

HAPPENINGS  
WOODWARD PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER  
December 2024

Check us out at [www.woodward.lib.ia.us](http://www.woodward.lib.ia.us) or on Facebook [www.facebook.com/woodwardlib](http://www.facebook.com/woodwardlib)



Librarians are tour-guides for all knowledge—*Patrick Ness*

### From the Director's Chair

The library is going through a few changes. The furniture has been swapped out for a new fresher look. We are constantly weeding the collection to bring in new books and to be sure the library has the newest books available to be read.

The Adventure Pass which is a favorite for many families is taking a pause. The following comes from the library that coordinates the Adventure Passes:

Due to issues with the company used to make reservations, the Iowa Libraries Adventure Pass will be put on pause starting December 31st. The calendar is still open for new reservations thru December 31st. Reservations that were previously made for dates past December 31st will still be honored. However, new reservations are not being taken for dates after December 31st.

I know they are working hard to find the right company to go with to continue this program.

Remember December is the month for the Library's Annual Fundraisers. Be sure to stop in on Saturday, December 14, from 9am to 1pm for the annual cookie and candy sale. Also, purchase a library t-shirt as a way to support the library. See the end of this newsletter for complete details.

During, the months of December through March, we will be taking a break from changing out the Storywalk book, due to the weather. We will return in April just in time for spring walking.

The Great Reading Challenge ends at the end of the month. I am hoping many participated. How many books did you read for the year? Please let me know your name and the number of books read on or before December 31. Prizes will be awarded in January.

Best wishes for a happy and blessed New Year. Keep reading and learning.

## At the Library in December

Saturday, December 14 9am to 1pm, Annual Cookie and Candy Sale

### Spotlight on Books



Sue Grafton

Sue Was an American author of detective novels. She is best known for the “alphabet series”, (A is for Alibi, B is for Burglar, etc.)

By the time Sue was five, both of her parents had become alcoholics and she said, “I was left to raise myself.” After graduating from the University of Louisville and Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor’s degree in English Literature and minors in humanities and fine arts.

Sue’s father was enamored with detective fiction and wrote at night. He taught Sue lessons on the writing and editing process and groomed her to be a writer. Sue began writing when she was eighteen and finished her first novel four years later. She wrote six more novels. But when only two of these seven novels were published, Sue turned to writing screen plays for the next fifteen years.

Sue adapted Agatha Christie’s “A Caribbean Mystery” and “Sparkling Cyanide” for TV among other books.

Sue said her experience as a screenwriter taught her the basic of structuring a story, writing dialogue and creating action sequences. She decided to return to writing fiction. While going through a “bitter divorce and custody battle that lasted six long years,” Sue said she imagined ways to kill or maim her ex-husband. Her fantasies were so vivid, she decided to write them down.

Sue started writing the “alphabet mysteries: with her character detective ‘Kinsey Millhone’ as her alter ego, “the person I might have been had I not married young and had children.”

Sue put out “A is for Alibi” in 1982 and “B is for Burglary” in 1985 and then a book every 1-2 years. Every novel’s title combined a letter with a work except for X. When Sue got to “G is for Gumshoe”, she was able to quit her screen writing job and focus on her novel writing.

Sue died before she could write “Z is for Zero”. Sue’s novels have been published in 28 countries and 26 languages. She refused to sell the film and TV rights because, writing screen plays “cured” her of the desire to work with Hollywood. Sue also told her children that her ghost would haunt them if they sold the film rights after her death.

## Spotlight on Our Library



### The Capabilities of Our Library

For hundreds of years, libraries were simply for the purpose of having the ability to read books. Books were expensive and hard to come by for most people. “Checking out or “exchanging” books allowed most everyone to acquire reading material on so many topics by so many authors.

But today’s libraries are so much more. There are, of course, books to read. If you can’t find the book you wish, trading of books between libraries can make it available to you.

Also, computers are available for your use. For a quiet get-away, come rest at the quiet atmosphere and take advantage of reading or make use of the free WI-FI for business or pleasure.

If reading is difficult for you, books with large print or books with listen devices are also an option for you.

Making copies for your needed materials, faxing information if necessary or laminating pages can also be done for your convenience for a small fee.

Each month a copy of scheduled activities are made and copies are up at the library for you to pickup. Activities and reading for children, adult reading club, early out of school programs, trainings and guest speakers are some of the information on the schedules.

We are on facebook, which might interest you and your family. Free passes are available through the library, which only requires your library card and a photo ID. These “Adventure passes” are available for your use once a year: Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines Children’s Museum, Des Moines Botanical Garden, Reiman Gardens and the the Science Center of Iowa. They are family passes for two adults and two children.

Take some time to checkout the different links available to you through the library website: health care questions, getting a job, genealogy, activities to do at different places, student needs, books on any topic/subject, newspapers around Iowa and much, much more.

Spend time to see what you can learn, explore, participate in and enjoy. Open your horizons.  
[www.woodward.lib.ia.us](http://www.woodward.lib.ia.us)

### Woodward Public Library’s Holiday Fundraiser

**We had a little hiccup with our T-shirt fundraiser. When we sent out the internet address to order T-shirts, we goofed on the address. So we will be trying it again. We are selling T-shirts to promote our Library and reading. Hopefully people will participate, as the**

library could really use the support. "Reading All the Cool Kids Are Doing It", is still the theme of the T-shirts. We will be putting up advertisements on what you do to purchase them again. We are setting it up, so it will be easy for you come to the library to kick them up, or for an additional fee, they can be sent directly to your address. Sizes will be xxs children to 5x adult. The address will be:

[www.ordergroupwear.com/woodward\\_public\\_library](http://www.ordergroupwear.com/woodward_public_library)

I hope everyone will be able to participate and support the Library.

### Annual Holiday Cookie/Candy Sale

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> will be the Library's annual holiday cookie and candy sale. Anyone who wishes to donate yummy items to the sale, please feel free to bring your donations up to the library the Friday before or the morning of the sale. The sale will run from 9am to 1pm. All donations and help will be appreciated. We have some fantastic cooks and bakers in this town, so come and sample the offerings.

### Spotlight of Youth Programs



### Story Walk

Did you know the Woodward Public Library has a Story Walk out on the bike trail? If you did, great. If you didn't, please take a walk out to the trail and at the flag pole by the depot start reading. There are 16 stations, 8 up and 8 back to read a nice story to the kids. Children enjoy the activity and the story. We change the story each month by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. We will not be doing it January, February or March, but other than that take the kids out for some exercise and reading!



Social Center Meal    Monday, December 2 11:30-12:00

Chili

Potato Soup

Chicken Noodle Soup

Cornbread

Dessert Bars

Free will offering