

What's Happening



January was named for the Roman god Janus, known as the protector of gates and doorways who symbolize beginnings and endings. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other with the ability to see into the future.

The Romans often made promises to Janus and exchanged good wishes. The Babylonians resolved to return borrowed farm equipment and medieval knights would renew their vow to chivalry. Does this sound familiar?

New Year's resolutions actually go back to ancient times! So, making them is nothing new. So, before you pooh-pooh resolutions, let's explore the history behind this tradition.

In 2000 B.C., the Babylonians celebrated the New Year during a 12-day festival called Akitu. This was the start of the farming season to plant crops, crown their king, and make promises to pay their debts. One common resolution was the returning of borrowed farm equipment (which makes sense for an agriculturally based society).

The Babylonian New Year was adopted by the ancient Romans, as was the tradition of resolutions. The timing, however, eventually shifted with the Julian calendar in 46 B.C., which declared January 1st as the start of the new year.

By the 17th century, New Year's resolutions were so common that folks found humor in the idea of making and breaking their pledges.

In the United States, New Year's resolutions are still a tradition, but the type of resolutions have changed.

As a legacy of our Protestant history, resolutions in the early 1900s were more religious or spiritual in nature, reflecting a desire to develop stronger moral character, a stronger work ethic, and more restraint in the face of earthly pleasures.

Over the years, however, resolutions seem to have migrated from denying physical indulgences to general self-improvement, like losing weight. While it may seem superficial, medical

sociologist Natalie Boero of San Jose State University suggests that today's resolutions are also a reflection of status, financial wealth, responsibility, and self-discipline—which isn't that different from how the New Year's resolution tradition began.

See the difference:

Resolutions From 1947 - Gallup Poll

1. Improve my disposition, be more understanding, control my temper
2. Improve my character, live a better life
3. Stop smoking, smoke less
4. Save more money
5. Stop drinking, drink less
6. Be more religious, go to church more often
7. Be more efficient, do a better job
8. Take better care of my health
9. Take greater part in home life
10. Lose (or gain) weight



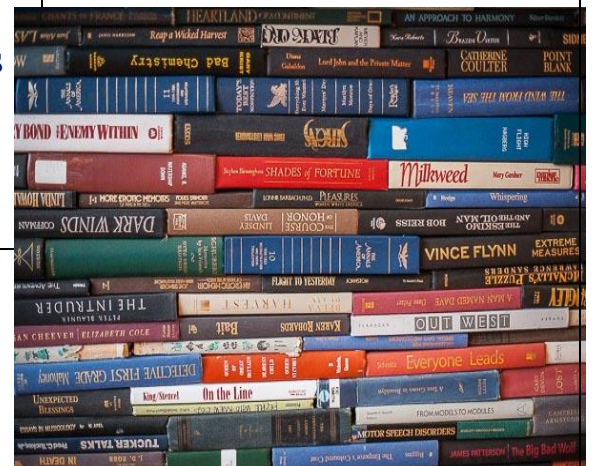
Today's Resolutions

1. Lose weight
2. Get organized
3. Spend less, save more
4. Enjoy life to the fullest
5. Stay fit and healthy
6. Learn something exciting
7. Quit smoking
8. Help others fulfill their dreams
9. Fall in love
10. Spend more time with family

The Read Anything Book Club meets the third Wednesday of the month @ 7pm in the library's Reading Room.

Even if you haven't read a book recently or haven't finished the one you're reading, come and listen or share what you've read so far. This is a low to no pressure group.

We did not meet in the month of December due to the weather. Will try again January 18.



Story Hour will be the third Saturday of each month from 10 – 11am.

For the month of January, Story Hour will be Saturday the 21st.

Stories, crafts and light refreshments will be offered.



This month celebrate the Chinese New Year, the year of the rabbit by making either a Chinese lantern or dragon. Also, baby goats will be featured.

This month's story hour is brought to you in part by



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- Lawn mowing
- Vacant Lot Grass/Brush Mowing
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What's happening in January?

