



December 2017



## Library Staff

### Library Clerks

Connie Higginson  
Lupe Lopez Lopez  
Kailey Meyer  
Angie Ulrich

### Librarians

Susan Church  
Zoraida Ramos

### Assistant Director

Laura Renker

### Director

Joy Stevenson

## New Library Building Updates

Where to find updated information, including updates, timeline, fundraising and photos, about the new library? On the Crete Public Library website. Go to: [www.crete.ne.gov/library](http://www.crete.ne.gov/library)

Where can I give my feedback to the library?

The screenshot shows the official website for the City of Crete, Nebraska. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'City Government', 'City Services', 'Business & Industry', and 'Library'. Below the navigation is a main content area featuring a photo of several young children. A sidebar on the left lists various city services like 'About Crete Public Library', 'New Library Building Updates', 'Library Services', 'Youth Services', 'Adult Programs', and 'Support Us'. A red arrow points from the word 'Here' to the 'New Library Building Updates' menu item. Another red arrow points from the word 'Here' to the 'New Library Building Updates' link on the website's page.

## Fines Amnesty

It happens to all of us at one time or another. You meant to get those checked out items back, but... The fact is, they were late and now you have a fine.



We have a deal for you! In the spirit of the season, your fines will be forgiven with the donation of children's packaged socks or underwear. Each package will delete \$5.00 in fines.

Bring the new items to the circulation desk so that your fines can be taken off of your record. The donations will then be placed on and under the tree as you come in the east door.

Let's help out our local children in need.

Holiday Open House and Innovation Studio Unveiling Friday, Dec. 15, 11:00-1:00 Join us for coffee, cookies, and a tour of the new Innovation Studio!

## Preschool Story Time

Nov. 28 - Naturally N  
Dec. 5 - Orbiting O  
Dec. 12 - Prancing P's  
Dec. 19 - Holiday Celebration!



## What's Coming Up?

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- December - Fine Amnesty (see article)
  - Dec. 13 - Children's Holiday Crafts after school
  - Dec. 15 - Holiday Open House and Innovation Studio Unveiling (see article)
  - Dec. 25 - Library Closed
  - Jan. 1 - Library Closed
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## Christmas Reads and Hot Drinks

by Susan Church

It's the most wonderful time of the year! JJJ And we enjoy reading a feel-good story about that most wonderful time of the year, right? With that in mind, let's take a look at recently added titles featuring Christmas.

Once again, Richard Paul Evans offers one of his trademark Christmas stories. *The Noel Diary* has Jacob Churcher returning home after nearly twenty years away. In sorting through his recently deceased mother's belongings, he finds a diary left by a young woman he does not remember, named Noel, who stayed with Jacob's family during her pregnancy. Jacob receives an unexpected visitor, Rachel, searching for the mother who put her up for adoption thirty years ago. United by their quest to find Noel, they also find grace, forgiveness and chance at love.

*The Usual Santas* by Peter Lovesey is not your typical holiday story. Or in this case, stories. This is a collection of short stories featuring award-winning authors, containing laughs, the most "hardboiled of holiday noir", and heartwarming reminders of the season. Among the stories are: nine mall Santas looking for the imposter among them; an elderly lady seeking peace from her murderously loud neighbors; a young woman receiving a mysterious invitation to Christmas dinner with a stranger; and a story set in a Korean War POW camp. If you are searching for something different and unique, this is the book!

Debbie Macomber, another Christmas favorite, recently released her latest offering, *Merry and Bright*. Merry Bright is so busy with family and work (and keeping out of the crosshairs of her boss) that she has no time for a social life. Her mother and brother create an online dating profile for her, sans photo, and the matches start rolling in. One charming stranger catches her attention and they begin chatting online. Merry discovers through a series of events that her charming stranger is the boss she fastidiously avoids. Still, sometimes the heart can see what our eyes cannot.

*An Amish Christmas Love: Four Novellas*. The first book *Winter Kisses* by Beth Wiseman, is a story of romance between three generations of women and three generations of men. Book two is *The Christmas Cat* by Amy Clipston, in which Emma learns to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas again. Ellie needs to decide what she will do with her life in the third book *Home For Christmas* by Ruth Reid. The fourth book is *Snow Angels* by Kelly Irvin.

Other new titles include: *Christmas at Little Beach Street Bakery* by Jenny Colgan; *Snowfall on Haven Point* by RaeAnn Thayne; *Because It's Christmas* by Katherine Spencer; *Seven Days of Us* by Francesca Hornak; and *A Snow Country Christmas* by Linda Lael Miller.

A hot drink would go perfectly with all those Christmas reads. Here are two great recipes.

### Hot Cocoa Mix

4 c. powdered milk	21.8 oz. box Nestle's Quik
16 oz. instant coffee creamer	1 c. powdered sugar.



Mix all ingredients together and store in airtight container. To make hot cocoa, mix 3-5 big spoons of mix to mug of hot water. Enjoy with marshmallows!

### Spiced Chai Latte Mix

3 c. powdered milk	1 1/2 c. sugar
1 c. unsweetened tea mix	3/4 c. instant coffee creamer
1 1/2 tsp. ginger	1/2 tsp. cardamom
1/2 tsp. ground cloves	

Mix all ingredients together and store in airtight container. To make, mix 3 Tbsp. of mix in 3/4 c. hot water.



