

The Book Rack Newsletter

It just makes sense to buy your books at The Book Rack!

Vol 7, #9

September 2014

3937 41st Ave Dr., Moline

309-797-1985

4764 Elmore Ave, Davenport

563-355-2310

Store Hours: 10:00 - 6:00 Monday - Sunday

<http://www.thebookrackqc.com/>
BookRackQC@Gmail.com

The writer must write what he has to say, not speak it.

Ernest Hemingway

**A Poetic Line that has passed into common
usage:**

"Stone walls do not a prison make nor iron bars a cage."

Alexander Pope, The Dunciad

September Holidays and such:

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Blueberry Popsicle Month

National Courtesy Month

Chicken Month

Baby Safety Month

Little League Month

Self Improvement Month

Better Breakfast Month

Sept 1 – Labor Day

2 - Construction starts on 38th St, blocking access to John Deere Road from 40th Ave. See a complete explanation at the end of this Newsletter. (Please bear with us!)

5 – Be Late for Something Day

6 – Read a Book Day - Take time out of your busy life, and relax with a good book.

7 – Grandparent's Day

8 – International Literacy Day

9 – 911 Remembrance Day

13 – Michael Mc Carty & Mark McLaughlin will be signing copies of their books at The Book Rack in Davenport 12-3:00.

13 – Local Author Eric James Rowell will be signing copies of his book at The Book Rack, Moline, 11-1:00.

14 – National Cream-filled Donuts Day

16 – Collect Rocks Day

17 – Constitution Day

21 - Construction scheduled to finish on 38th St, reopening access to John Deere Road from 40th Ave. See a complete explanation at the end of this Newsletter.

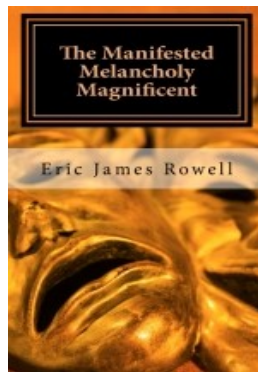
22 – Business Women's Day

26 – Native American's Day

28 – Ask a Stupid Question Day

Featured Authors:

Eric Rowell, author of “The Manifested Melancholy Magnificent”, will be at [The Book Rack](#), Moline, 11-1:00 on September 13 visiting with customers and signing copies of his book. Eric was born and raised in Chicago. He earned his Bachelors from Augustana College and his Masters from St Ambrose University. Eric currently serves as Assistant Director of Admissions & Diversity Outreach at Augustana and lives in Rock Island with his wife and two children.



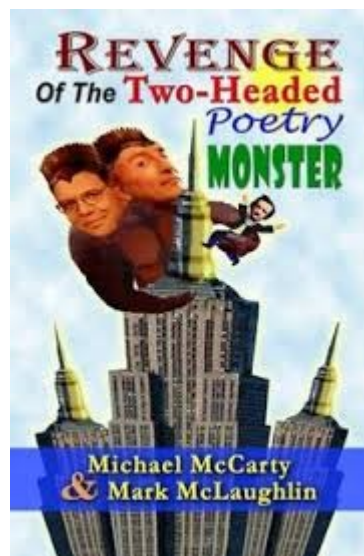
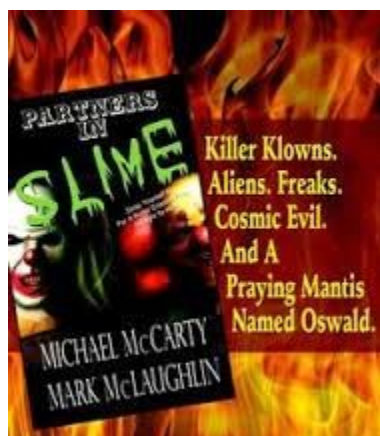
While watching his childhood friend put on makeup My Boy notices something different about her face. There is a bruise, perhaps placed there by her boyfriend. Impulsively he asks her to marry him. She says yes.

The Manifested Melancholy Magnificent is the first-person telling of the life of a young man known to all as "My Boy." Through the eyes of family and friends over the course of a week's time his impulsive, inebriated, and yet often courageous life is on display for all to bare witness. Characters of his life include a mother and best friend who adore him, a father and aunt who loathe him, a self-conscious new bride, and additional madcaps and sages who offer hilarity, wisdom, and their own personal perspectives on life's tragedies and triumphs.

