

in this issue

- :: Sparky's Puppets Perform Old Favorites
- :: Save That Data
- :: Building Construction
- :: Cub Scouts Pack 76
- :: A Note to All Students
- :: Google
- :: Large Print Books

Thanksgiving Holiday Library Hours:

Wednesday Nov. 22nd: Main & Branch 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Thursday Nov. 23rd: LIBRARY CLOSED

Happy Thanksgiving from the staff of the Library!

Sparky's Puppets Perform Old Favorites Save the Date for this Children's Program

**Monday
Dec. 18th, 2006
Time: 6:30 PM**

[Sparky's Puppets](#) performances include short stories, dramatized by hand puppets and adapted from children's literature--folktales, fables and familiar stories. Many of these encourage audience participation.

The show is 45 minutes long and is geared towards children aged 3 to 10 and their families.

Contact: Karen Gabbert-Armand 508-238-2000 or kids@amesfreelibrary.org

Building Construction

Exterior Repairs to Begin Soon

Repair work on the chimney and the wall on the north side of the library building is about to begin. Because of this, the path along the side of the building will be blocked and the parking lot may be limited or blocked altogether during this project. We are sorry for this temporary inconvenience.

We will require visitors who are able to park in the lot to walk down the driveway and up the walkway for safety reasons.

Making the most of our services during the construction:

*All items may be reserved by phone and from personal computers through the library catalog. You may renew items online or by telephone.

*You may request items be sent to the Five Corners

Save That Data

Understanding Today's Different Media

Different kinds of media are used in today's computer world to store and transport data. Some are faster, easier to use and more reliable than others.

Although their capacity increased (to 1.44 Mb), **Floppy Disks** are often too small for today's needs. Also Floppy Disks are not protected from electromagnetic interference. Just placing your floppy disk next to your cell phone might destroy all data on it. The Library's computers still have Floppy Drives which are still handy for many users.

CD-Rs (recordable compact disk) are meant to be recorded one time only. The information recorded on them can not be erased. In most cases, information can be added to the disk until the disk is full, when basically the CD-R becomes a CD. You can not editing existing files, but you can create and save new versions of preexisting files.

CD-RWs (re-writable compact disk) are CD-R's that can be completely erased and recorded again and again. The life of a CD-RW is about 1,000 recordings. CD-RW can not be used like a floppy disk or a ZIP drive. You can not erase individual files. If you want to update information on your CD-RW, you have to erase the entire disk and write everything again. You can add information to the disk (like to a CD-R) until the disk is full.

USB drives sometimes called **Flash Drives**, maintain their content even if the power is cut off. Simply plug a USB drive into any available USB port and start using it. They do not require any software to run, and work on Windows as well as on Macs. Because their ease of use, data transfer speed (faster than all other portable media), ever increasing capacity (up to 4 Gb today), small physical size, safety and dropping prices, USB Flash Drives are becoming fast the most popular Floppy

Branch for pick up, and return all items at the book drops at either library no matter where the books were checked out. Books left in either book drop after hours are checked in the next day as if they were left the day before.

*Call either library for telephone reference or for help in locating and obtaining items anywhere in a local library or through the Virtual Catalog, which covers libraries throughout Massachusetts.

*For research, students can use the library's online databases from home computers for full-text of magazine articles, journals, and reference books which are acceptable sources for school assignments. These sources are provided to Massachusetts residents through the state's Board of Library Commissioners.

Please visit the library's website www.amesfree.library.org for access to the catalog and database services or call 508-238-2000 (Main) or 508-230-8595 (Branch).

A Note to All Students

Bring in Your School Assignments...

The Reference Librarians and staff can help you begin your research, or help you choose appropriate books, databases, and search tools.

With this in mind, *please try to bring your assignment*, we can be sure of providing appropriate materials and provide good service.

Google

Beyond Basic Google

Although there are some contenders, Google is still recognized as the best general web search engine. The verb "to google" was even entered into the newest edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.