Sunday, January 1 New Year's Day

Friday, January 5 Full Moon, i.e. The Wolf Moon

Monday, January 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday, January 11 10-10:45 Music & Movement with Daycare

Thursday, January 12 10-10:45 Music & Movement with Daycare

Wednesday, January 18 7:00pm The Read Anything Book Club

Sunday, January 22 Chinese New Year

Saturday, January 21 10:00am-11:00am Story Hour

Tuesday, January 31 6:30pm Library Board of Trustees meet



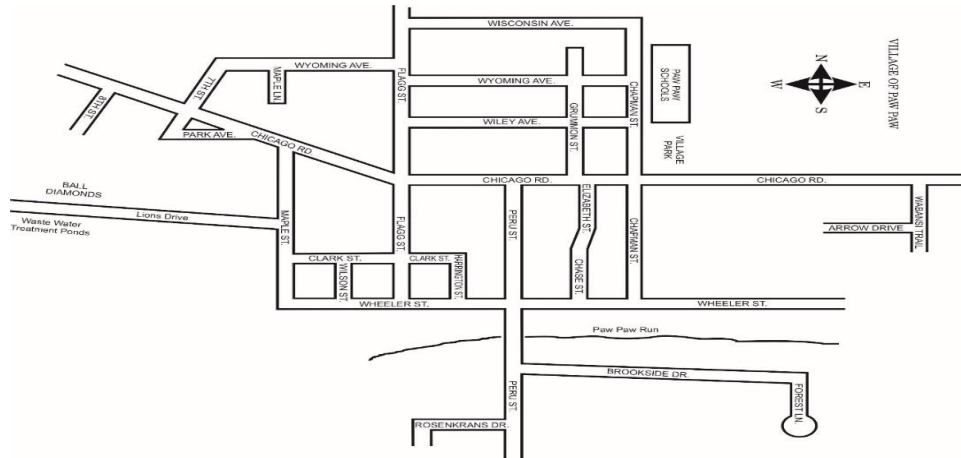
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CALENDARS NOW!

PAWS IN THE PAST - STREETS



\$15 Each. All net proceeds will go directly to preserving/cataloging the photos, newspapers and paper ephemera that has been donated and collected through the years at the library. Any questions stop by or call the Library @ (815)627-9396. A limited amount has been ordered so hurry and get yours today before we run out.

The Library Board of Trustees meets the **4th Tuesday of each month** except for December.

The meetings begin at **6:30pm** in the Reading/Conference Room (upstairs)

The Public is encouraged to attend.

Any questions please call the library @ 815-627-9396



New Book Summaries (below)

of just a few of the books.

For a complete list check out the Events Page



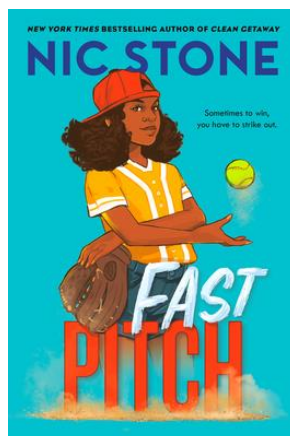
After the Party

Ralph's Party #2
Lisa Jewell

Eleven years ago, Jem Catterick and Ralph McLeary fell deeply in love. They thought it would be forever, that they'd found their

happy ending. As everyone agreed, they were the perfect couple. Then two became four, and an apartment became a house. Romantic nights out became sleepless nights in. And they soon found that life wasn't quite so simple anymore. But through it all, Jem and Ralph still loved each other. Of course, they did.

Now Jem is back at work part-time as a talent agent. Ralph, a successful painter, is struggling to come up with new, hopefully groundbreaking, work for his upcoming show. But the unimaginable has happened. Two people who were so right together are starting to drift apart. And in the chaos of family life, Jem feels like she's losing herself, while Ralph, stuck on the sidelines, feels like he's lost his muse altogether. Something has to change. As they try to find a way back to each other, back to what they once had, they both become momentarily distracted—but maybe it's not too late to recapture happily ever after...



