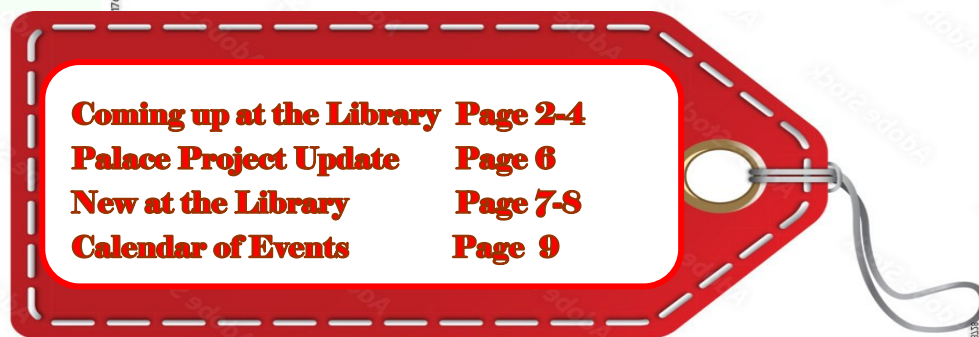




COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY



Left to right from top center: *The Impossible Fortune* by Richard Osman, *The Halloween Tree* by Ray Bradbury, *The Haunting of Payne's Hollow* by Kelley Armstrong, *The Man Made of Smoke* by Alex North, *Nothing to Lose* by J. A. Jance, *Deadly Intent* by Lynda La Plante, *Ask Not: The Kennedys and the Women They Destroyed* by Maureen Callahan, *Be Ready When the Luck Happens: A Memoir* by Ina Garten, *Call of the Camino* by Suzanne Redfearn, *Lightning in a Mason Jar* by Catherine Mann. The book at the top next to the pumpkin is a sparkly bedazzled copy of *Remarkably Bright Creatures*.

READ ANY BOOK GROUP

MONDAY, December 1 @ 6:00 PM

Christmas is on its way with all the shopping, decorations and social events keeping us busy. Before the chaos begins, why not take an evening to relax and enjoy a discussion with other readers about the books you've recently read. Join us on December 1st for an undemanding and enjoyable time.

READ ONE BOOK GROUP

Our Read One Book Group will be reading *The Widow* by John Grisham. We will be meeting in February; a date will be provided in the next newsletter. The library has three copies of the book so there are plenty to go around if you'd like to read it.

COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

BIG SALE!

The library will be holding a big book sale on Saturday, December 6th, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We have lots of new donated books and DVDs for you to peruse. Prices remain the same:

- ♣ \$1 for hardcover books and audiobooks
- ♣ 50¢ for trade paperbacks and CDs
- ♣ 25¢ for mass market paperbacks



SPECIALS!

- ♣ Buy 3 hardcovers, get one free
- ♣ Buy 4 mass market paperbacks, get one free
- ♣ DVDs for only 25¢
- ♣ From 2:00-3:00 PM– fill a plastic bag for \$2

This is a great chance to find some Christmas gifts for the booklovers in your life. A DVD or CD would make a great stocking stuffer. Or just stock up for your snowed-in reading days this winter.

In addition, you'll find our beautiful hand-crafted pendants irresistible. At only \$25 apiece, they are one-of-a-kind pieces to gift or keep for yourself.

Finally, we have a selection of lovely handmade greeting cards available for just \$1. Other craft-related and decorative items will also be for sale.

**Saturday, December 6 from
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**



COMING UP AT THE LIBRARY

Christmas Wreath Class



*Beautiful book vases the group
made last month*

Sounds of the season ring in the air and the glow of holiday lights are everywhere. Plan to join our craft group for this wonderful wreath class brought to us by our Creative Crafters, Donna and Deb. The ladies will have an array of decorations, ribbons and all manner of beautiful trims from which you can choose to design your own wreath. They will teach you how to decorate this 8" wreath, one you can be proud to hang in your home or present as a holiday gift.

The class will be held on December 10 from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Big Rock Town Hall. The class cost is \$6. You are asked to bring to this class a glue gun and glue sticks for your glue gun. Seats for the class are limited, so call the Big Rock Library at 630-556-3604 to reserve your seat soon. Treat yourself during this busy time of year with an enjoyable creative evening and leave with a beautiful holiday decoration.