Google is also the leader in adding features like image search, video search and blog search. You might want to give these features a try:

Google Book Search

Google Book Search allows you to search the full text of a large number of books, from popular titles to old, out-of-print and public domain volumes in order to find pages that include your search terms. Once you find a given book, you can browse available pages, search further in that book, find online reviews, learn where to buy the book or check it out of a nearby library. In some cases, you can even read the entire title online.

Google Scholar

Google Scholar enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research. Use Google Scholar to find articles from a wide variety of

Disk replacement.

Cub Scouts Pack 76

Visit the Library

Cub Scouts Pack 76 of Easton visited the Ames Free Library on Thursday evening, Nov. 2nd. In addition to a full tour of the library and the Children's room, they tested their research skills using different functions of the library's computer catalog.

Their active minds, attention span and politeness are a tribute to Cub Scouts everywhere. Well done!

Large Print Books

Available at the Five Corners Branch

[The Story of Chicago May](#) by award-winning Nuala O'Faolain is a biography of the real-life Chicago May, an unremarkable Irish country girl until she stole her family's earnings and ran off to America in the 1890s. The novel is a fresh and informative view of turn-of-the-twentieth-century America, and a fascinating testimony to the need to tell and preserve true stories from all walks of life.

Tracie Peterson's novels [Alaska: A Light in the Window](#), [Destiny's Road](#) and [Iditarod Dream](#) are collected in one volume with Christmas Dream as a bonus. The bleak wilderness of Alaska challenges three women in different eras: Julie, a nurse during the diphtheria epidemic of 1925; Beth, whose Canadian-born husband is killed in World War II; and Rita, who takes on the Iditarod, the ultimate test of endurance.

[Baker Towers](#) by Jennifer Haigh is set in a postwar Pennsylvania mining town and continues Haigh's exploration of the hardships of women's lives. In the town of Bakerton, poor families live in ethnic enclaves of company houses.

[Second Sight](#) by Judith Orloff. A psychiatrist and assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at UCLA works with police departments by using her psychic abilities to help locate missing persons and identify suspects.

[Whiteout](#) by Ken Follett is a bio-thriller taking place over a wintry Christmas holiday in northern Scotland and well stocked with family drama. The story opens with the theft of an experimental drug - a potential cure for the fatal Madoba-2 virus.

[Invisible Acts of Power: Channeling Grace in Your Everyday Life](#) by Caroline Myss is a wonderful account of the chakras (or energy centers) in the human bodymind and their special role in spiritual grace, gifts, and empowerment. A magical and moving handbook of "our own deepest and divine powers."

[Under Orders](#) by Dick Francis. After an absence of six years, Dick Francis once again proves himself a

academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available on the web.

Google News Archive Search

This source provides access to major newspapers and magazines and allows you to search back over 200 years. The results include both content which is accessible to all users (such as BBC News and Time Magazine), and some content which requires a fee (such as the New York Times Archives).

Hope you will have a chance to try out some of these advanced Google features.

master of detail, seamlessly incorporating fascinating facts about DNA technology, Internet gambling, and even stitches.

[Dance of the Gods](#) by Nora Roberts is another enticing paranormal trilogy from the ever-versatile, prolific, and much-loved queen of romance. Best-seller Roberts' Celtic-flavored Circle trilogy features superbly crafted characters, three passionate romances, and a bewitching blend of magic and myth.

[Skeleton Coast: A Novel of the Oregon Files](#) by Clive Cussler. Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the covert combat ship Oregon have barely escaped a mission on the Congo River when they intercept a mayday from a defenseless boat under fire off the African coast. The action leads them onto the trail of a deranged militant and his followers who plan to unleash the devastating power of nature itself against all who oppose them.

[Short Straw](#) by Stuart Woods. Santa Fe defense lawyer Ed Eagle is the epitome of worldly success. He presides over a highly successful practice, which is moving into showcase quarters overlooking Santa Fe's Governor's Palace. He loves his work. He loves his wife. But, when he wakes up on the morning of his fiftieth birthday, he discovers his wife has left him and taken him for a cool million, and this is just the beginning. Woods first introduced Ed Eagle in 1992, in *Santa Fe Rules*. He was then, and still is a fascinatingly flawed character