



Beyond the Shelves

Friends of the HPL Newsletter

Vol. 2 Issue 5

June always feels like the month that finally remembers to turn the lights on. The days get brighter, the air gets warmer, and suddenly everyone is talking about their gardens, their grandkids, or how the weather “sure snuck up on us this year.”

It's also **Men's Health Month**, which is a gentle nudge (okay, maybe a firm poke) to remind the men in our lives to take care of themselves. We all know at least one man who treats going to the doctor like it's an Olympic sport he's training to avoid. This is the month to encourage them—kindly, lovingly, and maybe with a little bribery—to get that check-up, drink more water, and take a walk that's longer than the distance from the couch to the fridge.

And of course, June brings **Father's Day**, a time to celebrate dads, granddads, uncles, brothers, and all the men who've stepped into father-figure roles. Whether they taught us how to fix things, how to laugh at ourselves, or how to tell a story that gets longer every year, we're grateful for them. A call, a hug, or even a shared memory can make their day.

So, as we step into June, let's enjoy the sunshine, look out for one another, and cheer on the men in our lives as they take small steps toward better health. After all, we want them around for many more summers—and many more stories that get funnier every time they're told.

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Billie Humphrey, FHPL President

From Windy Wonders to Summer Reading Magic

In May, we were pleased to host our second Craft Fair, which took place on a clear day with strong winds. Due to the intensity of the wind, a prompt decision was made to relocate many exhibits indoors with the assistance of our members, crafters, and library staff. The event received numerous positive remarks and, despite the challenging weather conditions, was deemed highly successful. We look forward to welcoming you to the 2027 Craft Fair.

Thanks to Harrington Fire Company for providing hamburgers and refreshments at the Craft Fair.

The Friends are preparing a dinosaur-themed exhibit for the Summer Reading Kick-off Party on June 6 at 10 a.m., inspired by “Unearth a Story.” The theme began on Lake Forest Day with “Adopt a Dinosaur,” where students named their dino and pledged to read to it. Large, colorful dinosaur models will be displayed in the library, and Friends will assist staff during the event. Activities include inflatable games, mascots, That Game Bus, snacks, free food, activity tables, and dinosaur viewing.

Even though the Summer Reading Challenge sounds like a lot of fun, please don’t underestimate the importance of summer reading for children. Not only does summer reading help children maintain their reading skills, but it also helps prevent the dreaded “summer slide”, or decline, in their learning skills. Common studies show that children who read more over the summer demonstrate better fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

With your support, the Friends are proud to help sponsor four summer programs. These include “NJ Snake Man – Tropical Bird Show” on June 17, “Ran D’Shine Magic Show” on July 11. These programs are always popular and are appropriate for all ages.

We often have raffles to help support these programs. The spring raffle was a “reading basket”. The winner, drawn at our May meeting, was Donna S.

This summer, we are raffling a handmade wooden garden toolbox filled with garden essentials. Tickets are for sale at the library circulation desk or from any Friend. The best option is 10 tickets for \$10, or you can buy 1 ticket for \$2. The drawing will be held at our August meeting on 11. Everyone needs a garden toolbox. Win yours while supporting the Friends of the Harrington Public Library.

Wishing you a restful, fun-filled summer,

Billie

What Literacy Means to Me

By: Malcolm Comstock



Malcom Comstock,
FHPL member since
2026

Literacy allowed me to have forty productive and happy years teaching science. Now, twenty years after retirement, it allows me to research things for daily life. Such as passport renewals, registration of vehicles, insurance, numerous things.

Recreational reading adds richness to my life and is mental exercise.

Being able to read transports you to any time or place. If you want to walk with people during the Revolutionary War read, “The Hornets Nest” by former President Jimmy Carter. What was the black death like in 1666 England? Read “Year of Wonders” by Geraldine Brooks (fantastic heroine). Experience a whole new universe, read “Court of Thorns and Roses” by Sarah J. Maas. Or, a WW1 veteran dealing with PTSD, while solving murder cases with Scotland Yard. “A Day of Judgement” by Charles Todd. (a whole series, over twenty books, with a Delaware connection!)

