

CHECK IT OUT

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



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210 COURT STREET,
BURLINGTON, IA 52601

WWW.BURLINGTON.LIB.IA.US



LIBRARY CLOSINGS

NOVEMBER 11
- ALL DAY

NOVEMBER 25
- CLOSING AT NOON

NOVEMBER 26
- ALL DAY

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY
9 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
9 AM - 5 PM

SUNDAY - CLOSED

LIBRARY NEWS

Congratulations to the staff, trustees, and volunteers of the Burlington Public Library for being awarded the 2026 Library Philanthropy Award! This award was presented to the BPL staff and trustees at the Iowa Library Association conference held in Cedar Rapids last month and is awarded for, "exceptional efforts made, outside of the library's typical mission, to create a better world." I am consistently impressed with the keen observation skills, compassion, and dedication to community-building that our library board and staff embody on a daily basis, and so was thrilled to nominate them for this distinguished award. From responding to community needs with a human-centered focus to going above and beyond to walk the community through difficult and complex topics, this group of people are upholding the very best of what libraries are all about. Congratulations to all for this well-deserved recognition!

I encourage everyone to be **READER, VOTER, READY** this month and take advantage of this year's General Election by casting your vote and upholding your civic duty. As part of our Civic Literacy initiative, we have created a 2026 General Election page on our website for you to find information so that you are informed and ready to vote. As part of the American Library Association's Reader, Voter, Ready campaign, we are encouraging all eligible voters to read-up, speak-up, and show-up this November 3rd.

Happy Reading & Happy Voting!
Brittany Jacobs
Library Director



READER. VOTER. READY.

ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3RD

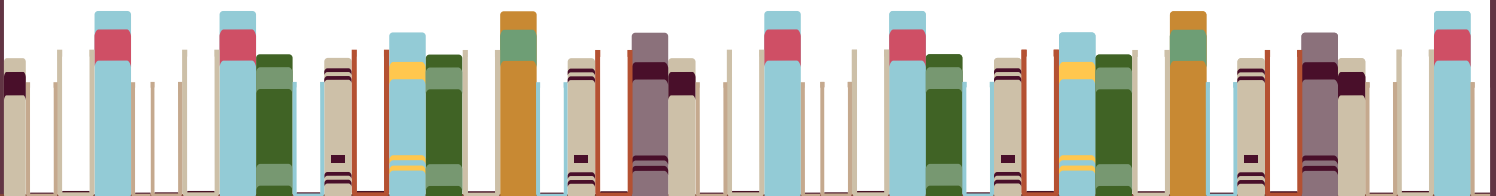
FRIENDS NEWS

November means it is time for holiday shopping! And to help all of you out with that, the Friends of the Burlington Public Library is again holding a Thanksgiving Sale. The sale will be open Wednesday, November 25 from 9 to 12 (the library is closing at 12), Friday, November 27 from 9 to 5, and Saturday, November 28 from 9-5.

The books on sale will be the Footnotes quality books (slightly used to almost new) so they are quite suitable for gift-giving (or for reading yourself). Adult hardcover books will be \$2, adult softcover and paperback books will be \$1, and DVDs and CDs will be \$1. Children's books, Vintage Venue books, and odds and ends will be priced as marked.

Approximately 5,000 books will be available. Also available will be puzzles and odds and ends. Money raised will be used by the Library to provide programs. The Friends organization is the only source of funding for programs, so help us provide programs!

Happy Holidays to all,
Cindy Murphy
Book Distribution Chair



NOVEMBER EVENTS

ALL AGES PROGRAMS



BOOKS BEFORE

Books Before is a self-paced program that picks up where 1000 Books Before Kindergarten ends. Families or individual students can set a reading goal for how many books they want to attempt before their next big educational milestone. For an elementary student, their next big leap is middle school. For middle school students, the next step is high school, and for high school students, graduation. Upon registration, students get a bookmark to mark off a circle for each book read with bookish themed incentives for every 25 books. This program is generously funded by the Burlington/West Burlington Optimist Club to encourage reading at every level.

MINDFUL MONDAY

Mondays, November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 || 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. Activities and exercises may include short creative exercises, mindful art, gentle yoga, short guided meditation, and herbal tea.



FRUITFUL CONVERSATIONS LANGUAGE CLUB

Fridays, November 6, 13, 20 & 27 || 3:30 - 4:45 PM

Interested in languages? Whether you're learning Spanish, brushing up on French, practicing English, or curious about a language you've never tried before, this club is a place to learn, practice, share, and connect with others who share your interest in languages. We'll use Mango Languages, the library's new language-learning resource, as a starting point for conversation and activities. Bring a language you're learning, one you already speak, or simply your curiosity!

CHESS CLUB

Saturdays, November 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.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

WIGGLE TIME

Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17, 24 || 10 AM

Wednesdays, November 4, 18, 25 || 10 AM

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 11TH

Registration requested; please visit our online calendar to register.

