

# CHECK IT OUT

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



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210 COURT STREET,  
BURLINGTON, IA 52601

WWW.BURLINGTON.LIB.IA.US



LIBRARY CLOSINGS	LIBRARY HOURS
NO SCHEDULED CLOSINGS THIS MONTH	MONDAY-THURSDAY 9 AM - 8 PM
	FRIDAY-SATURDAY 9 AM - 5 PM
	SUNDAY - CLOSED

## LIBRARY NEWS

## FRIENDS NEWS

1 year ago, in March of 2024 the Burlington Public Library was dealt a devastating blow with a \$75,000 budget cut due to mandates and restrictions from the state legislature (primarily HF718). With a budget that was already in the deficit and made whole with private donations, we were put in a difficult situation to find where to eliminate an additional \$75k. In the dark of this moment, came a beacon of light and hope in the form of an incredibly generous donation from Chris Murphy, owner of Burlington By the Book.

Every week for the last 52 weeks Chris has donated a new copy of a recently published book to BPL, helping to enhance our collection and ease the burden of our budget shortfall. Inspired by his generosity, Big River Popcorn joined in on the fun and donated a second copy of the book each week. Many of Chris' shoppers chipped in as well, purchasing books at Burlington By the Book for donation to the library.

Thank you to Chris, Big River Popcorn, and all the shoppers who supported us during this last year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and the Burlington Public Library is a richer and more vibrant resource thanks to your support.

Brittany Jacobs  
Library Director



Chris Murphy with BPL's book purchaser, Laura Davis

Do you enjoy shopping at the Friends of the Library Book Sales? Do you have some time to give towards helping with the heavy set-up? Here's the situation...

Our set of volunteers who can help move bookcases and boxes weighing about 50 pounds is very small. We bring 21 bookcases and about 220 boxes of books up from the basement for every sale. Then after the sale, those bookcases need to be returned to the basement. It is getting more and more difficult to do this work in the short time allowed.

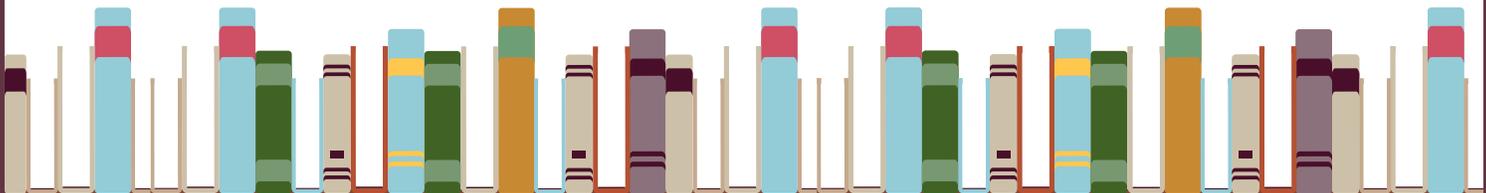
If you are at all interested, please let me know. We currently do the set-up during the day, but if you would be available in the evening, let me know. We might be able to rearrange our schedule. My email is ccmurphy@mchsi.com. In order to do this work, you need to sign a volunteer form with the library and submit to a simple background check, which is done once you submit the form.

Please think about helping with this important work. The book sales cannot happen without it!

Thanks,

Cindy Murphy  
Book Sale Chair

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



# MARCH EVENTS

## ALL AGES PROGRAMS

### MINDFUL MONDAYS

**Mondays, March 2 & 9 || 6 PM**

Join us in the Create Space to start your week off mindfully. Mindfulness is a practice that involves present moment awareness and non-judgmental acceptance. Each week we may do short creative exercises, gentle yoga, a short guided meditation, and enjoy herbal tea.

### CHESS CLUB

**Saturdays, March 7 & 21 || 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.

### HONEYBEE BASICS: UNDERSTANDING BEES & HELPING THEM THRIVE

**Saturday, March 7 || 1 PM - 2:30 PM**

\*This presentation is part of the Des Moines County Master Gardener Learning & Discovery Series, hosted in partnership with the Burlington Public Library.\* This introductory presentation by Master Beekeeper, Dave Tull, explores the fascinating biology of honeybees and highlights their essential role in pollination and the environment.

### TREE GRAFTING - EAST HOLBROOK CHESTNUT GROVE

**Saturday, March 7 || 3 PM**

\*This presentation is part of the Des Moines County Master Gardener Learning & Discovery Series, hosted in partnership with the Burlington Public Library.\* Elana Gingerich is passionate about farming and producing food. Elana will introduce us to the practice of tree grafting.