This fictional tale of recklessness, psychosis, desperation, and opportunity is rolled into a darkly humorous account of Chicago's South Side in an almost ancient and unforgettable era. For many - nocturnal street urchins, clubbing dance hall kings and queens, and the proletarian populace - the 1980s were fraught with the pain and neglect of the unrealized dream of becoming a Huxtable numbed by alcohol, drugs, and the grinding, bass-thumping pulse of a new melodic sound known as House Music.

Each chapter is intricately linked creating a seamless tale between characters picking up from where the previous leaves off. Each character speaks directly to the reader without scene set-up or author interruption as if the character and the reader are in the same room. The Manifested Melancholy Magnificent contributes both historical and sociological perspectives of the oft-viewed superficial and fast-paced decade that at its heart was harsh, rhythmic, and beautifully somber.

Michael McCarty & Mark McLaughlin come together for a frightfully fun day at **The Book Rack**, Davenport, September 13, 12-3:00. Our local Lords of Horror, authors of many scary titles, and others not intended to frighten, will look forward to visiting with their many fans and other interested readers. Mark & Mike have collaborated on such title as “Partners in Slime” and “Bride of the Two-Headed Poetry Monster.” Stop in and get two autographs for the price of one! How great is that deal?



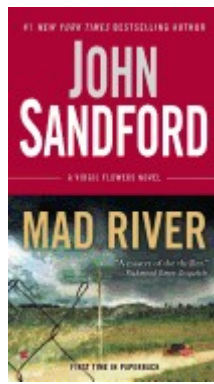
Free Verse is a regular, monthly, feature by one of our wonderful Quad Cities area local authors. Each month we enjoy writing by a different talent. These articles and poems are on a variety of topics bound to be of interest to many of our readers. Please help spread the word by forwarding the newsletter to others. Give these folks as wide an audience as possible, please.

The Free Verse is taking a 1-month hiatus, but will return in October with another original offering from a local author.

Book Reviews:

Mad River by John Sanford

FICTION

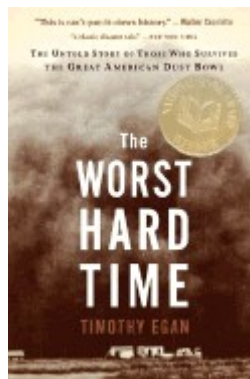


This installment of Virgil Flowers novels features a rural Minnesota young people who have few prospects to get them out of a cycle of poverty and bad choices. Jimmy and Becky have chips on their shoulders and no moral compass. After killing a girl during a robbery, they begin to see themselves as a new Bonnie and Clyde, and continue to take what they feel they are entitled. As incompetent and naïve as they are, they manage to keep one step ahead of Virgil and the local law enforcement officials and continue to wantonly kill. As you follow Virgil's progress in his pursuit of the killers and add a little righteous indignation over police vigilantism, you have the fishing Minnesota detective we love. This is the kind of book I use to clear my mind when I vacation in Minnesota – enough actual towns and locations described and enough removed from my real life. Good easy murder mystery read.

By Claudia

The Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan

NONFICTION - Winner of the 2006 National Book Award.



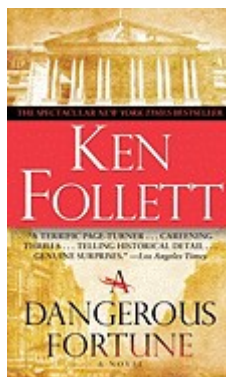
I'm in awe of the strength and stoicism of people who deal with extreme difficulties, as well as those who may unknowingly bring disaster on themselves. Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times journalist and author Timothy Egan communicates both in following a half-dozen families and their communities living in the Great American Dust Bowl during the darkest days of the Depression. He brings the residents to life using a combination of historical research, interviews with survivors, and family journals and diaries. His writing reveals admiration for their tenacity and will to survive, but by no