BABYGARTEN

Wednesdays, November 4, 18 || 5:30 PM

Thursdays, November 5, 19 || 10 AM

****No Class November 11, 12, 25, & 26**

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, November 14 & 28 || 10 AM

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

TWEEN & TEEN PROGRAMS

TICOS

Thursday, November 5 || 5 - 6 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. We will be doing a service project for the community and making buttons.

GIRLS WHO CODE

Thursdays, November 5 & 19 || 6:30 - 7:30 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.

BRIGHT IDEAS

Thursday, November 12 || 5 - 6 PM

The Bright Ideas Junior Optimist Club is open to 3rd to 6th graders passionate about volunteering for the library and engaging with the community. Meetings include a Bright Idea for others, a Bright Idea for fun, and Bright Ideas for future meetings. Members can make new friends, learn the value of community service, and develop essential life skills.

POKEMON CLUB

Saturday, November 14 || 2 - 3 PM

No experience is necessary. No registration required.

TWEEN TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 17 || 6 - 7 PM

We're whipping up a delicious potato and cheese casserole mix! Come prepare your own dry mix to take home. When you're ready to enjoy it, just add the remaining ingredients, bake, and you'll have a warm and cheesy side dish ready to serve. Please register on our website.

ADULT PROGRAMS

BACK TO BRIDGE

Tuesday, November 3 || 1:00 - 3:30 PM

BACK TO BRIDGE is for people who have some experience with this card game, but do not feel confident playing with others at this time. Free play is available from 1- 2 The class will run for 90 minutes with about 15-30 minutes of instruction starting at 2pm.

MAHJONG MEET-UP

Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17 & 24 || 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Thursdays, November 5, 12 & 19 || 1:00 - 3:30 PM

****Library Closed November 26 for Thanksgiving**

Enjoy an afternoon of strategy, connection, and friendly competition at our Mahjong Meet-Up! This relaxed, peer-led group is perfect for both beginners and experienced players. Participants learn from one another, share tips, and build their skills together as they play. Whether you're brand new to Mahjong or looking to sharpen your game, this is a welcoming space to ask questions, practice, and enjoy the social side of the game. Please bring your own Mahjong set if you have one.

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, November 6 || 10 AM

First Fridays is a monthly series bringing engaging speakers, performances, films, presentations, and more to the Burlington Public Library. Each month will offer a different opportunity to learn, explore, and experience something new. This month features the film by PBS Mister Rogers: It's You I Like (58 minutes). Hosted by Micheal Keaton learn about this nationally renowned and loved pioneer in children's educational television programs.

THAT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Saturday, November 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 "Local Veterans" No registration required; all are welcome.

BANNED CAMP BOOK CLUB

Saturday, November 14 || 10 AM

Join Burlington Public Libraries 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. For this month, we will be reading a banned or challenged book by a Native American author for Native American Heritage Month. Come with an open mind and be prepared to discuss your chosen book, the freedom to read and other topics related to banned and challenged books.



NEW! THE MAKERS TABLE: AN ADULT CRAFT CLUB

Wednesday, November 18 || 5 PM

Get your crafty self to the library! Learn a new craft, meet others, and enjoy a fun, laid-back atmosphere. Whether you're a seasoned maker or just trying something new, there's a seat at the table for you. Please register on our website.

BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, November 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 HOUR

Thursday, November 19 || 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Mocktails & Mingle (Or Me Time) is a cozy community gathering designed for connection, creativity and relaxation. Each month, participants can enjoy a delicious free Mocktail while socializing, unwind or simply taking a little time for themselves. Whether you come to meet new people, enjoy conversation, or recharge quietly with a tasty drink in hand, everyone is welcome.

DISCOVERY READERS:

A NON-FICTION READING CLUB

Saturday, November 21 || 10 - 11 AM

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. In November, we gather to give thanks, slow down, and make time for ourselves. Bring a book that inspires thankfulness, mindfulness, or self-care.

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, November 24 || Noon - 1 PM

Our book for November is Saint of the Narrows Street by William Boyle. Please join us!



NEW! QUIET MINDS BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, November 25 || 11 AM - 11:45 AM

***Library Closes at Noon**

A welcoming book club exploring mindfulness, compassion, and personal growth through thoughtful books and open discussion. Readers of all backgrounds and experience levels are welcome.

20 YEARS AT 210 COURT ST.

Wednesday, November 18 || 4-8 PM

Join us on Wednesday, November 18th to commemorate 20 years at 210 Court Street! In November of 2006, the current 55,000 square foot library opened to the public embarking on a new era of library services. Drop by between 4-8pm on the 18th to celebrate the past 20 years with some cake & a walk down memory lane with library history and ephemera on display.

Mailed to you by:
Friends of the Burlington Public Library



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BOOKS BEFORE



SCAN TO REGISTER



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