To paraphrase Mae West, “so many books, so little time”.

I started out with books from the beginning. At age 3 my mother and grandmother gave me, my first books. I learned how to read by looking at comic books. They were only five and ten cents then! Next, I went on to “Classic Comics”. The Three Musketeers and Ivanhoe were two of my favorites. Literacy and reading have always been an important part of my life.

What literacy means to our society is a totally different matter. Pew research has published some startling survey results. Functional literacy is declining, half of all adult Americans don't have a library card, and recreational reading has gone down 35- 40% in the last two decades. Forty per cent of Americans didn't read a single book in 2025.

Libraries, like Harrington, that have a variety of programs, attracting adults, and their children are doing the right thing. Perhaps, as people attend these programs, they will be more likely to make positive literacy choices.

My favorite book of 2026 (so far) is “The Frozen River” by Ariel Lawson.



Some Secrets to Long Living

By Janel “Jaycee” Miller

What do Ethel Caterham of the United Kingdom, Inah Canabarro Lucas of Brazil, and Maria Branyas Morera, a Spanish woman born in the United States, all have in common? (Guess before googling.)

According to abcnews.com, Caterham is, as of this writing, a little less than two months shy of 117 years old, making her, according to the “Guinness Book of World Records,” the oldest living person anywhere in the world.

The person holding the torch of being the “oldest living person in the world” has changed hands several times in recent years, with CNN.com reporting that at one time or another, Lucas and Morera, who were also well past 110 years old when they passed away, held the title before Caterham.

While the number of people who will live to be 100 (sometimes called a centenarian) is still small compared to other age groups, their numbers are growing. A paper published by a Boston University Medical Center researcher indicates that over the past 20 years, the number of centenarians has nearly doubled. (The same paper indicates that 178 of these 100+ year olds live in Delaware, placing it 33rd of the 50 states.)

Here are some possible secrets that researchers and the women themselves think led to their long lives:

- Never argue with anyone
- Possess healthy genes
- Don’t smoke or drink alcohol
- Work as long as you can
- Living in a rural area
- Perform moderate exercise, such as walking, for one hour a day
- Consume a Mediterranean diet

I’m not even half as old as these women, but I would like to close with a bit of advice I have tried to follow ever since I heard someone I admire say it some 25 years ago (and about a year before he died unexpectedly at age 53): “I’ve only got now, I’ve only got today, and I like to live like that. It doesn’t matter how long you got, so long as you’ve got now.”

From the Heart



Linda S., VP/Membership
Chair

Summer is on the horizon and the Friends will be taking a short break with no meetings in June or July. As I look back over the year, I want to thank all our participating Friends for their time, energy, creativity and support. Your help with our events, activities, special projects and meetings made such a difference and contributed greatly to our success.

We truly appreciate each and every one of you for your dedication and willingness to lend a hand whenever needed. A special shout out goes to all our new members. We are so pleased that you joined the Friends and thank you for bringing your enthusiasm, fresh ideas and willingness to get involved. We look forward to all we will continue to accomplish together.

The Board cares about and appreciates each of our members. We sincerely hope that, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, that you will feel comfortable sharing them with us either collectively or individually. Your thoughts, ideas and feedback, given verbally or in writing (including your name so that we might respond back to you), are valued and help us to grow and improve as an organization.

Wishing everyone a wonderful, relaxing summer filled with sunshine, rest and good books! We hope to see all of you again in August.

Warmly,

Linda

Find us at:

Website: <https://harrington.lib.de.us/friends/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556600322985> or Friends of the Harrington Public Library

Laugh Out Loud Corner



Compliments of Pinterest.com



FHPL -2026 Sponsor



Director's Corner

By Marleena Scott, HPL

Happy June everyone! I hope everyone is looking forward to the Summer Reading

Challenge! This year's theme for summer is Unearth a Story, and we have challenges for children, teens, and adults. All participants need to do to complete the Summer Reading Challenge is record their reading and earn points! These points can then be used to purchase items from the Summer Prize Case!