means lets the folks off the hook for partially getting themselves into their own mess in the first place. Egan describes the great expanse of grassland of a few hundred years ago as home to millions of bison as well as large, thriving Native American tribes. Though originally rejected as farmland by settlers who either settled the upper Midwest or continued West, with passage of the Homestead Act of 1862 and successive legislation making even harsh land seem like a good opportunity, within a few decades towns popped up in places they had no business being. By the beginning of the 20th century the recipe for disaster on the High Plains was nearly complete: Native Americans and bison had been hunted or driven off and replaced by land speculators and cattle (and a little later, farmers and crops). More importantly the rich, fertile topsoil and grasslands that had developed over thousands of years was ripped up and replaced by poorly planned farms. When the Great Depression hit, agricultural prices were decimated and a nearly decade-long drought in the early 1930s followed, exacerbated by some of the highest average wind speeds in the nation. The resulting disastrous dust storms - “dusters”, “black blizzards”, “black rollers” - were nothing ever seen before or since. Just breathing became a health hazard, and an untold number of residents died of “dust pneumonia”. The static electricity from the storms was so great that cars shorted out on the road and one person could knock another to the ground with just a touch. Timothy Egan’s passion for the material and engaging writing style results in an overall brutal account, but one that should be read by those thinking today is bad.

By Claudia

Dangerous Fortune by Ken Follett

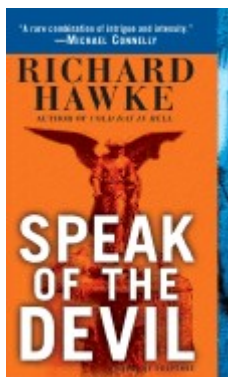
Historical Fiction



Set in England in mid to late 1800s, Follett begins his story with a drowning death at a boy's school, and follows the lives of the small circle of classmates who were at the remote swimming hole that day through the next several decades. Set against the backdrop of collapse of a real bank in 1892, the story winds through the lives of the Pillaster family of bankers and their circle of associates. Follett shows both sides of Victorian England placing his story in muddy streets, brothel's and exclusive men's clubs, as well as in ballrooms and tea rooms. True friendships and false, integrity and

treachery are part of Follett's well-spun tale. A couple of the characters are deliciously villainous - they live to undermine others to their own advantage – while others to whom society turns their backs may prove to be the best of humanity. This book grabbed me early and kept my interest. Maybe a bit predictable and the paperback is about 575 pages long, but worked for me. Now I'm reading Follett's *Pillars of the Earth*.
By Claudia

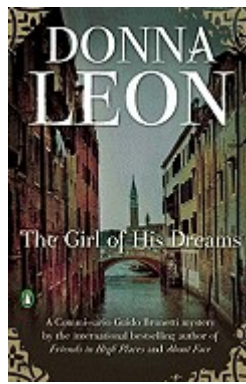
Speak of the Devil by Richard Hawke (2006)



Ideal for fans of the works of Michael Connelly, Harlan Coben, and Robert B. Parker, Speak of the Devil is an immediately gripping and wildly entertaining novel about charismatic Manhattan P.I. Fritz Malone, who gets caught up in the city's darkest conspiracy. It's a beautiful Thanksgiving in New York City and Fritz Malone just happens to have drifted up Central Park West. Across the crowd-filled street he sees a gunman on a low wall, taking aim with a shiny black Beretta. Seconds later the air is filled with bullets and blood. Fritz isn't one to stand around and watch. As the gunman flees into the park, Fritz runs after him. What he doesn't know is that he is also running into one of the most shocking and treacherous episodes of his life. The cops hustle Fritz from the scene and deliver him to the office of the current commissioner, who informs him that someone dubbed "Nightmare" has been taunting the city's leaders for weeks, warning of an imminent attack on the citizenry. What they need for this job to help find "Nightmare" is an outside man. And in Fritz they think they've got one.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Malone's quips and banter are terrific and fit exactly into the story. He's a distinctive protagonist that's not a caricature or damaged. He's just good at what he does, unapologetic and tough as nails! This is Hawke's debut novel and I just hope the rest are as good. I give it an A and highly recommend it to you.