Honoring Veterans

Veterans and the public were treated to a heart-tugging presentation by Lynn Rymarz on Nov. 7 as she adopted the personas of two Vietnam War-era nurses, one fictional and one real. Surrounded by death, disease, and destruction, these medical workers bravely fought the war in hospital ORs. When their tour was done, they brought their inner trauma home with them when they returned stateside.

This program was held at the Big Rock Park District. Goodie bags were provided for the Veterans, and much-appreciated treats for the 41 people in attendance.



Ready for a German Christmas Adventure?

If attending Chriskindlmarket has been on your to-do list, here's a fine opportunity for a nearby treat between now and December 24. Aurora's Chriskindlmarket is free and located on Broadway (Rt 25), across from the train station in Aurora's RiverEdge Park. This Christmas experience replicates a popular German market with 70 wooden chalet cottages featuring German food, handblown ornaments, wood carvings, candles and cuckoo clocks, heavy wool sweaters and socks, hand-made crafts and pottery. Many of the shopkeepers are young people visiting from Germany, so you often hear the language of Munich where this tradition is 400 years old.

The event runs Thursdays through Sundays from now to Christmas Eve. It opens at 11:00 AM each day and closing varies from 7:00-9:00 PM. Parking in the north end of the train lot costs \$10 but the lot on Lincoln, which is on the east side of the train station, costs \$2 for the entire day. The pedestrian underpass leads you to street level across from the park. If you're coming from Big Rock, a great option is to park in the free spaces by Wilder Park on N. Lake Street and walk across the Fox River on that artistic pedestrian bridge to the market. Google maps shows the bridge temporarily closed but the market people say it's open for their event.

Ahhh, I believe it's time for a souvenir cup of hot chocolate and a toasty raclette sandwich.

The Palace Project

The Palace Project is the new eReader app that will replace Boundless. As you've probably discovered if you're a Boundless user, the app is no longer active. The new app should be up and running by the first week in December, we've been advised. We appreciate your patience and as soon as The Palace Project is available, we will be sending out instructions for how to use the app.

To keep you up to date on progress, as of now, The Palace Project is transferring all the material on Boundless (e-books and audiobooks) to their platform. They are onboarding all previous Boundless libraries onto the platform as well.

In the meantime, you may be wondering where The Palace Project got its odd name. Here's the scoop from their website:

In his book Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life, author Eric Klinenberg writes, "The library really is a palace, it bestows nobility on people who otherwise couldn't afford a shred of it."

A wonderful sentiment that should encourage you to visit our own palace and check out a physical book or two to keep you reading until The Palace Project is ready.

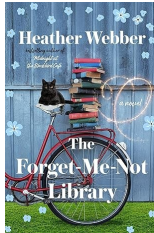


NEW AT THE LIBRARY

New Adult Romance

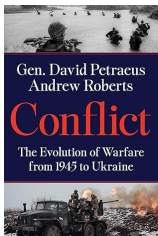
The Forget-Me-Not Library
by Heather Webber

Juliet, an accident survivor on a road trip of discovery, and Tallulah, a newly single mother who works at the Forget-Me-Not Library, meet and, through the library's books, and their friendships, discover new meaning for their lives.



New Adult Nonfiction

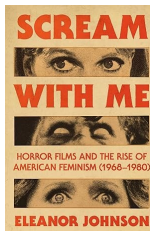
Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine by General David Petraeus and Andrew Roberts (2023)



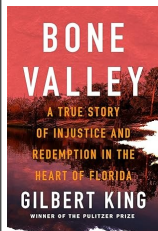
Two leading authorities examine the history of warfare from the end of WWII through the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and assess the lessons we should learn when dealing with future conflicts.

Scream with Me by Eleanor Johnson

A study of classic horror films in the context of feminism, "the films... expose and critique issues of reproductive control, domestic violence, and patriarchal oppression," showing the deeper messages embedded in these scary tales.



Bone Valley: A True Story of Injustice and Redemption in the Heart of Florida by Gilbert King



Author and podcaster Gilbert King investigates the story of Leo Schofield who was arrested and convicted of murdering his wife in rural Florida, and King discovers a trail of inadequate defense, as well as deep-seated corruption that led to Schofield's unlawful conviction.

New Junior Fiction



Big Jim Believes (Dog Man # 14)
by Dav Pilkey

Will Big Jim get out of Cat Jail? Will Dog Man's heroics prevail? Be sure to read the newest installment of the popular graphic Dog Man series.



HOLIDAY HOURS

To give our loyal and hard-working volunteers a break, and to give them the opportunity to celebrate the Christmas season, the library will be closed from Monday, December 22, 2025 through Saturday, January 3, 2026. We will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Remember to visit the library before the closing to stock up on holiday reading for you and your kids.