During the summer we also have lots of fun programs for all ages!



This summer we will be hosting a Summer Kickoff party, S.T.E.A.M events for children and teens, and fun events for all ages! The Friends of the Library are also providing us with New Jersey Snake Man, Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation, Miss Taylor Rocks and Delaware Museum of Nature and Science. All programs will be listed on our website and also featured on our facebook page. The Summer Reading Challenge is also a great way to combat the summer slide for children and teenagers.

"Summer slide" is when students, especially those from low-income families, lose some of the knowledge attained during the previous school year. A great way to fight this loss in knowledge is to encourage children and teens to keep reading during the summer months.

The library's summer reading challenge will help keep their minds active, and the prizes offered is a great way to encourage reluctant readers. The Harrington Public Library is in the business of lifelong learning, and the Summer Reading Challenge not only promotes learning but also fun. The Summer Reading Challenge is not only the busiest time of the year at the library, but also one of the most fun and rewarding, and we hope you will come to the library and join us this summer!!

Marleena

FHPL

2025-2026 Sponsor



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HOURS: Mon – Sat: 7am – 10pm; Sun: 7am – 9pm



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UPCOMING EVENTS

June



2nd 2:00
DE Dept. of Labor Job Fair

3rd 2:30 & 3:30
College Preparedness

6th 10:00
Summer Reading Kick-Off Party!

12th & 26th 2:00
**Tween/Teen 3D Printer Class

16th 6:00
**Adult Trivia

17th 10:45
Special Storytime:
Delaware Aerospace Education
Foundation Presents Make a Date
with Dinos

17th & 24th 10:45
STEM Hour

17th 6:00
NJ Snake Man Reptile Show

18th & 25th 5:30
Teen Hour

22nd 3:00
Adult BINGO

25th 5:00
Adult Book Club

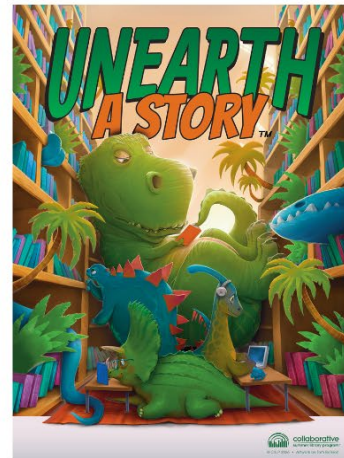
30th 6:00
Nanticoke Indian's Dance Demonstration

WEEKLY

DAILY: FREE SNACKS
under 18!

