

CHECK IT OUT

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER



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

WWW.BURLINGTON.LIB.IA.US



LIBRARY CLOSINGS

MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 25

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY
9 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
9 AM - 5 PM

SUNDAY - CLOSED

LIBRARY NEWS

141 years ago, on May 18, 1885, the residents of Burlington voted to establish their very first FREE public library! After Senator Grimes contributed a whopping \$5,000 in 1868 to establish a private, subscription library, the community saw a trend out East of these private institutions moving to a public model, making books and information available to the masses. The global literacy rate at the time hovered around 20% and we know that increased access to books is a key driver in increasing literacy rates so in order to bolster their collective ability to read and write, it behooved the city to vote in favor of a public institution. It was thanks to the efforts of the Knights of Labor (the largest union at the time) and their efforts to convince the shareholders of the Burlington library to give the institution in perpetual trust of the city should a referendum with the public pass. "The movement began by the Knights of Labor to establish a 'free' public library and reading room which should be for all classes of Burlington, without regard to color, creed, sex or nationality" (Hawk Eye, March 12, 1885). Nearly two months after that article ran a referendum was held, and the community passed the measure securing the first free public west of the Mississippi. Though library services look different today than they did 141 years ago, providing access to information remains our core tenant. The Burlington Public Library provides opportunities for all people to connect with one another, to learn about the world around them, and to imagine the futures before them.

Happy Reading,
Brittany Jacobs
Library Director

FRIENDS NEWS

May is Book Sale Month! The sale will be open for Friends Members on Friday, May 15 9-5; for the public on Saturday, May 16 9-5; and Monday, May 18 9-2 for the bag sale. We need help on Wednesday, May 13 at 1:00 bringing up shelves and boxes. On Thursday, May 14 starting at 9 we will begin to unpack boxes of books. Clean-up will start at 2:00 on Monday, May 18. If you wish to help any of the shifts with the pre-work, clean-up, or shifts during the sale, sign-up sheets are available in the Footnotes Book Store.

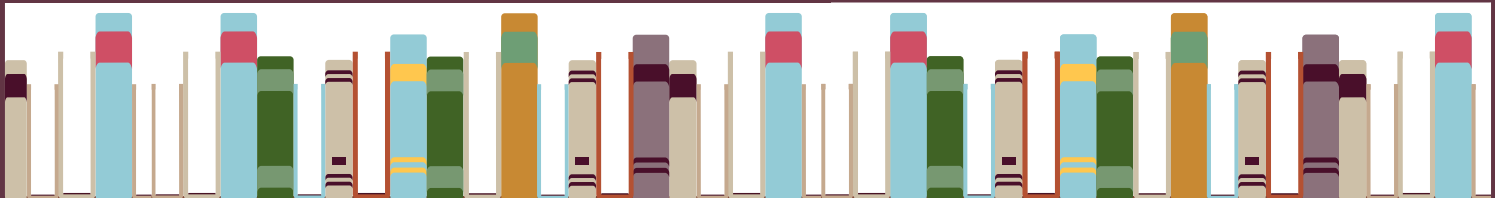
This sale has a special opportunity. We will be offering over 300 books on Native Americans in the sale. This is a special, one-time offering and should not be missed if you have interest in Native Americans and their history.

In addition, we will have the standard 10,000 books offered for sale ranging from history to biography to children's books and thousands of others!

We hope to see you volunteering and/or buying!

Thanks,
Cindy Murphy
Book Distribution Chair

AN ORDINANCE
to Establish a free Public Library.
SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Burlington: That a free public library is hereby established in the City of Burlington, for the free use of its inhabitants, under proper rules and regulations for the government and management thereof.
Said library shall consist of all books, papers, maps, and manuscripts which may be procured, by purchase or donation, and shall be managed by a board of trustees, as hereinafter provided.



MAY EVENTS

SUMMER READING REGISTRATION OPEN!

Friday, May 1st

Make this summer an adventure with Burlington Public Library's My Summer Adventure! Track your reading and earn progress perks like prizes, raffle tickets, and credits toward our 3rd Read to Grow campaign. Read, explore, and grow all summer long. Register on our website today!

SUMMER READING KICK OFF GLOW PARTY!

Saturday, May 30th

Kick off My Summer Adventure with a glowing good time! Our Summer Reading Glow Party, where the lights go down and the fun lights up. Enjoy music, activities, and a vibrant glow-in-the-dark atmosphere as we celebrate the start of summer reading. Come dressed to glow and get ready to start your summer adventure with us!

To make sure everyone has space to shine, the party is divided by age group:

Kids || 2 - 3 PM

Teens/Tweens || 4 - 6 PM

Adults || 7 - 9 PM

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

MINDFUL MONDAYS

Mondays, May 4 & 11 || 6 PM

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, May 2 & 16 || 9 AM - 12 PM

No registration required; all skill levels welcome.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

SUMMER READING KICK OFF GLOW PARTY: KIDS!

Saturday, May 30 || 2 - 3 PM

Kick off My Summer Adventure with a glowing good time! Our Summer Reading Glow Party, where the lights go down and the fun lights up. Enjoy music, activities, and a vibrant glow-in-the-dark atmosphere as we celebrate the start of summer reading. Come dressed to glow and get ready to start your summer adventure with us!