## Winter and Our Pets

by Zoraida Ramos

Winter is starting to rear its ugly head and now that it's here, it's here to stay. This gloomy weather makes daily routines difficult and uncomfortable not only for ourselves, but for our pets as well. I tend to follow the advice put out by the ASPCA about keeping our pets safe during the cold months.

If you must let your pet out, dry them as soon as they get back inside and pay close attention to their feet. Even though ice melt helps us, it isn't always good for our pet's feet. Those harsh chemicals can dry out their paws and make them very sensitive, especially between their toes. You might be tempted to bathe your pet on a regular basis, but you must resist. Bathing your pet too often can make them lose the essential oils they build up and cause them to have dry, flaky skin.

Trying to keep warm makes your pet burn extra energy. The ASPCA recommends feeding them a little more to help provide the much needed calories to stay warm and be sure they have plenty of water. I wonder if this rule would apply to me as well? Probably not.



A warm bed or dry blanket would fit the bill just fine when it's time to sleep. One last thing to remember, if it's too cold for you, it's too cold for your pet. If you follow these suggestions, you will be able to say or sing, "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!"

# Holly, Jolly Christmas Reads

by Laura Renker

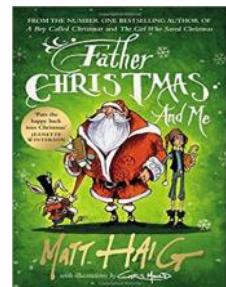
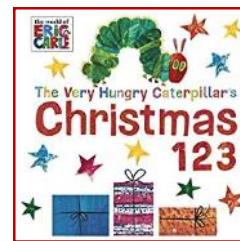
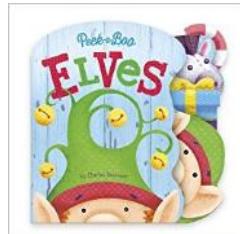
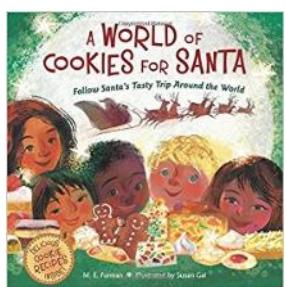
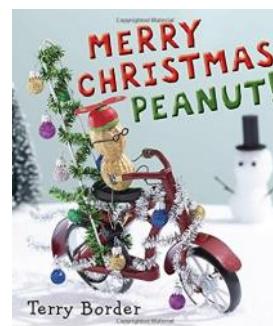
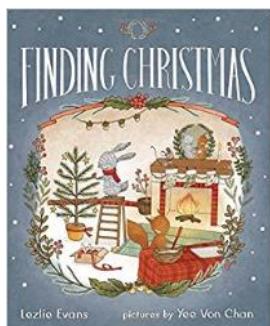
Hmmm...I wonder what kind of cookies Santa eats on his travels around the world on Christmas Eve? Check out *A World of Cookies for Santa: Follow Santa's Tasty Trip Around the World* by M.E.Furman. One of the first cookies he probably experiences is a coconut macaroon cookie. These delicious confections are shared by children from Christmas Island. Coconut is abundant on this southern Pacific island. Sweet and chewy, what a way to start those cookie snacks.

You are invited along this trip around the world where you will learn about sweet treats that are offered up by children from New Zealand, India, Malawi, Egypt, Ukraine, Poland, Ireland, Chile, Mexico and more. You'll make 31 stops to learn about children's Christmas traditions. After you've finished your tour, you can look at some of the recipes included and try leaving a new treat for Santa.

For a sweet book about friendship and knowing that the best presents aren't necessarily ones that can be unwrapped, read *Finding Christmas* by Lezlie Evans. Squirrel, Mouse and Hare are friends that are busily preparing for Christmas. Mouse is trying to find the perfect gift for Hare. What she finds is a bird in the snow that is in desperate need of loving care. Yee Von Chan's illustrations make for a cozy book to share with a little one.

How about reading one of Matt Haig's Christmas books to help get you in the spirit of the season? In his latest book, *Father Christmas and Me*, life isn't always easy for Amelia. She's living with her adoptive parents, newly married Father Christmas and Mary Christmas. Living in Elfhelm as a human isn't always easy. In this story, Amelia tries to help her family save Christmas before it's too late. The first two books are: *A Boy Called Christmas* and *The Girl Who Saved Christmas*.

You will find all the children's Christmas/holiday books in one area for easy browsing.



## Short On Time? Try A Short Story!

by Lupe Lopez Lopez

How many short stories have you read this year? One, two, five, zero? Well with there being 39 days left of 2017, there is still time to scrunch in a short, yet interesting read. Inside your local library you can find a variety of short stories from the latest collection from Ann Beattie, to Willa Cather's classics. Titles that may interest you include: *Stone Mattress* by Margaret Atwood, *Mothers Tell Your Daughters* by Bonnie Jo Campbell and *Difficult Women* by Roxane Gay. If these titles do not instantly catch your attention, stop by the library to check out the display of short stories located next to the juvenile graphic novels. Or ask one of your friendly librarians to assist you in finding a story just for you.

**CRETE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**305 EAST 13TH STREET**  
**CRETE, NEBRASKA 68333**  
**402-826-3809**

Library Hours  
Monday, Friday & Saturday  
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday - Closed

Please call us for information about story times,  
or check out our web site at  
[www.crete.ne.gov/library](http://www.crete.ne.gov/library)

## Children's Holiday Crafts

Wed., Dec. 13

Children are welcome to drop in to make holiday crafts to keep or to give!