MONDAY: TeleServices
Specialist

WEDNESDAY: 10:45
Storytime



June 1st - August 15th

** Program Requires Registration

HOURS

Monday: 9:00-4:45

Tuesday: 11:00-6:45

Wednesday: 9:00-4:45

Thursday: 11:00-6:45

Friday: 9:00-4:45

Saturday: 10:00-1:45

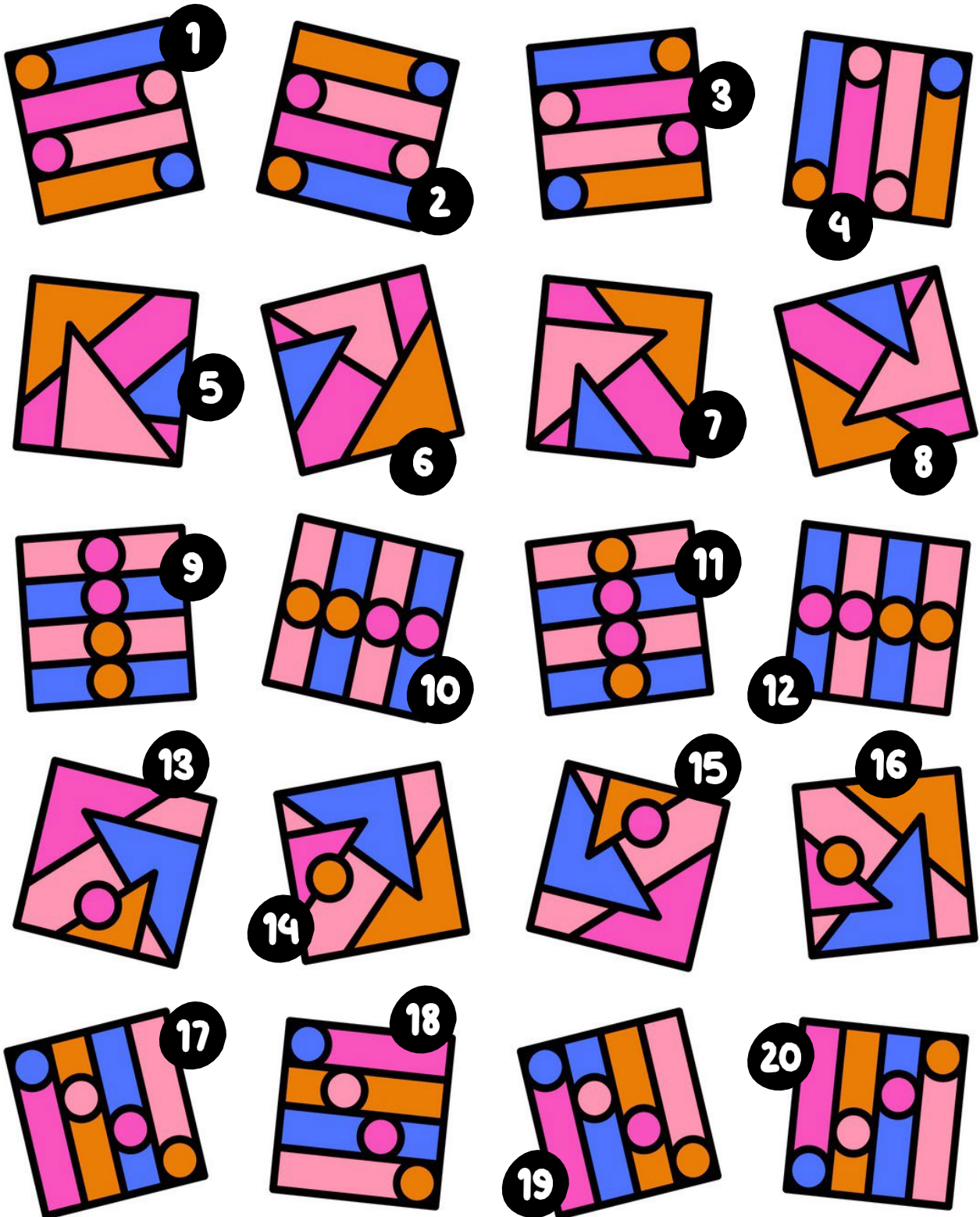
HPL will be closed
6/19 & 6/20 for Juneteenth

101 LITTLE MASTENS CORNER RD HARRINGTON DE 302*398*4647 HARRINGTON.LIB.DE.US

Brain Teaser I

Twins in a row

Can you find the two identical images in each row?



Top 10 Gardening Truths

(Because plants keep it real even when we don't)

1. **You will buy more plants than you have space for.** Every. Single. Time. It's math, but emotional.
2. **One weed can ruin your whole mood.** You pull it... it comes back... stronger... like it's training for a rematch.
3. **Your garden hose has a personal vendetta.** It will kink, twist, and spray you directly in the face at least once a season.
4. **You will talk to your plants.** And the scary part? You'll swear they listen.
5. **Squirrels are not cute.** They are tiny, fluffy produce thieves with zero remorse.
6. **You'll plant something "easy" and it will immediately die.** Meanwhile, the plant you forgot about thrives like it's on a wellness retreat.
7. **Garden tools disappear into another dimension.** You'll find them months later in a place you definitely did not put them.
8. **You will become emotionally attached to a tomato.** You'll check on it daily like it's your firstborn.
9. **Your compost pile will make you feel like a wizard.** "Behold... I turn trash into soil!"
10. **No matter how messy, wild, or chaotic it gets—you'll love it.** Because gardening isn't about perfection. It's about joy, growth, and dirt under your nails that you pretend not to notice.