TWEEN & TEEN PROGRAMS



BABYSITTING 101

Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 || 6-7 PM

In this 4-week series, tweens and teens will learn the basic skills required for babysitting. In partnership with *Head Start, the *Burlington Fire Department and *F&M Bank, we will cover the following topics throughout the month:

May 7: Child Development with Head Start

May 14: Library Resources

May 21: Basic First Aid & CPR with BFD

May 28: Finances with F&M Bank

Registration is encouraged; please visit our website to register.

GIRLS WHO CODE

Thursdays, May 14 & 28 || 6:45 PM

Girls Who Code's mission is to close the gender gap in technology by inspiring, educating, and equipping students—specifically girls and non-binary individuals—with computing skills for 21st-century opportunities. *Hosted by instructor; Chris. No registration required.

SUMMER VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Friday, May 15 || 3:30 - 4:30 PM,

Saturday, May 16 || 2-3 PM

Summer is fun and busy and it's really the best time of the year for the library. We can't do everything without our awesome volunteers! Summer Volunteers (age 14+) need to fill out the Volunteer Application on the library website and plan to attend one of two training orientations for this summer. At our training sessions, we will go over the different jobs, a tour, a basic shelving test, and schedules. Schedules easily flex around other activities. Previous volunteers, contact Becky (rru-berg@burlington.lib.ia.us) for the schedule link.

TWEEN TUESDAY

Tuesday, May 19 || 6 PM

How does your garden grow? Dig in and discover how to plant flowers and vegetables! Learn easy tips to help your garden thrive, then take home seeds to start growing your own. Please register on our website.

POKÉMON CLUB

Saturday, May 23 || 2 - 3 PM

Calling all Pokémon fans! Gather at the library for the Pokémon trading card game, video games (bring your own portable console), or even Pokémon Go. Skilled players will guide participants in how to play, and beginner TCG decks are provided if you don't have one, so no experience is necessary. No registration required.

SUMMER READING KICK OFF GLOW PARTY: TEENS!

Saturday, May 30 || 4 - 6 PM

Kick off My Summer Adventure with a glowing good time! Our Summer Reading Glow Party, where the lights go down and the fun lights up. Enjoy music, activities, and a vibrant glow-in-the-dark atmosphere as we celebrate the start of summer reading. Come dressed to glow and get ready to start your summer adventure with us!

ADULT PROGRAMS

DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY, HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK

Friday, May 1 || 6 PM

Join us at the Capitol Theater for an inspiring evening with Douglas W. Tallamy, New York Times bestselling author and acclaimed advocate for sustainable gardening and conservation. This free event is open to all! Don't miss the chance to hear his insights on how we can make a difference in our own backyards. This presentation is held in partnership with the Des Moines County Master Gardeners and the Leopold Landscape Alliance.

FIRST FRIDAY:

DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY

Friday, May 1 || 6 PM

Join us May 1st at 6:00 PM at the Capitol Theater for this presentation held in partnership with the Des Moines County Master Gardeners and the Leopold Landscape Alliance. See "Douglas W. Tallamy" event for more information.

THAT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Saturday, May 2 || 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 "The 1980s in Burlington." No registration required; all are welcome.

COLORFUL CONNECTIONS: AN ACCESSIBLE CRAFT HOUR

Wednesday, May 6 || 10 - 11 AM

Join us for May Colorful Connections! This month, we're mixing things up with a fun combination of unexpected themes. We'll have "May the 4th Be With You" activities, plus talk about all things paranormal and Halloween as we start gearing up for Summerween. Come for the discussion, stay for the crafts, and enjoy the fun with us!



MAHJONG MEET-UP

Thursdays, May 7 & 14 || 12:30 - 3:30 PM

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. Please bring your own Mahjong set if you have one.

BANNED CAMP BOOK CLUB

Saturday, May 9 || 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 recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month. Read a banned or challenged title by Jewish authors or on Jewish topics. 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.

DISCOVERY READERS: A NON-FICTION READING CLUB

Saturday, May 16 || 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 May, choose books that connect to the environment.

BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, May 21 || 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!

TECH CONNECT

Monday, May 18 || 5:30 PM

Tuesday, May 19 || 1:30 PM

Connect more with your library! Discover the power of the library's digital tools and resources. In this ongoing series, we'll begin with a brief presentation highlighting a featured online resource, followed by open time for questions and personalized tech support. Whether you're learning to navigate the featured resource or need help troubleshooting a device, we're here to assist. Remember, our Tech Help Desk is available during all open hours if you need help outside of this session.

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, May 26 || 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. Ebook and E-audio formats usually available on Libby or Hoopla. Please join us!

SUMMER READING KICK OFF GLOW PARTY: ADULTS!

Saturday, May 30 || 7 - 9 PM

Kick off My Summer Adventure with a glowing good time! Our Summer Reading Glow Party, where the lights go down and the fun lights up. Enjoy music, activities, and a vibrant glow-in-the-dark atmosphere as we celebrate the start of summer reading. Come dressed to glow and get ready to start your summer adventure with us!

Mailed to you by:
Friends of the Burlington Public Library



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(319) 753-1647

www.burlington.lib.ia.us

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MY SUMMER ADVENTURE

**SUMMER READING 2026
JUNE 1 - AUGUST 1**

REGISTER HERE

BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY