

HAPPENINGS  
WOODWARD PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER  
February 2025

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

### From the Director's Chair

Here is what is on schedule at the library for the month of February:

#### Great Reading Challenge!

It is not too late to join the Great Reading Challenge. Adults challenge yourself to see how many books you can read for the year and win prizes for doing so. Reading any book you want Middle Grade though Adult, fiction or nonfiction. There is no limit on what you can choose. Each month is as special challenge.

**February's challenge** is read a book from the 2024 Oprah Book Club list.

#### Adult Program

Friday, February 28 at 1:30pm Bees and Beehives presented by Zane McGlade

#### Early Out

K-5

February 5 Winter Game/Ice Skate and Snowman Craft

February 12 Cookie Decorating and Uzzle

February 19 Stem Cart

February 26 Bingo

Teens

Different activity each week—craft or game

**February is love your library month.** Come and check out your library during February see all the items, activities, and services the library has to offer.

## Spotlight on Books



Author – Rick Riordan

Richard Russell Riordan Jr. is an American author, best known for writing for the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series. His books have been translated into 42 languages and sold more than 30 million copies in the U.S. alone. Riordan currently serves as a co-creator and executive producer on the television series adaption of this book series that was released on Disney+.

Riordan's first novel was Big Red Tequila, which was the first book in his Tres Navarre series. It is a fast-paced crime story about an unusually talented and flawed hero, third generation Texas, who has a PhD from Berkeley in Medieval studies and English, works as an unlicensed private detective and is also a Tai Chi master

Riordan's big breakthrough, The Lightning Thief, the first of a 5-volume series of Percy Jackson and the Olympians. About a group of modern-day adolescents in a Greco-Roman mythological setting. Since then, Riordan has written The Heroes of Olympus, a sequel to the Percy Jackson series; The Kane Chronicles, a trilogy of a similar premise focusing on Egyptian mythology; and Magnus Chase & the Gods of Asgard, again a trilogy of similar premise focusing on Norse mythology.

Riordan was born and raised in San Antonio Texas. He originally wanted to be a guitarist, but graduated from the University of Texas with a teaching certificate in English and History. He taught English and Social Studies for eight years.

Riordan conceived the idea for the Percy Jackson series as bedtime stories about ancient Greek heroes for his older of two sons, Haley. Haley had been diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia, inspiring Riordan to make the titular protagonist hyperactive and dyslexic.

Riordan says he loves history, mythology, writing, telling stories and getting children of all ages interested in learning, Writing histories infuses all of these, "Getting the young interested is where it all begins."

### What Should I Read?

I love to read, I find it much more entertaining than television and I can let my imagination go wild. Winter is the best season, in my mind, for reading. Nothing better than curling up around a good book and a cup of tea.

I decided to re-read some of my Agatha Christie books, it's been years, so why not. I chose to start at the beginning with her first book: The Mysterious Affair at Styles. It was released in 1920 and our sleuth is none other than Christie's most famous creation; Hercule Poirot.

Hercule Poirot is the dapper, mustache-twirling little Belgian with the egg-shaped head & curious mannerisms who has solved some of the most puzzling crimes of the century and, in his own humble opinion, is “probably” the greatest detective in the world.”

The story: A refuge of the Great War, Poirot is settling in England near Styles Court, the country estate of his wealthy benefactress, the wealthy Emily Inglethorp. When Emily is poisoned and authorities are baffled, Poirot puts his prodigious sleuthing skills to work.

Suspects are plentiful, including the victim’s much younger husband, her resentful stepsons, her longtime hired companion, a young family friend working as a nurse and a London specialist on poisons who just happens to be visiting the nearby village. All of them have secrets they are desperate to keep, but none can outwit Poirot and “his little grey cells”, as he navigates the ingenious red herrings and the plot twists that earned Agatha Christie her well-deserved reputation as the queen of mystery.

### *Did You Know?*



Sometimes little tidbits of information can help you in ways you didn’t know. Whether it is something that can save you time, energy or money. As we pick them up, we will pass them along. This month’s tidbits:

Do you still have a humidifier that you used for your children? Get it out and fill it up! During the winter, the house becomes so dry. Use it! You will breathe easier, sleep better, your wood furniture will thank you and you won’t have so many electrical shocks as you walk around your house.

Do you have any leftover medicines: First, you should be completing your prescriptions, but of course a lot of us don’t. But don’t throw them away in the garbage as it can be harmful to other humans and animals. Don’t flush them down the toilet, this can cause havoc with our eco-system. Take them back to your doctor and they can dispose of them correctly.

How about a quick and easy way to make caramel? I make candy especially around Christmas and making my turtles - the simplest and easiest way? Take a can of sweet condensed milk, don’t open it yet, submerge it in a pan of water and let it simmer on the stove. Make sure to keep the can totally below the water line and allow it to gently boil for at least one hour, I personally like 2-2.5 hours. The longer the time, the darker the caramel. When done, remove from the stove, let the can cool. Open it up and you have caramel for candies or dipping.



Social Center Meal    Monday, February 3, 2025 11:30-12:30

Scallop Potatoes and Ham

Mixed Veggies

Roll

Poke Jello Cake