Garden Box Raffle Drawing August 11, 2026

Tickets available at the Library Circulation Desk or from a Friend. **\$10 for 10 tickets or \$5 for 3 tickets, or \$2 for 1 ticket.**

Contents: Handcrafted and finished wooden garden box built and donated by one of our Friends, gardening and landscaping books, hand tools, gardening gloves, kneeler, plant clips, plastic pots, spray bottle, liquid fertilizer, and herb seed packets.

Get Ready — Book Fest 2026 Is Coming!

The Friends of the Harrington Public Library are gearing up for one of our favorite days of the year — Book Fest 2026, arriving Saturday, September 26. This year's theme, "Endless Stories: The Story Keepers — Told, Treasured, and Passed On," celebrates the voices who carry stories forward and the community that gathers to hear them.

June is the perfect moment to spark that anticipation. Applications for authors and vendors are already rolling in, and the lineup is shaping into a vibrant mix of storytellers, makers, and book-loving creatives. From fiction and poetry to nonfiction and handmade treasures, this year's festival promises a rich tapestry of imagination and craft.

And for our youngest book lovers? We're bringing the fun in a big way. Kids can head over to the Tall Tale Ranch, a playful frontier-themed zone packed with crafts, games, and larger-than-life tall-tale energy. They'll also find face painting and "Root Tootin' Tattoos," plus cheerful mascots roaming the grounds to spark smiles and photo ops all day long.

Book Fest isn't just an event — it's a community tradition. It's the joy of discovering a new favorite author, the fun of browsing local vendors, the laughter of families exploring together, and the shared pride of supporting our library.

If you're interested in participating or have questions, call Michelle at (302) 265-5897.

Mark your calendars, spread the word, and get excited. This September, we gather again to celebrate the stories that shape us — and the storytellers who keep them alive.

Let the countdown begin!

Michelle



The Lost Art of Story Telling

Once upon a time—before streaming services, scrolling thumbs, and group chats with 47 unread messages—people told stories. Real stories. Around kitchen tables, on front porches, during long walks, or while snapping beans into a bowl. Stories were how we connected, taught, healed, remembered, and laughed. And somewhere along the way, many of us stopped doing it.

But here's the good news: storytelling isn't gone. It's just waiting for us to invite it back in.

Storytelling is one of the oldest human traditions, and for good reason. It's how we make sense of the world. It's how we pass down wisdom without sounding like we're lecturing. It's how we say, "I've been there too," without ever using those words.

A good story can do what facts alone can't:

- Make us feel something
- Help us remember
- Bring people closer
- Turn ordinary moments into shared treasures

Stories are the glue that holds communities together. They're the threads that stitch generations into one long, colorful tapestry.

And Let's Be Honest... Stories Are Just Fun. Every family has that one story that gets told at every holiday. Every friend group has a "remember when" moment that never gets old. Every community has legends, characters, and tales that deserve to be shared again and again.

Stories make us laugh. They make us cry. They make us say, "Oh my goodness, that happened to me too."

You don't need a stage or a spotlight to bring story telling back. You just need a moment.

Tell someone about the time you learned a lesson the hard way. Ask a neighbor about their childhood. Share a memory with your grandkids. Write down a story you don't want to lose.

The world is noisy, but stories help us hear each other again.

And who knows—your story might be exactly what someone else needs to hear.

Join us Saturday, September 26 at the 2026 Friends of the Harrington Public Library Book Fest as we celebrate the voices who carry stories forward and the community that gathers to hear them.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK FEST

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All proceeds support the Harrington Public Library



Brain Teaser II

MAMA BIRD MAZE

Help the mother bird get to her nest so she can keep her eggs warm.



Book Club Read of the Month:

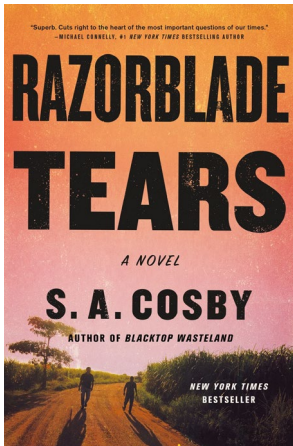
Razorblade Tears

By: S. A. Cosby

Goodreads Choice Award

[Nominee for Readers' Favorite Mystery & Thriller \(2021\)](#)

A Black father. A white father. Two murdered sons. A quest for vengeance.



