420-8105 for more info.

Children's Room Newsletter

Keep up to date with everything happening in the Children's Room by subscribing to our newsletter! Fill out this form or email **rpellissier@holyokelibrary.org** to subscribe!

Library Hours

FALL HOURS
September 2026- May 2027

Monday - Thursday - 8:30am to 8:30pm
Friday - Saturday – 8:30am-4:00pm
*Closed Sundays, select Saturdays & Holidays
Check the library calendar for specific dates.

*** IF Holyoke CITY HALL CLOSES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER THE HOLYOKE LIBRARY IS ALSO CLOSED.**
Computers shut down 30 minutes before closing time.

Holyoke History Room
The History Room has more limited hours than the rest of the library: please click here for details.

Don't have a Public Library Card?
Click here, to get information on how to get a card.

Mobile Printing and Faxing Available

Need to print from your computer or mobile device? Don't have a printer? Use this:
- Printing from your laptop or mobile device:
Open your browser, go to print.princh.com and enter the 6-digit library code (109284) to select the printer or click this link Princh.com, to have the number prepopulated.
- When printing at the library: locate the print guide poster near the printer and scan the QR code.
-Once on Princh.com, Upload your document, enter your email, proceed to the **Print Release Terminal** and pay for your print job.
- Then, once your documents are sent, come to the library to pick them up. Click for more info

Need to send a Fax?
From your phone or computer/tablet, go to Faxscan24.com and follow instructions to input fax number and payment. Also, Fax in person from the fax machine on the first floor. $1.75 for the first page and $1.00 for every page after that (20 pgs. max per scan) Pay with credit/debit card or buy a prepaid card at the front desk.

Holyoke Food Drive

The City of Holyoke **Board of Health** is hosting a food drive to support local families and individuals in need.

If you would like to donate, please consider bringing **non-perishable food items or personal care products**, such as:

- Canned fruits & vegetables
- Canned protein (tuna, chicken, beans)
- Baby food & formula
- Personal care items (toothpaste, soap, etc.)

📍 **Drop-off locations:** City Hall, City Annex Hall, or **Holyoke Public Library**

Collection dates: October 1, 2026– January 8, 2027

Community Resources

413CARES

413Cares.org is a community platform that connects residents of Western Massachusetts to the services they need. Food, shelter, education, and other needed services.

NOVEMBER BALLOT QUESTIONS SIMPLIFIED

Election Day is November 3rd, and with nine ballot questions on the Massachusetts ballot this year, it can feel like a lot to keep track of. So, here's a resource to help!

Find all the 9 ballot questions simplified at votervoice.net/FoodBankWMA/Campaigns/140031/Respond
and share with anyone who could use it!

Online Resources

** A library card is needed to access some of our online resources.*

Don't have a Public Library Card?
Get one from the Holyoke Public Library!
Come down to the main desk and fill out a form.
Then a Staff member will help you to schedule a time to pick up your new library card.
To learn what you can access with your Holyoke Public Library card, check out re-Discover Your Public Library.

THE LIBRARY OFFERS MANY ONLINE RESOURCES WHICH CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE AT
HPL ONLINE RESOURCES , E-CATALOG(EBOOKS, AUDIO, ETC.)
YOUR VIRTUAL LIBRARY OR CHILDREN'S ONLINE RESOURCES

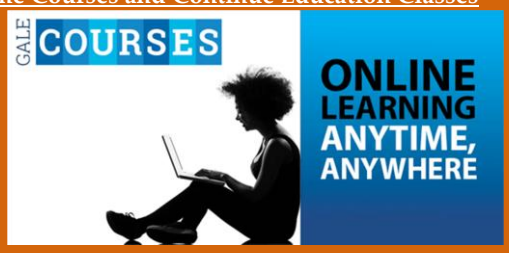
SOME OF THESE ONLINE SITES INCLUDE:

NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

Explore our new full-color image edition of The Springfield Republican! All you need is a Holyoke library card number.
Check out other Massachusetts newspapers here.

EDUCATION

Online Courses and Continue Education Classes



Online Non-Credit Courses Tutorial

History Room Digital collections

Genealogy Resources online

ancestry in-library edition
Discover your family tree in the Library.

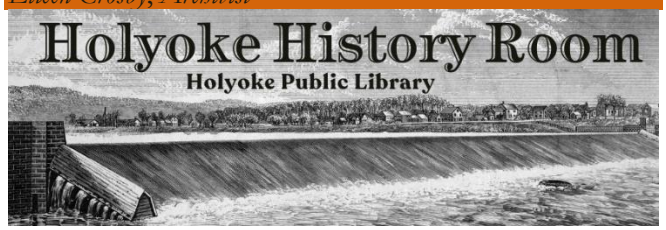
LEARN NEW SKILLS

Rocket Languages Tutorial

Try Rocket Languages, just use your library card!