The Girl of His Dreams by Donna Leon (2009)

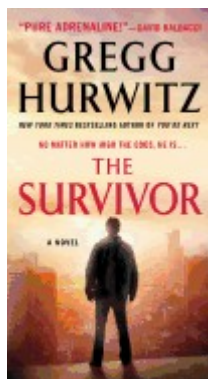


Donna Leon's "Commissario Guido Brunetti" mysteries have won legions of fans for their evocative portraits of Venetian life. In her novels, food, family, art, history, and local politics play as central a role as an unsolved crime. In "The Girl of His Dreams" when a friend of Brunetti's brother, a priest recently returned from years of missionary work, calls with a request, Brunetti suspects the man's motives. A new, American-style Protestant sect has begun to meet in the city, and it's possible the priest is merely apprehensive of the competition. But the preacher could also be fleecing his growing flock, so Brunetti and Paola, along with Inspector Vianello and his wife, go undercover.

But the investigation has to be put aside when, one cold and rainy morning, a body is found floating in a canal. It is a child, a gypsy girl. Brunetti suspects she fell off a nearby roof while fleeing an apartment she had robbed. He has to inform the distrustful parents, encamped on the mainland, and soon finds himself haunted by the crime--and the girl.

This is my first Donna Leon book. We have many Leon fans and I love her books for that reason. I'm afraid I can't count myself among her raving fans of the content. Not that it's a bad book, but just not my "cup-of-tea", if you will. It does include much background on Venice and the life style of Venetians – more than I wanted, and I didn't find much of it to be necessary. I also didn't find the pace as energetic as I like. I give it a C+. Don't take this as gospel. Find one of her legion of fans and ask them, or better yet, pick up one of her titles and judge for yourself.

The Survivor by Gregg Hurwitz (2013)

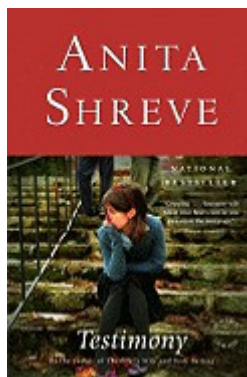


Nate Overbay, a former soldier suffering from PTSD and ALS, goes to an eleventh-floor bank and climbs onto the ledge, ready to end it all. But as he's steeling himself to jump, a crew of when a gunmen bursts into the bank and begins shooting employees and customers. With nothing to lose, Nate climbs back inside and, with military precision, Nate begins taking out the robbers, one by one. The last man standing leaves Nate with a cryptic warning: He will make you pay in ways you can't imagine...

Pavlo is a savage Ukrainian mobster and mastermind of the failed heist. Blocked from entering the bank vault to retrieve a critical item, Pavlo gives Nate a horrifying ultimatum: Either help him break in or watch Pavlo slowly kill his estranged wife and teenaged daughter. Nate lost them once he came back from Iraq, broken and confused. Now the only thing Nate has to lose is--everything. And time is running out...

A very exciting book with an unexpected ending. Nate Overbay is a very, very likable guy seriously struggling with multiple devils in his world. I would really look forward to another book with him as the protagonist. I give the book a B+ and a solid recommendation. If you like Karen Slaughter, Jonathan Kellerman and James Lee Burke you'll almost certainly like Gregg Hurwitz.

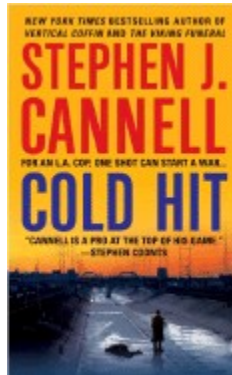
Testimony by Anita Shreve (2008)



At Avery Academy, a prestigious New England boarding school, the headmaster finds himself in possession of a videotape – a disaster in a small package. More shocking than the sexual acts recorded on the tape are the ages of the students. One girl is just fourteen. A Pandora's Box, the tape unleashes a storm of shame and recrimination throughout the small community. The men, women, and teenagers involved speak out to relate the events of that night and their aftermath. For all the tape reveals, it provokes more questions than it answers. How did it happen? Who is to blame? And will the mistakes of one foolish moment ruin the futures of everyone involved? As the chorus of voices rises to a crescendo, it reveals the surprising truth of what occurred that night, and how the lives touched by these events will be forever transformed.