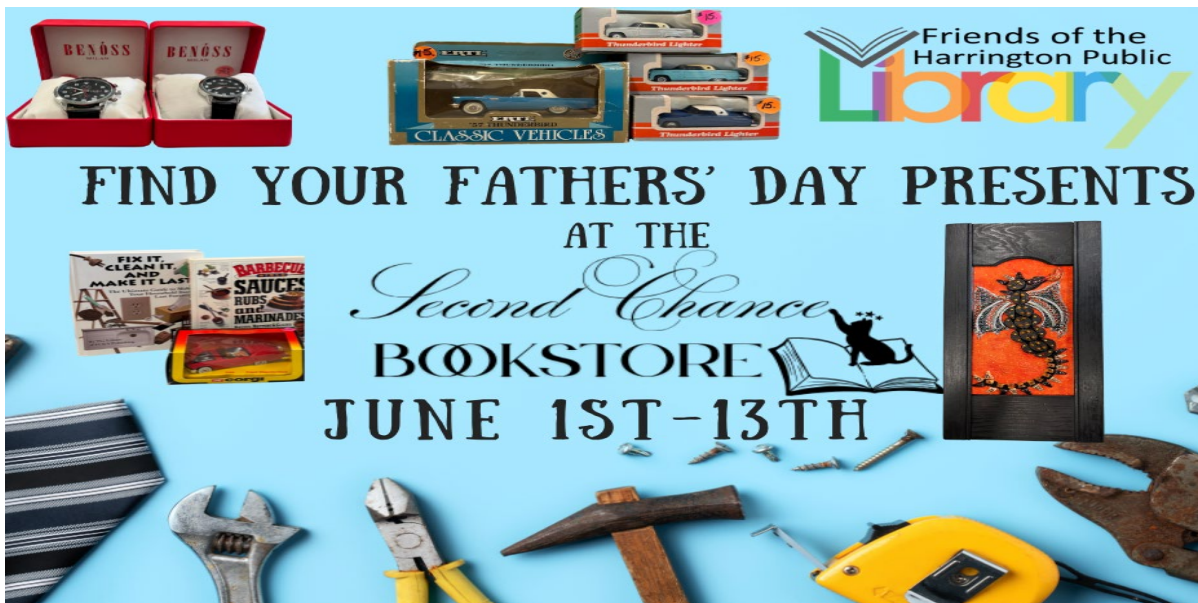
Ike Randolph has been out of jail for fifteen years, with not so much as a speeding ticket in all that time. But a Black man with cops at the door knows to be afraid.

The last thing he expects to hear is that his son Isiah has been murdered, along with Isiah's white husband, Derek. Ike had never fully accepted his son but is devastated by his loss.

Derek's father Buddy Lee was almost as ashamed of Derek for being gay as Derek was ashamed his father was a criminal. Buddy Lee still has contacts in the underworld, though, and he wants to know who killed his boy.

Ike and Buddy Lee, two ex-cons with little else in common other than a criminal past and a love for their dead sons, band together in their desperate desire for revenge. In their quest to do better for their sons in death than they did in life, hardened men Ike and Buddy Lee will confront their own prejudices about their sons and each other, as they rain down vengeance upon those who hurt their boys.

Synopsis by Goodreads.com



Father's Day Finds Are Here! Stop in and see what's new! Look for the special Father's Day display -- Grilling books, gardening guides, DIY project ideas, outdoor crafts, and a few rare treasures just for Dad. Come browse our Father's Day specials now through Father's Day at the Second Chance Book Store open during regular library hours — while supplies last!



i.g. Burton

Auto Group

Proud to Support the Harrington Library...