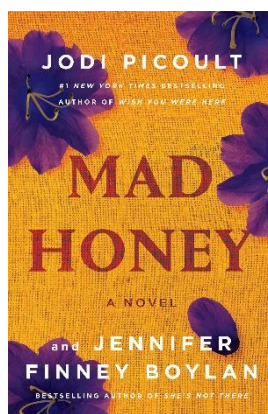
Fast Pitch

Nic Stone

Shenice Lockwood has her eyes set on the Fastpitch World Series. As team captain, she'd like nothing more than to help her girls take home the trophy and the \$10,000 prize money. And as one of the few brown faces on the field, it'd be a

personal triumph to show-up her rich, white opponents.

But Shenice's focus gets shaken when her Uncle Jack reveals that a family crime may have been a set-up all along. Shenice will stop at nothing to uncover the past. The closer she gets to the truth, though, the further she gets from her goals for the future.

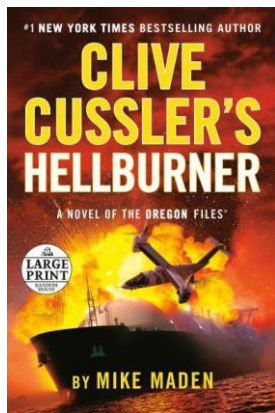


Mad Honey

Jodi Picoult, Jennifer Finney Boylan

Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life—living in Boston, married to a brilliant cardiothoracic surgeon, raising a beautiful son, Asher—was upended when her husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined she would end up back in her sleepy New Hampshire hometown, living in the house she grew up in, and taking over her father's beekeeping business.

Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs, too. When she and her mom relocate to Adams, New Hampshire, for her final year of high school, they both hope it will be a fresh start.

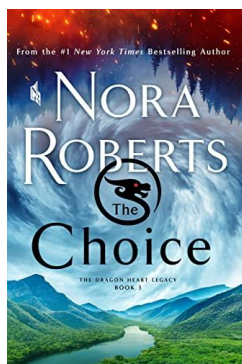


Clive Cussler's Hellburner

Oregon Files #16
Mike Maden

When Juan Cabrillo fails to capture the leader of Mexico's most dangerous drug cartel and loses an Oregon crew member in the process, he's determined to get revenge. Little does he know that the explosion he just narrowly escaped was merely the latest flash of violence from a machine of war that has existed for decades, dating from the bloodiest episode in Armenia's history.

Cabrillo's Corporation of mercenaries may have finally met its match in The Pipeline—a criminal syndicate passed down from father to son across generations. A group that sits with its finger on the trigger of a torpedo so deadly it could level entire cities. With millions of innocent civilians hanging in the balance, the Oregon's crew must unravel a tangle of drug-smuggling routes and international conspiracies spanning from the Aegean Sea to the Indian Ocean, putting their lives on the line to find the weapon before its countdown hits zero.



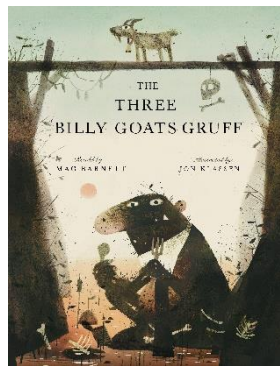
The Choice

The Dragon Heart Legacy #3
Nora Roberts

Breen Siobhan Kelly grew up in the world of Man and was once unaware of her true nature. Now she is in Talamh, trying to heal after a terrible battle and heartbreaking losses. Her grandfather, the dark god Odran, has been defeated in his attempt to rule over Talamh, and over Breen—for now.

And for just a short while, these new beginnings are exactly what Olivia and Lily need. Their paths cross when Asher falls for the new girl in school, and Lily can't help but fall for him, too. With Ash, she feels happy for the first time. Yet at times, she wonders if she can she trust him completely . . .