History Room News

Eileen Crosby, Archivist



Reading Room hours: Tuesdays 10:00 – 2:00 & 3:00-6:00; Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00 – 4:00.
*See website for current hours and updates.

Upcoming events:
Saturday, October 17: Exploring Hispanic Genealogy & Indigenous and African Caribbean Roots with Iris Alicea Flores – 1:30pm – Exploring Hispanic Genealogy & Indigenous and African

Caribbean Roots is an engaging and educational presentation that introduces participants to the rich, complex history of Caribbean and Latin American ancestry. *Led by local genealogist Irisneri Alicea Flores*, this program explores how Indigenous Taíno, African, and Spanish histories intersect and are reflected in genealogical records and family histories.

Explorando la genealogía hispana y las raíces indígenas y africanas del Caribe es una presentación educativa que invita a conocer la rica y compleja historia de nuestros antepasados en el Caribe y América Latina. **La genealogista Irisneri Alicea Flores** explorará cómo se entrelazan las historias indígenas taínas, africanas y españolas, y cómo podemos encontrar sus huellas en los documentos genealógicos y las historias familiares.

In the Community room. Free and open to the public.
Made possible by a Holyoke Local Cultural Council grant, with funding from the MassCultural Council, a state agency.

Ha sido posible gracias a una subvención del Consejo Cultural Local de Holyoke, con financiación del MassCultural Council, un organismo estatal.

Local History Talks:
Saturday, November 14, 1:00 PM: Constance and Donald Green: An Unsolved Mystery, with Amy Mittelman
Saturday, December 5, 1:00 PM: Mount Tom Ski, with photographer Jim Long .

Wednesday, October 28: Genealogy Labs will meet on Oct 28, Nov 18, and December 16, 2:30 – 5:00.
In the Computer Classroom.

•General help, tips for organizing, or an intro to RootsMagic: ask Hillary (2:30-4:30).
•General help or a chance to dig into Spanish-language records: ask Iris Alicea Flores (3:00-5:00)
•Just getting started or want to help others with research? All are welcome.

History Walk in the Library Park- Come and see photographs and stories of South Holyoke and the Flats. In English and Spanish.

Starting November 2nd – On view "Who Can Vote? A Brief History of Voting Rights from the Gilder Lehrman Institute

Website: https://holyokelibrary.org/history-room
Email : historyroom@holyokelibrary.org
Telephone : (413) 420-8107

Teen Room News

Teen Room, 1st floor

We're having a fun time at the Teen room. From summer reading programs to our fall activities such as these below. All Teens are invited!

Join us this Fall and Winter for fun Programs! Sign up NOW for the Teen email to keep up with all of the activities! TEEN EMAIL. *(Click link, then scroll down to sign up.)*

October 22 - Teen Costume Crafting - 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM – Community Room (stay for the movie after!)

October 28 - Teen Costume Crafting - 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM – Community Room

October 29 - Hallowtween Party
Come enjoy a fun time at the library! Costumes welcome. Community Room.

Also check out our online resources: Community Resources, School Help or Homework Help.
For more events, check the Library Calendar

Questions, suggestions? Feel free to email at rsiniaho@holyokelibrary.org or call 413-420-8119.
CHECK OUT our Instagram PAGE!
https://www.instagram.com/holyokelibraryteens/

Museum Passes Available

Did you know that you can get discount or free entrance to local museums from the library? **For more information about how to check one out** click here.

Computer Lab News

Computer Room, 3rd floor

The Holyoke Library Computer room, and all public computers, are easily logged into with your library card. If you do not have a library card, please see staff to receive a temporary Guest Pass for a one-time login number.

Need Computer Help?
If you need some quick computer assistance (such as internet searching, document editing, resume-building, etc.) please see the Computer Lab staff on the library's 3rd floor and they can assist you.

For learning about computers or technology topics, we offer free one-on-one (or group at request) tutoring sessions and classes! See our Computer/Technology Tutoring page for more information on scheduling your classes or contact us at (413) 420-8118 or it@holyokelibrary.org.

Hispanic Heritage Month

*** September 15 – October 15 ***

Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration of Hispanic and Latino history and culture. This provides an additional opportunity to explore the incredible impact Latinas and Latinos have had on the United States for generations.

The Latino presence in America spans centuries, predating Spain's colonization of what is now part of the United States, and they have been an integral part of shaping our nation since the Revolutionary War. Check out some books and read more about Hispanics/Latinos: History, in Novels, In Spanish

Today, the Latino population in the United States today is over 60 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This makes up 18.9% of the total population and is the largest racial or ethnic group.

Library Movie Night!