Not an uplifting book, but a very, very good book! I'd not previously read Shreve, but we do sell a lot of her books and now I can see why first-hand. I give it an A- and highly recommend it. If you like Elizabeth Berg, Jodie Picoult, Alice Hoffman or Jane Smiley you may well also like Anita Shreve.

Cold Hit by Stephen J. Cannell (2005)



What if under the USA Patriot Act federal bureaucrats could take murder cases away from local cops – then bury those cases so they're never investigated again? What if government agents could bug your home, car, place of work – your entire life – with nothing more than spoken permission from a secret panel of judges? Laws are based on the premise that the officials enforcing them are honest. But what if they aren't?

In *Cold Hit*, Detective Shane Scully suspects that the regional boss of Homeland Security is thwarting a major murder investigation. But Why? Shane and his partner are investigating the Fingertip Killer, a serial murderer preying on homeless Vietnam vets in LA. A bullet taken from one victim's skull matches the bullet that killed another man 10-years earlier. When the victim turns out to be an LAPA cop, the investigation becomes very personal for Shane. But there's a problem: Robert Allen Virtue, the California Director of Homeland Security wants him taken off the case. To solve the cop's murder, and possibly the Fingertip Killer case, Scully must go behind the powerful bureaucrat's back and deep undercover – where he will begin to unravel a deadly, far-reaching conspiracy that threatens to destroy everything he loves – his career, his freedom and his family.

I've longed loved Cannell's books and *Cold Hit* did nothing to lessen that love. Scully's tough, logical, not flawless, but determined. The storyline is well developed and the intensity grows throughout relentlessly. I give it a very solid B+ and strongly recommend *Cold Hit* and any other Cannell book you can lay your hands on!

If you like William Bernhardt, Stuart Woods, Robert Crais or Tim Green, you will probably like Cannell, as well.

Note: This title is currently unavailable from our distributor in either paperback or hard cover and looks like it will be forever. I checked his other titles and only 4 are still available to us new. So, if you like him you may want to grab his books when and where you can and make sure he's on your Request List at The Book Rack. We do have 4 copies of Cold Hit, as I write this.

Upcoming New Releases:

Check out the prices following the title of the book. The first price is the publisher's price. The second price is the **Book Rack** price, when picked up at one of the stores. There is no shipping charge when you pick up your order. Order now by calling one of the stores or stopping in. We do ask for prepayment on all special orders.

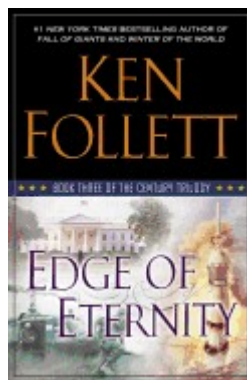
Hard cover and Trade Paperback:

Lee Child – Personal, A Jack Reacher Novel – 28.00/22.40



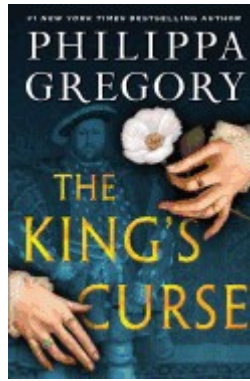
Clive Cussler – The Eye of Heaven – 28.95/23.20

