

# CHECK IT OUT

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



319-753-1647  
210 COURT STREET,  
BURLINGTON, IA 52601

[WWW.BURLINGTON.LIB.IA.US](http://WWW.BURLINGTON.LIB.IA.US)



## LIBRARY CLOSINGS

MONDAY, MAY 26TH  
- MEMORIAL DAY

## LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY  
9 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY-SATURDAY  
9 AM - 5 PM

SUNDAY - CLOSED

## LIBRARY NEWS

## FRIENDS NEWS

Congratulations, on helping us reach a momentous milestone this month! On May 18, 1885 the Burlington City Council enacted Ordinance 21 shifting our library from a private, subscription model to a 'free' public model. We have since then been a tax-funded institution and have maintained public access to our collection for 140 years.

This model of collective stewardship is common amongst our municipal departments (police, fire, parks, libraries) but is one that has been all but eliminated in the wider arena of American life. I am fairly certain that if libraries did not currently exist, and we were to propose the idea of them to our lawmakers today it would be quickly shut down and rejected. Our world prioritizes individualism, is more and more digital, AI is rapidly influencing and participating in our collective lives, fewer people are reading physical books, and everyone seems to despise paying taxes.

Yet... libraries defy all odds and remain to be thriving community hubs. Library services certainly look different today compared to what they were in 1885, however the ethos and mission of the Burlington Public Library remains true to the core tenant of providing access to information. Enshrined on the East side of the 1898 library building (now the Des Moines County Heritage Museum, 501 N 4th St.) is a phrase that has stood the test of time, and remains true to this day, "Dedicated to the advancement of learning."

A lot has changed in the last 140 years, and if our library walls could talk, they would have stories to rival the ones stacked on our shelves. Keep an eye out on our website for a new library history page, where we will tell the amazing and dramatic story of our library's history. In the meantime, thank you for being a part of the latest chapter of the Burlington Public Library.

Happy Reading,

Brittany Jacobs  
Library Director



## MAY BOOK SALE

FRIDAY  
**16TH**  
9 AM - 5 PM  
MEMBER'S PREVIEW

SATURDAY  
**17TH**  
9 AM - 5 PM

MONDAY  
**19TH**  
9 AM - 2 PM  
CLEARANCE

LOCATED IN  
MEETING  
ROOMS A & B



# MAY EVENTS

## ALL AGES PROGRAMS

### SUMMER READING REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

**Beginning May 1st**

Join us for another awesome summer hosted by the Burlington Public Library. This year's theme is Level Up! Highlighting games of all kinds. Our Read to Grow Initiative will also be entering its second year! Read, Play Games, Grow Trees with us this summer! Visit our website to find out more about our Read to Grow Initiative and register for Summer Reading!

### CHESS CLUB

**Saturdays, May 3 & 17 || 9 AM - 12 PM**

Interested in learning chess or brushing up on your skills? Join us for this drop-in chess club in the Create Space. No registration required; all skill levels welcome.

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**ON BREAK, SEE YOU IN JUNE FOR SUMMER READING!**

## TWEEN PROGRAMS

### TWEEN TUESDAY

**Tuesday, May 6 || 6 PM**

Join us for this Tween Tuesday craft! Using a book, we will be making adorable folded artwork that can be used as a display for flowers, pencils and pens, and much more! Make Mothers Day special and create this craft special for any mom in your life!

## TEEN PROGRAMS

### TEEN VOLUNTEER TRAINING

**Thursdays, May 22 & 29 || 6 PM**

Volunteering in the summer for the Burlington Public Library is a fun way to earn service hours for school, build job experience and get a behind the scenes snapshot of library services. Volunteers need to be at least 14 years old and complete the Burlington Public Library Volunteer Form found on the library website, as well as register for training. If you are a current volunteer, contact the library for the summer schedule link.

## TICOS

**Thursday, May 1 || 6:30 PM**

TICOS is a Junior Optimist Club that doubles as our Teen Advisory Club. It is open to all students in 6-12th grades who want to volunteer for the library and in the community. It meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month and usually has a second event/project sometime in the month.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### FIRST FRIDAY:

### HOW IOWA MET BASEBALL

**Friday, May 2 || 10am**

Over the past century the setting for the spring passion of many Iowans has been the ballpark. This presentation by John Liepa explores the myths of baseball's origins, the early history and evolution of the game, baseball's journey to Iowa and the role of the Civil War in spreading its popularity. Audiences will learn about some of Iowa's baseball pioneers and view an extensive collection of baseball memorabilia featuring Iowa players. Funded by Humanities Iowa and the State Historical Society, Inc.