Family and Adult Movie Nights! / ¡Noche de Películas para Familias y Adultos!
Every month. All are welcome. / Todos los meses. Todos están bienvenidos.
¡Bocadillios desponibles! / Snacks available!
<u>Family Movie Night</u>: Thursday, October 22nd at 6pm / jueves el 22 de Octubre a las 6pm:
Pelicula/Movie: **Minions**

<u>Adult Movie Night</u>:
Wednesday, October 14th / miercoles el 14 de Octubre :
Pelicula/Movie: **Scary Movie**

-Saturday, October 31st / sabado el 31 de Octubre :
Pelicula/Movie: **Universal Monsters Movie Marathon on Halloween starting at 10am!** Join us for 3 classic monster movies starting at 10am on Halloween Day! Try your hand at little horror and Halloween trivia (with prizes!) between films.

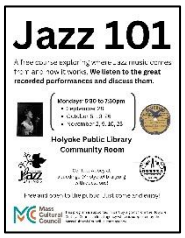
Visit the calendar to see what's showing every month / Visita el calendario para ver que presentación va a ver el próximo mes.

*****Sign up for <u>our Email list</u> and stay up to date on all library events/opportunities. <u>JOIN US!</u>**

Reference/Adult Rm News

Our librarians are busy planning adult programming like **Small Planet Dancers who performed Roaring Twenties Newsreel on Saturday, September 19th and Flamenco Boston performed on 9/30**:

<u>Adult Programming:</u> *(see more on pg. 1)*
<u>October 5 – Jazz 101 Series 5:30-7:30pm</u>



Mondays through 11/21 in the Community room. See website calendar for more information.

<u>English Conversation Club</u> - Practice English for free! For speakers of any language and level. English Conversation Club meet **Mondays, September 21 – October 26, from 6:45pm to 8pm**

<u>Mahjong</u> with our volunteer Sue will continue this fall! <u>Check our website</u> for exact dates.

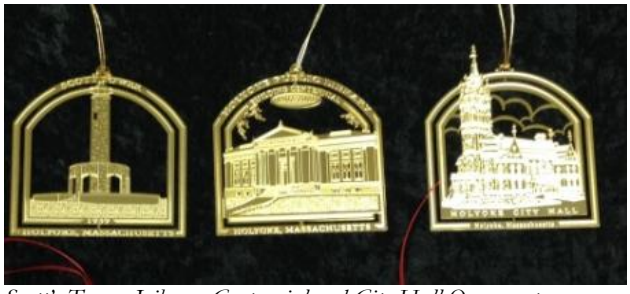
If you have any questions or suggestions for books, please feel free to contact the Reference Dept. at 413-420-8106 or by emailing Abbey at abuedinger@holyokelibrary.org or Cal at csieh@holyokelibrary.org.

Donate
Support the Library!

We hope that you will be able to support us and experience firsthand the pride we take in our library and in supporting our patrons. You can donate by check and mail or drop it off at 250 Chestnut St, Holyoke to: Attn/Development Office or online **at www.holyokelibrary.org** and click on the DONATE BUTTON scan QR.

DONATE

You can also support by buying **Library Merchandise** (e.g., the historic ornament series, and Holyoke books) Check at the Circulation Desk.
***These ornaments make great Holiday Gifts!**



Scott's Tower, Library Centennial and City Hall Ornaments

<u>Also available- Books by local authors</u>, Suggested donation $20 each:

HOLYOKE by Craig P. Della Penna (1971)
Holyoke Postcard Book by Devon Dawson (2004)
Actividades Musicales en Puerto Rico 1898-1910 by Catherine Dower
The Heritage Book by Ella M. and Donna DiCarlo (2013)

Holyoke Iconic Sights Blanket

Mini Golf and Games At the Library 2027

The Annual Mini Golf and Games at the Library, **¡Minigolf y juegos en la Biblioteca!** event is planned for May 1, 2027 and were bringing back the adult only Cocktail party.

SAVE THE DATE, and contact event Chair Nancy Kocsmiersky, HPL Donor management Office at **nancy@holyokelibrary.org, 413-420-8109** if you have questions or want to help.
Check out our website for pictures and info on the past Mini Golf and Games events.

Sponsors, Donors and Volunteers are needed and appreciated! Thank you.

Welcome New Staff - 2026

This year has brough many changes to the Holyoke Library including both staff who have left for other opportunities and the addition of several new staff.

We want to give a warm Goodbye to our two previous Computer Coordinators, Kareima and Omar.
During the time they were at the library, they both helped hundreds of patrons with computer problems both big and small. ***We wish them all of the best in their future endeavors!***

We are also happy to welcome the new staff. Some have been here a few months and some only a few weeks. We hope that you will take the time to meet all of the library staff, both long timers and the new staff and say hello.