Ken Follett – Edge of Eternity – 36.00/28.80

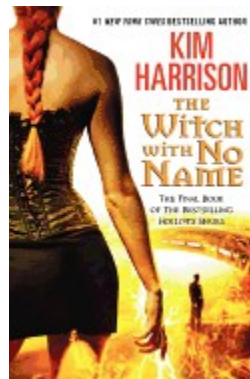


Tana French – The Secret Place – 27.95/22.40

Philippa Gregory – The King's Curse – 27.99/22.40

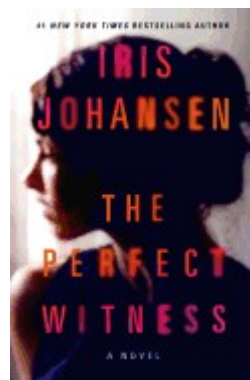


Kim Harrison – The Witch With No Name – 26.99/21.60



Carl Hiaasen – Stink: No Surrender – 18.99/15.20

Iris Johansen – The Perfect Witness – 27.99/22.40

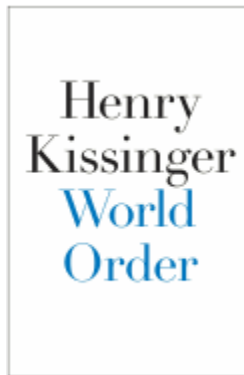


Jan Karon – Somewhere Safe With Somebody Good – 27.95/22.40

Karen Kingsbury – Angels Walking – 22.99/18.40

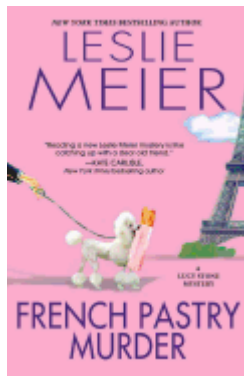


Henry Kissinger – World Order – 36.00/28.80



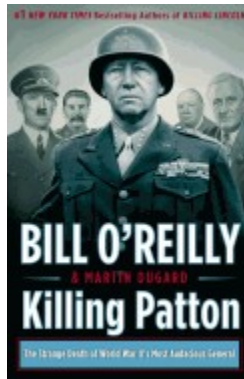
Ian McEwen – The Children Act – 25.00/20.00

Leslie Meier – French Pastry Murder – 25.00/20.00

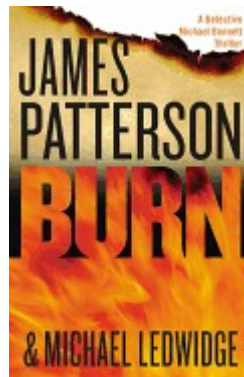


Walter Mosley – Rose Gold – 25.95/20.80

Bill O'Reilly – Killing Patton – 30.00/24.00

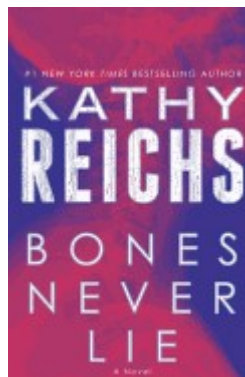


James Patterson – Burn – 28.00/22.40



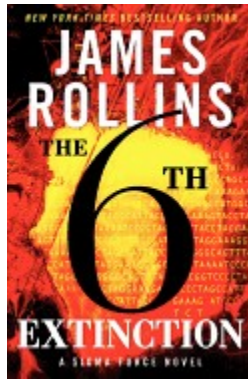
Anne Perry – Blood on the Water – 26.00/20.80

Kathy Reichs – Bones Never Lie – 27.00/21.60

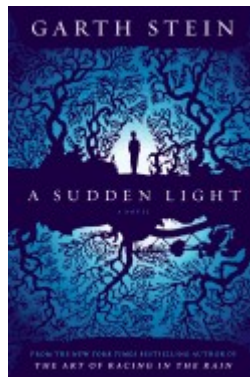


JD Robb – Festive in Death – 27.95/22.40

James Rollins – The 6th Extinction – 27.99/22.40



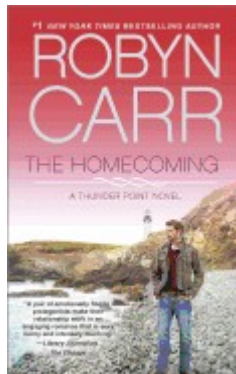
Garth Stein – A Sudden Light – 26.95/21.60



Sarah Waters – The Paying Guests – 28.95/23.20

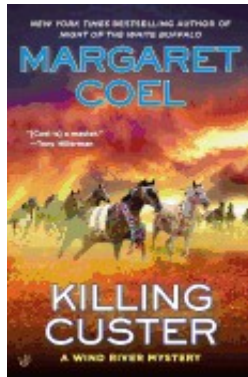
Paperback New Releases

Robyn Carr – The Homecoming – 7.99/6.40

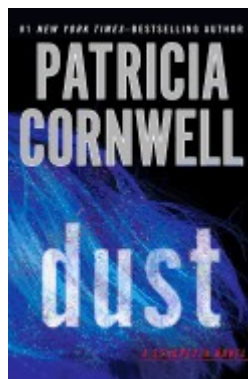


Jayne Castle – The Hot Zone – 7.99/6.40

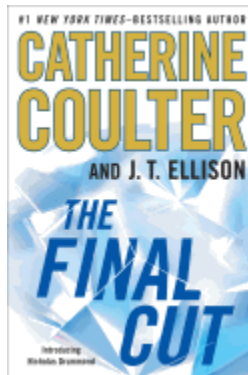
Margaret Coel – Killing Custer – 7.99/6.40