### TREE PLANTING AND EARLY TREE CARE

**Saturday, March 28 || 1 PM**

\*This presentation is part of the Des Moines County Master Gardener Learning & Discovery Series, hosted in partnership with the Burlington Public Library.\* Iowa DNR District Forester Lisa Louck, will discuss choosing the right trees for our landscape, proper placement and planting, and early care.

### ROOTED RELATIONSHIPS: THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TREES AND WILDLIFE

**Saturday, March 28 || 3 PM**

\*This presentation is part of the Des Moines County Master Gardener Learning & Discovery Series, hosted in partnership with the Burlington Public Library.\* Des Moines County Conservation Naturalist Shania Hansen loves sharing her passion for the outdoors with others. Learn how wildlife depends on trees every day for more than just shade - turkeys roost in branches, bats tuck themselves under shagbark hickory bark, and birds hunt insects living on trees. This event will be held at Starrs Cave Nature Center.

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

### WIGGLE TIME

**Tuesdays, March 3 & 10 || 10 AM**

**Wednesdays, March 4 & 11 || 10 AM**

Wiggle Time is a music and movement program for children ages 2-4 with their caregiver. Children and grownups will sing, dance, and read together as we continue to work on establishing the 5 building blocks of early literacy: read, write, sing, talk, and play! Registration requested; please visit our online calendar to register.

### BABYGARTEN

**Wednesdays, March 4 & 11 || 5:30 PM**

**Thursdays, March 5 & 12 || 10:30 AM**

Babygarten is an early literacy program for children ages 0-23 months with a caregiver. We will be learning new sign language, sharing caregiver tips, and sharing songs, rhymes and a book. Please register on our website.

### BRICKMASTERS

**Saturdays, March 14 & 28 || 10 AM**

Brickmasters offers an open-ended LEGO building experience for children ages 5 and up. No registration required!

### JUNIOR ENTOMOLOGIST: AN INSECT DISCOVERY WORKSHOP

**Monday, March 16 || 10 AM - Noon**

\*This presentation is part of the Des Moines County Master Gardener Learning & Discovery Series, hosted in partnership with the Burlington Public Library.\* Morgan Hoenic of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will introduce young enthusiasts to the practices of collecting, identifying and preserving insects. No equipment required to attend this fun and educational event.

## JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER: A GARDENING DISCOVERY WORKSHOP

Monday, March 19 || 10 AM - Noon

\*This presentation is part of the Des Moines County Master Gardener Learning & Discovery Series, hosted in partnership with the Burlington Public Library.\* Learn about the power of seeds, how to make new plants from old plants, and explore easy-to-grow.

## TWEEN & TEEN PROGRAMS

### TICOS

Thursday, March 5 || 6:30-7:30 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.



### GIRLS WHO CODE

Thursdays, March 5 & 19 || 6:45 PM

Girls Who Code is an international nonprofit organization working to close the gender gap in technology, and leading the movement to inspire, educate, and equip students who identify as girls or nonbinary with the computing skills needed to pursue 21st-century opportunities. Join us in our first meeting \*hosted by instructor; Chris. No registration required.

### TWEEN TUESDAY

Tuesday, March 10 || 6 PM

Come celebrate National Craft Month with us! We'll be creating vibrant Sharpie art using Sharpie markers, alcohol, canvas, and your imagination to design your own unique masterpiece. Please register on our website.

### BRIGHT IDEAS

Thursdays, March 12 & 26 || 5-6 PM

The Bright Ideas Junior Optimist Club is open to 3rd to 5th graders passionate about volunteering for the library and engaging with the community. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month, offering a chance to plan service projects and participate in group activities. Members can make new friends, learn the value of community service, and develop essential life skills. The club fosters creativity and leadership, providing hands-on learning experiences. Interested students or parents should plan to attend a meeting to join and start benefiting from this enriching opportunity.

### POKEMON CLUB

Saturday, March 14 || 2 PM

Calling all Pokémon fans! We're inviting tweens & teens to meet us at the library for an afternoon of traditional Pokémon training, evolving, and knocking out your opponent. Skilled players will guide participants in how to play, so no experience is necessary. Cards will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you've got them. No registration required.

## TICOS/ BRIGHT IDEAS JOI CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 28 || 9:30 - 3 PM

Join TICOS and Bright Ideas for a combined fun day connecting (virtually) with other Junior Optimists all over the state! We will have fun activities here at the library and will join via Zoom the JOI event in Des Moines. We will have lunch provided for teens in 3rd-12th grade who register and plenty of fun things to do throughout the day. This is a great chance to see what TICOS (Teens Inspiring Change Optimism & Service) is all about! Lunch and T shirt provided (shirt following event at the next regular meeting) Please Register on our website.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, March 6 || 10 AM

Join us for Dan Haughey's performance "Dan's Irish Coffeeshop Music." No registration required, all are welcome.