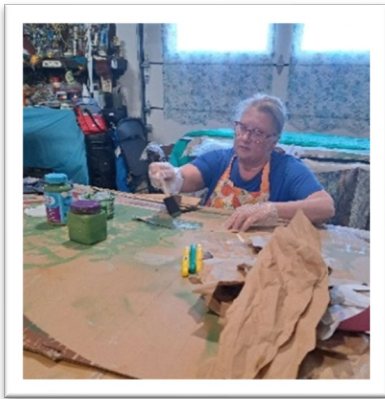
"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

– Dr. Seuss



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Thank you, Friends, for working on this amazing project. The project was first envisioned in April with a June 1 deadline, so that the dinosaurs are displayed for the Summer Reading Kickoff Party on June 6. With the Book Fair and the Craft Festival, actual artwork was pushed to late May. Now, it is c-r-u-n-c-h time.



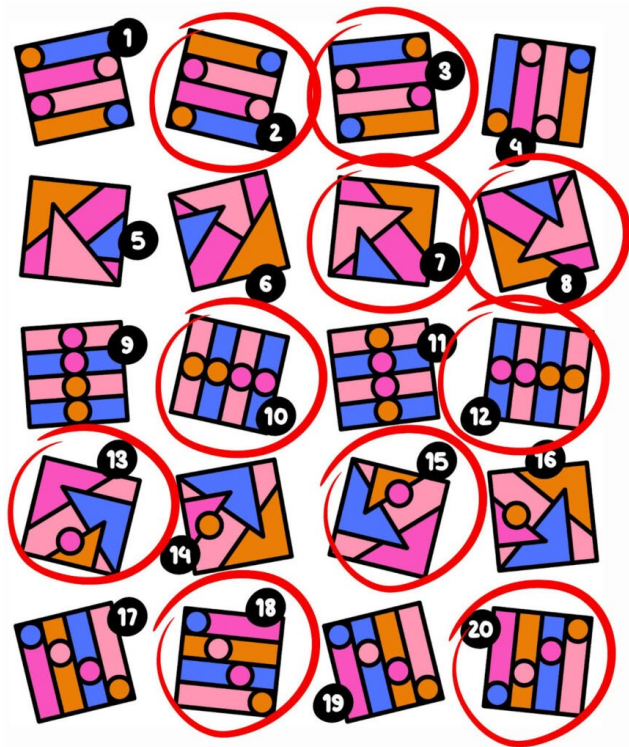
It should come as no surprise that we sometimes had more paint on us than on the dinosaurs. Just wait until you see the **dinosaurs** displayed in the library!



Midway Discount Liquors: 1000 Midway Drive, Ste. 5, Harrington, De

And the Answer is.....

Twins in a Row Solution



Mama Bird Solution



Recipe of the Month: **Disappearing Chicken Casserole**

By: **Kimberly Holland, SouthernLiving.Com**

Ingredients:

- 1 (16-oz.) box uncooked cavatappi pasta
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened and cut into cubes
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 (12-oz.) can evaporated milk
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. taco seasoning
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper, plus more for garnish
- 8 oz. sharp Cheddar cheese, shredded and divided (about 2 cups)
- 4 cups (1 lb.) shredded cooked chicken (from 1 large rotisserie chicken)
- 1 (4-oz.) can green chiles, undrained
- 1 (4-oz.) jar diced pimientos, drained
- 1 Tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high. Add pasta and cook according to package directions for al dente, about 8 minutes. Drain and set aside.
- Whisk together cream cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, evaporated milk, taco seasoning, salt, pepper, and 1 cup of the Cheddar cheese in a large bowl until well combined. Fold in chicken and pasta until evenly coated. Transfer mixture to a lightly greased 13- x 9-inch baking dish.
- Bake in preheated oven until thoroughly heated, about 20 minutes. Remove from oven; stir in green chiles and pimientos until evenly combined. Top with remaining 1 cup Cheddar cheese.
- Increase oven temperature to Broil. Return baking dish to oven; broil until cheese is melted and lightly browned, 3 to 4 minutes.
- Garnish with parsley and more pepper.

Friends of the Harrington Public Library
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