

LIBRARY SERVICES

JULY 2023

BURLINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer of Wonder

The summer fun continued into July as we entered into the final half of our summer reading program. The theme this year is Find Your Voice, inspiring people of all ages to see themselves reflected in stories and lean into their curiosity in order to discover what makes them uniquely them.

Us humans are a social species, and one of the fascinating things about us is that we are hard-wired for stories. Research has shown that when information is presented in a narrative arch we have a much higher chance of retention. Similarly, when presented with a hands-on learning experience our levels of engagement tend to be higher. Bearing those two things in mind, our summer line-up full of exciting events paired with our rich collection of stories makes the library a most perfect springboard for curiosity.

From participating in the West Burlington 4th of July festival to professional storyteller, Darrin Crow sharing stories of Vietnam, there were many opportunities for our community to engage with the library.

It must be noted that the amount of planning, preparation, time and energy that goes into hosting a full 8 weeks of exciting and engaging fun for people of all ages is tremendous, to say the least. A big thank you to all library staff who were involved in the programming side of summer reading, as well as to all staff who kept the Burlington Public Library running smoothly on a day-to-day basis.

Fresh on the heels of our data migration into a new integrated library system (ILS), we continue to fine-tune and smooth out the wrinkles of our processes as we learn new workflows. With **28,884** items borrowed in July and a total of **57,903** items borrowed during the summer program weeks we were kept busy with the ILS, managing the flow of items in and out of our doors.



Summer by the Numbers

Adult Reading Participants: 389

Teen Readers: 152

Tween Readers: 229

Kid Readers: 562

Baby Readers: 132

Total Readers: 1,464

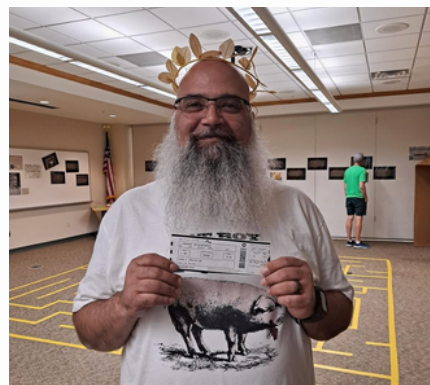
Bookmobile Books Given: 869

Total Programs: 115

Program Participants: 6,699

Vacation Thru Time: Rome

Our Vacation Thru Time team was at it again this month and closed out summer with a trip back in time to the Roman Colosseum. Participants were able to try out their gladiator skills, learn about Roman aqueducts and even write a short story from the perspective of a colosseum spectator. The winning stories are to be published in an August edition of the Hawk Eye.





Peggy Ell Pollinator Garden update

July by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: 28,884

Number of Programs: 51

Program Participants: 2,136

New Borrower Accounts: 180

Use of online databases: 5,849

WiFi & Computer Use: 2,817

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: 171

Meeting Room Reservations: 259

Door Count: 11,487

More News and Projects

In partnership with Iowa PBS the Burlington Public Library hosted the Iconic Iowa Photo Exhibit in our lobby. This state initiative is part of a larger series by David Rubenstein - Iconic America: Our Symbols and Stories. Hosting this exhibit in our lobby brought in many new faces to the library and was an excellent way to showcase just how stunning our corner of the state is.

In addition to participating in the West Burlington's 4th of July festival we also took the library on the road to attend the Community Day in the Park and Very Vintage Market. It's estimated that roughly 8,000 people attended the vintage market! Community Day in the Park was an inaugural event to celebrate our breathtaking Crapo and Dankwardt Parks.

Partnerships

This month we partnered with the following for programs, outreach, research and community-building:

- Greater Burlington Partnership
- Burlington Community School District
- PiECES
- Bridges Out of Poverty
- Murray Foundation
- Oakview
- Local Historian, Terry Abrisz
- Kulture City
- Des Moines County Historical Society
- Addington Place
- Bickford
- Iowa State Extension Office
- Iowa STEM Council
- State Library of Iowa
- Des Moines County Master Gardeners
- Special Needs Foundation
- Iowa State University
- Network Nirvana
- City Camp
- Kid Zone
- Burlington YMCA
- Black Iowa News
- Iowa PBS
- City of West Burlington
- Darrin Crow