### SILENT BOOK CLUB

Friday, March 6 || 6 - 7:30 PM

Friends and strangers alike are welcome to gather for our silent book club! Join us at Homestead 1839's barn (701 West Agency, West Burlington) the first Friday of the month to spread out, cozy up, and share in your love of reading. You can choose to socialize and share what you're reading (or not!) and enjoy mocktails and light appetizers. Registration requested.

### THAT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Saturday, March 7 || 10 AM

Join local historian, Terry Abrisz, for some refreshments and Burlington history. Terry uses the local newspaper to share the story of the community with a different topic each month. This month, Terry presents "Then and Now: Old Buildings and What's There Currently." No registration required; all are welcome.

### BANNED CAMP BOOK CLUB

Saturday, March 14 || 10 AM

Join Burlington Public Library's Board of Trustees as we read challenged and banned books. Each month, one of our trustees will host an exploration of books relating to a certain theme. To celebrate Women's History Month, choose a book by a female author that has been banned or challenged. Come join us to share about your book, listen to others share about their books, and discuss common themes. Come with an open mind and be prepared to discuss the month's theme, the freedom to read, and specific banned and challenged books.

### TALES FROM THE PANTRY:

### THE ART OF FOOD PRESERVATION AND FOOD STORIES

Wednesday, March 18 || 11 AM - Noon

Join us for another Tales From the Pantry: Just bring your love of food and storytelling—and if you'd like, a recipe to share. Perfect for food enthusiasts and storytellers.

## COLORFUL CONNECTIONS: AN ACCESSIBLE CRAFT HOUR

Wednesday, March 18 || 1 - 2 PM

Enjoy simple activities in a calm, supportive environment. This program is designed with accessibility in mind and is geared toward adults with disabilities. This month we will be making our own book marks to take home! Crafts, community, and connection, no registration needed; please join us!

## BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, March 19 || Noon - 1 PM

Join us to read a new book each month from unique authors. 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!

## MOCKTAIL & MINGLE HOUR

Thursday, March 19 || 3:30 - 5 PM

Join us at the library for a refreshing and healthful experience with our Celery, Cucumber, and Lime Tonic mocktail! This vibrant "green and clean" beverage is the perfect pick-me-up for a mid-afternoon boost. Come sip, relax, and enjoy a wholesome refreshment with us!

## DISCOVERY READERS: A NON-FICTION READING CLUB

Saturday, March 21 || 10 - 11 AM

The Discovery Readers is a non-fiction reading club for anyone who loves learning something new. Each month highlights a different theme, and participants bring a book or article connected to that topic to share with the group. For March celebrate women's history month and share a title by or about women!

## MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 31 || Noon - 1 PM

Solve the mystery of what to read next by joining the Mystery Book Club! The club meets at noon on the last Tuesday of the month to investigate a new mystery book. Books for each month are available at the Welcome Desk at the front of the library for check out. Look in the monthly newsletter and our webpage for the title. Please join us!



## UPCOMING EXHIBIT: AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST

This summer, our library will host Americans and the Holocaust, a traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in partnership with the American Library Association.

We are seeking thoughtful, dependable volunteers to serve as docents for this important exhibit. Docents will welcome visitors, help guide conversations, and support meaningful community engagement around this powerful chapter of history. This will be flexible, and training will be provided in the weeks before the exhibit arrives.

If you are interested in helping facilitate learning and reflection, we encourage you to apply.

To apply, visit our website (<https://www.burlington.lib.ia.us/services/volunteer-application-form>) and select “

*Holocaust Memorial Exhibit Docent Applicant.*”

Applications are due *July 10th*.

Any questions can be directed to Becky Nelson, [bnelson@burlington.lib.ia.us](mailto:bnelson@burlington.lib.ia.us)

## NEW ONLINE SERVICES AVAILABLE AT

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



GALE PRESENTS: UDEMY

An online learning platform that connects patrons to video-based courses taught by leading experts in business, technology, and more. Users can explore thousands of continuously updated, on-demand video courses that match their professional goals and personal interests.



GALE GENERAL ONEFILE

Gale General OneFile provides millions of articles available in both PDF and HTML full-text to serve a wide audience of readers. The database allows researchers to find the information they want quickly. With intuitive searching that mirrors Internet searches, users can easily tap into sources that are guaranteed for quality.



GALE PRESENTS: GETSETUP

The Burlington Public Library is committed to supporting the well-being of older adults by offering inclusive, accessible, and engaging resources. Whether aging patrons are looking to learn a new skill, connect with others, or simply stay active, GetSetUp has something for everyone.