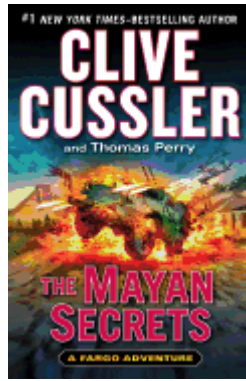
Patricia Cornwell – Dust – 9.99/8.00



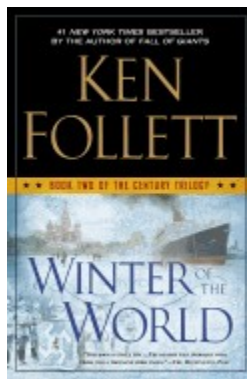
Catherine Coulter – The Final Cut – 9.99/8.00



Clive Cussler – The Mayan Secrets – 9.99/8.00



Ken Follett – Winter of the World – 9.99/8.00



Sue Grafton – W is for Wasted – 7.99/6.40

Sara Paretsky – Critical Mass – 9.99/8.00

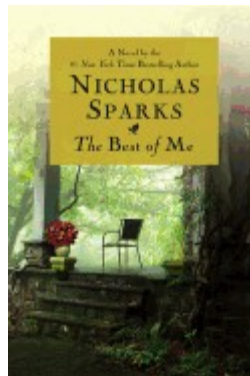


James Patterson - 12th of Never – 10.00/8.00

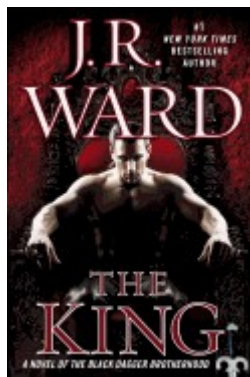


Jill Shalvis – It's In His Kiss – 8.00/6.40

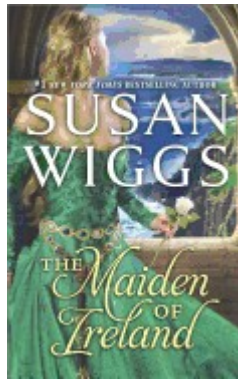
Nicholas Sparks – The Best of Me – 8.00/6.40



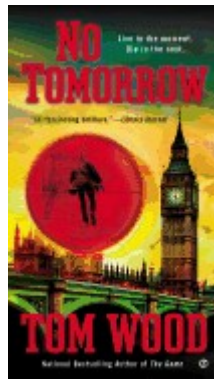
JR Ward – The King – 7.99/6.40



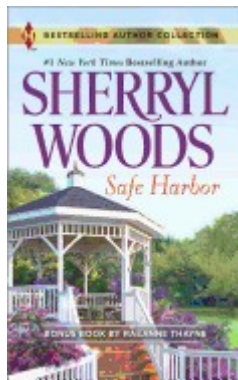
Susan Wiggs – The Maiden of Ireland – 7.99/6.40



Tom Wood – No Tomorrow – 9.99/8.00



Sherryl Woods – Safe Harbor – 6.99/5.60



QUALITY. EFFICIENCY. RELIABILITY.



NOTICE:

Dear Businesses of 41st Avenue Drive.

Construction work on the John Deere Road project is progressing but has encountered the typical delays such as weather, unforeseen items and common construction obstacles. McCarthy Improvement Company and the Illinois Department of Transportation have partnered in an effort to maintain the interim completion date milestone of November 21, 2014. In an effort to continue striving for this date, we are providing this notification of some upcoming construction work on 38th Street which temporarily affects access and traffic flow patterns that potentially impact you and your patrons.

Starting on September 2, 2014, construction will begin on 38th Street, blocking access to John Deere Road from 40th Avenue. The work to be completed on this portion of 38th street includes installation of new storm sewers, water main, concrete curb and gutter, and a complete re-construction of the road surface. Work is projected to be finished and the roadway opened to traffic again on September 22, 2014.