Hello everyone, my name is Marc Luongo and as of March 16th I am the New Assistant Director here at the Holyoke Public Library.
What many people don't know is that before becoming Assistant Director I worked here at the library. I'm very passionate about being here and I hope to talk to every one of you when you come in.

Marc is a graduate of UMass Amherst with BA in History. At his last position he supervised 60 employees at 18 different job sites.

A little more about Marc:
I love to read and my favorite genres are defiantly more science fiction and fantasy.

Recently I have been reading *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
What is your favorite movie?
I love the Indiana Jones, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.
Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?
I actually run a D&D game for my friends from high school every week, if anyone wants to talk about D&D with me feel free to ask!
Pets? - I have two cats Loki and Bjorn

In the Evening Library Asistant position, we welcome Chris Piros.

Chris at the front desk helping patrons.

1. **What's your job title?** Library assistant
2. **Where did you work before this position?** Wales Public Library
3. **What kind of music do you like?** Rock and folk
4. **Do you like reading? If so, what genre of books do you like?** Fantasy and sci fi
5. **What's the best book you've read recently?** Dungeon Crawler Carl
6. **What's your favorite movie?** Treasure planet
7. **Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?** I'm a pretty good cook
8. **Do you have any pets? If yes, what kind and what is(are) their name(s)?** A big old baby of a cat named Faelyn

Welcome, Alex Valdes, the newest member of the Holyoke library staff!

1. **What's your job title?** Computer Coordinator (Day).
2. **Where did you work before this position?** The Ocean County Library in New Jersey.
3. **What kind of music do you like?** A lot of everything, especially alternative and Latin rock - my favorite bands are Soda Stereo, Caifanes, R.E.M. and Oasis.
4. **Do you like reading? If so, what genre of books do you like?** I am a voracious reader, mostly of novels - I like 20th century classics. Some of my favorites are *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck, *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath, and *Stoner* by John Williams.
5. **What's the best book you've read recently?** I couldn't put Adolfo Bioy Casares' *The Invention of Morel* down.
6. **What's your favorite movie?** Some days it's *Barry Lyndon,* other days it's *Easy Rider*, many days it's the Monkees movie *Head.*
7. **Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?** No hidden talents (that I am aware of) but I am an avid vinyl record collector.
8. **Do you have any pets?** I have a cat at my parents' house in New Jersey named Misu!
9. **Can you speak more than one language?** I am fluent in Spanish.
10. **Please add any additional information that you would like to share.** I am very new to the area and I'm very excited to get settled and to provide great library service to Holyoke!

Also recently hired is Nes Rivera, our new Evening Computer Coordinator.

Nes is a graduate of STCC and is from Holyoke.

1. **What's your job title?** Computer Coordinator
2. **Where did you work before this position?** I also work at Allsport Arena during the fall and winter.
3. **What kind of music do you like?** Virtually everything but country music.
4. **Do you like reading? If so, what genre of books do you like?** Yes, I like reading horror and sci-fi mostly.
5. **What's the best book you've read recently?** Sort of recently, I read a famous book by Mark Manson.
6. **What's your favorite movie?** Goodfellas, with The Godfather Part II at a very close second.
7. **Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?** I'm an avid gamer.
8. **Do you have any pets?** I have a cat named Shiva.
9. **Can you speak more than one language?** Yes, I also speak Spanish, and I'd like to learn more someday.

We hope that you will help us welcome our new staff and take time to get to know all of our staff better. Thank you.

STAY IN TOUCH!

HOLYOKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

250 Chestnut St, Holyoke, MA 01040

413-420-8101, library@holyoke.org

Website: www.holyokelibrary.org/

*NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON. *

Facebook: www.facebook.com/holyokepubliclibrary/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/HolyokeLibrary

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:

Main Desk:	413-420-8101
Reference Dept.:	413-420-8106
Children's Dept.:	413-420-8105
Teen Dept.:	413-420-8119/ http://www.facebook.com/hplteenroom/
History Room:	413-420-8107 www.facebook.com/holyokehistoryroom/
Computer Room:	413-420-8118
Fundraising:	413-420-8109

Holyoke Public Library
250 Chestnut St
Holyoke, MA 01040

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

* HPL Annual Meeting

On **Tuesday, October 20, 2026** the library will be having the HPL Annual Meeting to review Fiscal Year 2026, discuss the upcoming year's plans and to vote for the new Library Board.

Where: Community Room

When: 5:30pm

Corporators and Members of the Holyoke community are invited to attend.

Looking for a new book, Music or Movie?

Wowbrary
The newest stuff at your library

Wowbrary regularly informs you by email and/or RSS about your chosen public library's newest books, movies and music. **Wowbrary** makes it easy for you to place a hold on a new title. **This is a free user service** supported by grants, donations, sponsorships, book sale commissions and volunteers. To receive a copy of Wowbrary via your e-mail, click here to subscribe.