### THAT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS

**Saturday, May 3rd || 10 AM**

Join local historian, Terry Abrisz, for some coffee, pastries and Burlington history. Terry uses the local newspaper to share the story of the community with a different topic each month. This month we will explore Burlington in the 1940's and our relationship to the War, and the Peace of the era. No registration required; all are welcome.

### BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

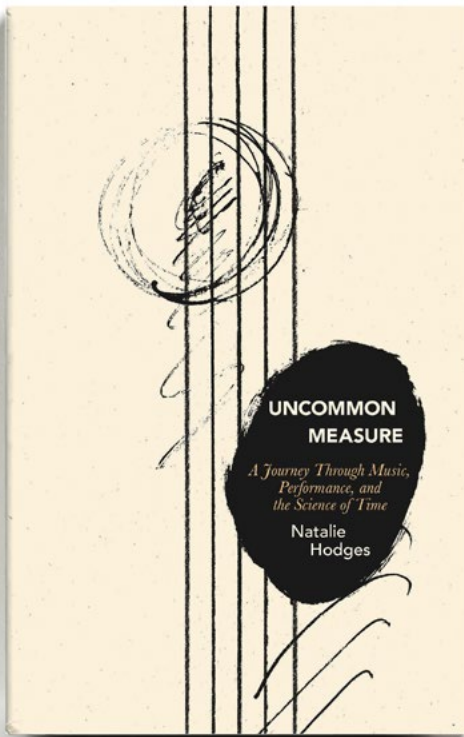
**Thursday, May 15 || 12-1 PM**

Join us to read a new book each month from unique authors. Up this month is *Western Lane* by Chetna Maroo. Books for each month are available at the Welcome Desk at the front of the library for check out. Check our website for future titles!

### MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

**Tuesday, May 27 || 12-1 PM**

Our May book is *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie. "Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Without a shred of doubt, one of his fellow passengers is the murderer. Isolated by the storm, detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer among a dozen of the dead man's enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again."



## **Burlington Public Library Invites Readers to Experience “Uncommon Measure” During Worldwide Digital Book Club.**

**Ebook and audiobook available for free on Libby with no waitlists or holds.**

Burlington Public Library is excited to announce its participation in Big Library Read, the world’s largest digital book club. From May 15-29, library card holders in city/region can enjoy “Uncommon Measure: A Journey Through Music, Performance, and the Science of Time” by Natalie Hodges as an ebook and audiobook for free through the Libby app. During this two-week program, readers around the globe can access the title without waitlists or holds and join the conversation online.

“Uncommon Measure” explores the intricate relationship between time, consciousness, and music through the lens of a young Korean American violinist. After performance anxiety derails her dream of becoming a concert soloist, Hodges embarks on a journey of self-discovery. Blending personal narrative with illuminating research in neuroscience and quantum physics, she reflects on family, prejudice, and the search for meaning. Through this genre-defying memoir, Hodges reimagines a life once defined by classical music, now moving toward the freedom of improvisation.

Big Library Read has connected millions of readers since 2013, with programs held three times each year. Available through over 22,000 libraries worldwide, Big Library Read allows readers to borrow selected titles instantly and enjoy a shared reading experience. As the leading digital reading platform, OverDrive’s Libby app provides readers with convenient access to ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines on their favorite devices. “Uncommon Measure” is the 36th selection of this program.

Readers can access “Uncommon Measure” on all major computers and devices through Libby including iPhone®, iPad®, Android® phones and tablets. U.S. readers can also “send to Kindle®.” The title will automatically expire at the end of the lending period, with no late fees.

**Find more information about Big Library Read at [www.BigLibraryRead.com](http://www.BigLibraryRead.com)**

Mailed to you by:  
Friends of the Burlington Public Library



210 Court Street, Burlington, Iowa 52601

(319) 753-1647

[www.burlington.lib.ia.us](http://www.burlington.lib.ia.us)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Burlington, Iowa 52601  
Permit No. 1318

**ZAVELVA**

BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer Reading 2025  
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!