On the back of this flyer, **Map A** shows the portion of 38th Street and 41st Ave. Drive that will be completely closed off (in red). The highlighted (yellow) portion of **Map A** represents drivable lanes around the construction area. The highlighted portion in **Map B** is an alternative route to John Deere Road and I-74.

Listed below are the traffic details:

- 38th Street closed between Applebee's and 41st Ave. Drive intersection
- 38th Street south bound will be open starting at the 41st Ave. Drive intersection
- West bound lane of 41st Ave. Drive in front of Applebee's will be closed
- Temporary E/W bound lanes connecting 41st Ave. Drive and 40th Ave. will exist

We apologize for the inconveniences this may create. If there are any questions or concerns about this notification, please call 563-359-0321.

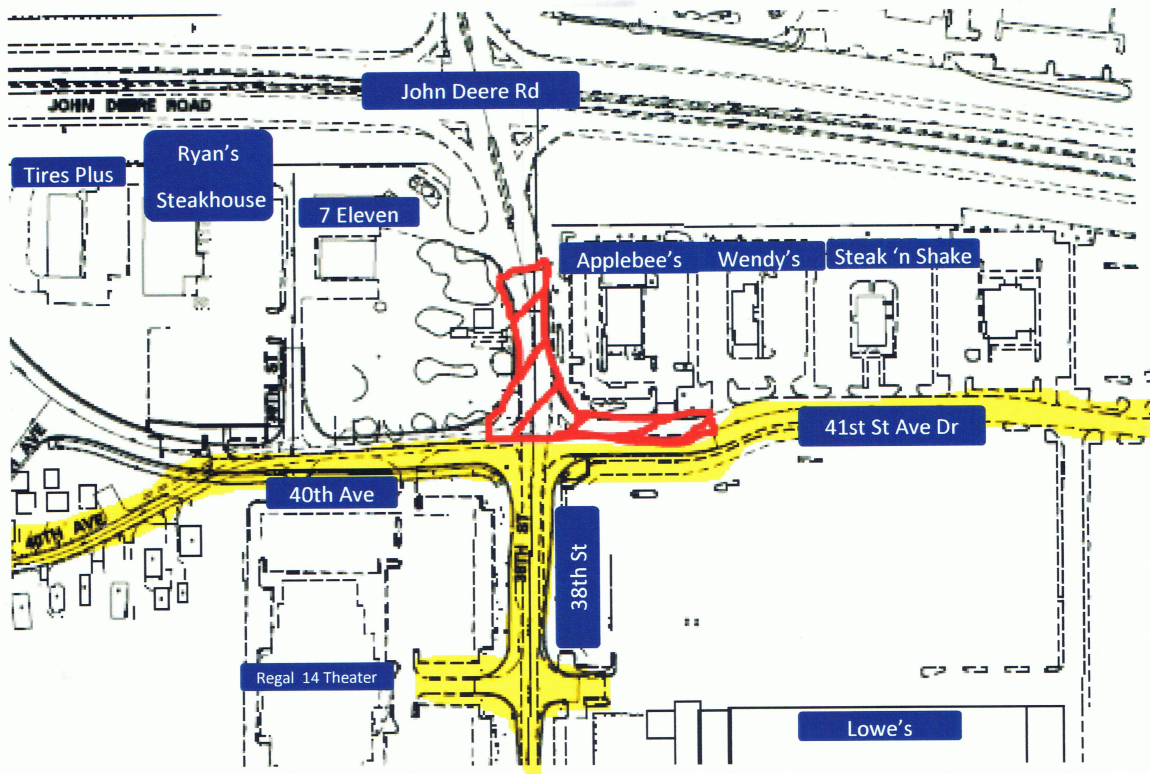
Thank you for your cooperation.

Demolition Grading & Excavation Underground
Utility Asphalt & Concrete Paving Footings,
Foundations, Floors
CONTRACTORS

5401 Victoria Avenue, Davenport, Iowa 52807
PHONE 563.359.0500 FAX 563.344.3740

www.mccarthyimprovement.com





Map A



Map B