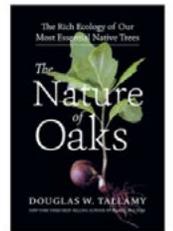
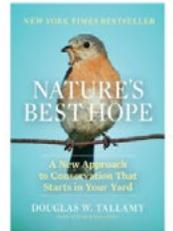
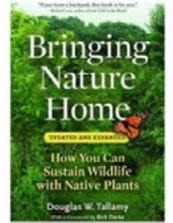
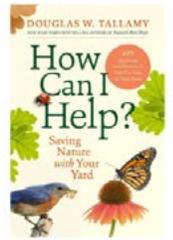
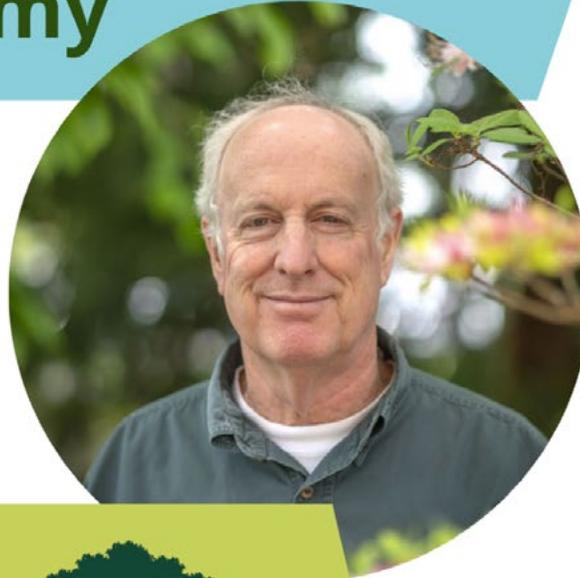
Join us for an evening with NYT best-selling author,

# Douglas W. Tallamy

Friday, May 1st

The Capitol Theater @ 6 PM

Join us May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Capitol Theater for an inspiring evening with Douglas W. Tallamy, author and advocate for sustainable gardening and conservation. Free and open to all.



Presented by:



Des Moines County



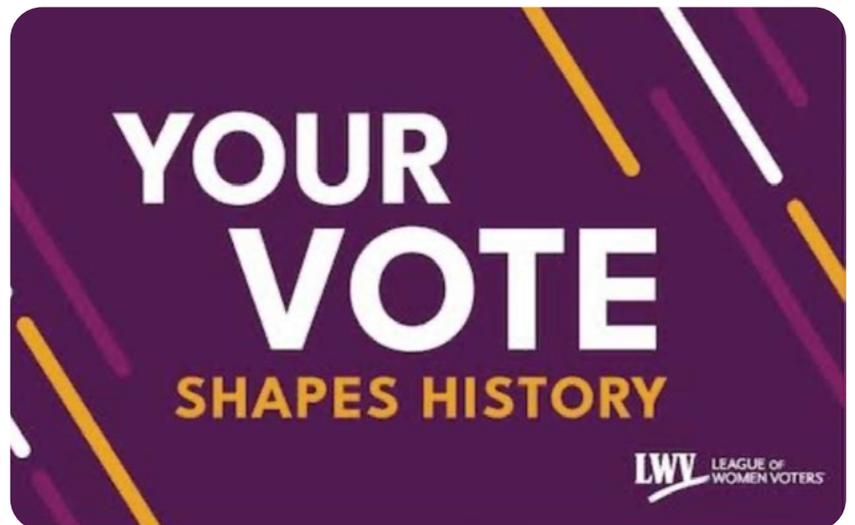
[www.burlington.lib.ia.us](http://www.burlington.lib.ia.us)

## VOTER REGISTRATION & INFORMATION WITH THE SE IOWA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

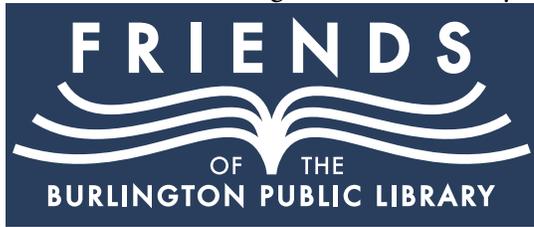
March 7 & 21 || 11 AM - 1 PM

The League of Women Voters of SE Iowa is expanding efforts to increase voters participation and civic engagement in our community. Beginning this month, the

league will host voter registration opportunities every first and third Saturday from 11:00 am to 1pm. Community members can register to vote, update their registration and receive non-partisan information about upcoming elections. All eligible voters are encouraged to take part in strengthening our democracy. No appointment is necessary.



Mailed to you by:  
Friends of the Burlington Public Library



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www.burlington.lib.ia.us

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# THANK YOU!

Thank you to Chris, Big River Popcorn, and all the shoppers who supported us during this last year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and the Burlington Public Library is a richer and more vibrant resource thanks to your support.