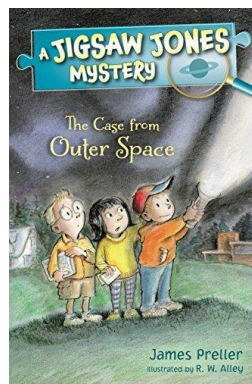
Then one day, Olivia receives a phone call: Lily is dead, and Asher is being questioned by the police. Olivia is adamant that her son is innocent. But she would be lying if she didn't acknowledge the flashes of his father's temper in him, and as the case against him unfolds, she realizes he's hidden more than he's shared with her.



The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Mac Barnett, Jon Klassen (Illustrator)

Once there was a bridge and a terrible and VERY hungry troll lived underneath it. When the three Billy Goats Gruff decide to clip-clop across the bridge to get to the grassy ridge, the troll is already imagining all the way to prepare a delicious goat dinner. But the troll underestimates those seemingly sweet but oh-so-savvy goats!



Jigsaw Jones: The Case from Outer Space

James Preller

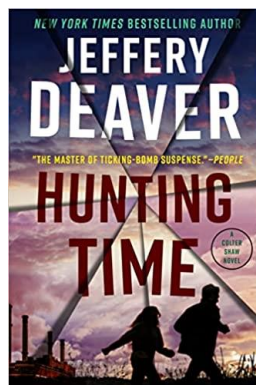
Jigsaw Jones is back! In *The Case from Outer Space*, an original mystery from James Preller, Jigsaw and his crew—Mila, Joey, and Danika—find a clue that implies an alien may be about to visit their school! Can it be true? And what does the Little Free Library have that aliens from outer space might want? (Hint: The school librarian has invited a special guest to talk about space exploration—an astronaut!) Friendship, mystery, and school-day shenanigans are what make the Jigsaw Jones chapter book mysteries beloved and read over and over. Includes

With the enemy cast out and the portal sealed, this is a time to rest and to prepare. Breen spreads her wings and realizes a power she's never experienced before. It's also a time for celebrations--of her first Christmas in both Talamh and Ireland, of solstice and weddings and births--and daring to find joy again in the wake of sorrow. She rededicates herself to writing her stories, and when his duties as taoiseach permit, she is together with Keegan, who has trained her as a warrior and whom she has grown to love.

It's Keegan who's at her side when the enemy's witches, traitorous and power-mad, appear to her in her sleep, practicing black magick, sacrificing the innocent, and plotting a brutal destruction for Breen. And soon, united with him and with all of Talamh, she will seek out those in desperate need of rescue, and confront the darkness with every weapon she has: her sword, her magicks--and her courage...



a word jumble (names of planets in solar system), writing prompts, and information on how to start a little free library (which are taking hold in many parts of the country)!



Hunting Time

Colter Shaw #4
Jeffery Deaver

THERE ARE TWO FUNDAMENTAL RULES OF SURVIVAL.

#1: NEVER BE WITHOUT A MEANS OF ESCAPE.

Allison Parker is on the run with her teenage daughter, Hannah, and Colter Shaw has been hired by her eccentric boss, entrepreneur Marty Harmon, to find and protect her. Though he's an expert at tracking missing persons--even those who don't wish to be found--Shaw has met his match in Allison, who brings all her skills as a brilliant engineer designing revolutionary technology to the game of evading detection.

#2: NEVER BE WITHOUT ACCESS TO A WEAPON.

The reason for Allison's panicked flight is soon apparent. She's being stalked by her ex-husband, Jon Merritt. Newly released from prison and fueled by blinding rage, Jon is a man whose former profession as a police detective makes him uniquely suited for the hunt. And he's not alone. Two hitmen are also hot on her heels--an eerie pair of thugs who take delight not only in murder but in the sport of devising clever ways to make bodies disappear forever. Even if Shaw manages to catch up with Allison and her daughter, his troubles will just be beginning.

SHAW IS ABOUT TO DISCOVER RULE #3: NEVER BELIEVE ANYTHING.

As Shaw ventures further into the wilderness, the truth becomes as hard to decipher as the forest's unmarked trails...and peril awaits at every turn.

The End.