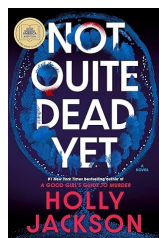
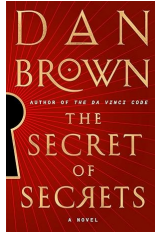


NEW AT THE LIBRARY

New Mysteries & Thrillers

The Secret of Secrets by Dan Brown

When Professor Robert Langdon attends his new romantic partner, Katherine's, lecture on human consciousness, then she suddenly disappears, his search for her uncovers a secret project and the malevolent forces behind it.

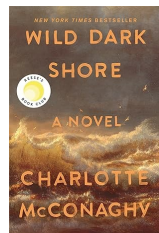


Not Quite Dead Yet by Holly Jackson

After a brutal attack that left her with a catastrophic brain injury, Jet has seven days to discover who murdered her, so with the help of friend Billy, she tries to assess her friends and family in the light of her assault to find the culprit.

The Autumn Springs Retirement Home Massacre by Philip Fracassi

As bodies begin to drop everywhere at the Autumn Springs Retirement Home, no one seems concerned, since the residents are all old and frail anyway, but resident Rose and her friend Miller decide that something dangerous is going on and they mean to find out what before Rose becomes the next victim.

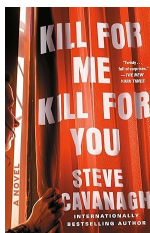


Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy

Shearwater, a remote island near Antarctica, is home to one of the world's only seed banks; protected by the Salt family, the island is threatened not only by rising water, but by a mysterious woman who washes up on the island shore.

Kill for Me Kill for You by Steve Cavanagh

Two women meet by accident and discover that they have a lot in common, and agree to commit murder for each other, the perfect crimes. Can you say *Strangers on a Train*?



New Mysteries & Thrillers



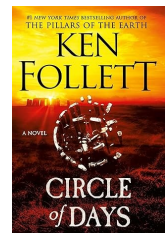
The Peacock and the Sparrow by I. S. Berry (2023)

Shane Collins' last tour as a CIA operative in the Middle East takes an unexpected turn when he falls in love and his informant becomes involved in a murder as he realizes his priorities and motives are shifting.

New Historical Fiction

Circle of Days by Ken Follett

Follett's epic imagination has created a story of the building of Stonehenge, and the people who had the vision and the skills to create this now world-famous monolith.



New Adult Fiction

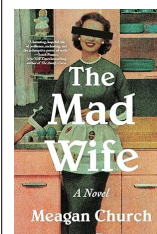
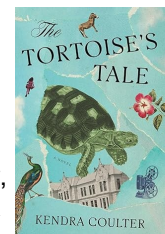


Regretting You by Colleen Hoover

Mother and daughter Morgan and Clara clash constantly, and only Chris, the man in the family, can mediate their differences, until he is involved in a tragic accident and their lives spiral out of control.

The Tortoise Tale by Kendra Coulter

Magic, a giant tortoise who found her way to a southern California estate, recounts the history of the estate through its various owners and their quirks and activities, most notably Lucy, a little girl who names her and shares a special bond with her. For lovers of *Remarkably Bright Creatures*.



The Mad Wife by Meagan Church

Lulu's goal is to be the perfect '50s housewife, until she meets her new neighbor Bitsy, discovering some unsettling truths, and finally watching her own life unravel, leads her to question her own sanity.

A Final Word

CUTE CORNER: Seems like Australia has a corner on cuteness. This little fellow is called a Western Pygmy Possum and lives in the south and southwest of the Australian continent. The pygmy possum is a marsupial, only 3.5 to 4 inches long and weighs about half an ounce.

Pygmy possums are nocturnal, sleeping in tree hollows and other crevices, moving about in the trees at night using their prehensile tails. They primarily consume plant nectar and pollen, and occasionally insects. When the weather gets cold enough, they can go into a state of “torpor” for up to seven days, much like a mini-hibernation period.

Females can have litters of between 4-6 infants that are weaned in 50 days. The western pygmy possum is considered threatened or endangered in some parts of Australia.



Calendar for December

December 1- Read Any Book Group @ 6:00 PM

December 6- Book Sale- 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM

December 10- Crafts and Creatives @ 6:30 PM

December 22- January 5- Library closed for holidays

January 5- Read Any Book Group @ 6:00 PM