

# CHECK IT OUT

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



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

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



## LIBRARY CLOSINGS

NO SCHEDULED CLOSINGS  
THIS MONTH

## LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY  
9 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY-SATURDAY  
9 AM - 5 PM

SUNDAY - CLOSED

## LIBRARY NEWS

Happy National Library Lovers' Month! From our rich collection to fabulous programs, there is something for everyone to love at the Burlington Public Library. This month I encourage you to show your library love by sharing a BPL story with a family member, friend, neighbor, legislator, and the folks in line with you at Hy-Vee! From your property tax allocation (roughly \$40-\$50 annually) to private donations, we are all fortunate to play a small part in supporting this organization so that everyone has access to a multi-million-dollar library for 52 weeks of the year, 60 hours a week!

Sharing your library story is an incredible way to champion and support the Burlington Public Library, and this month we're eager to hear how BPL has made an impact in your life. We're always on the lookout for meaningful and relevant tools and resources to add to the BPL collection and are excited to announce three new databases to our line-up that will go live on February 1st: Gale Udemy, General OneFile, and GetSetUp. Read more about each of these tools on the inside of the newsletter.

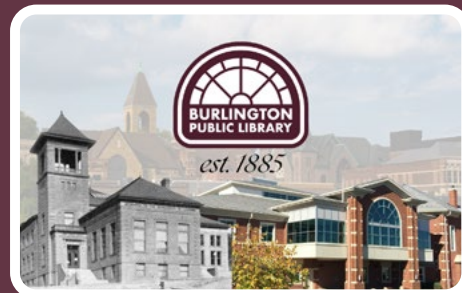
While you're sharing your BPL story with folks in your circles, please know that our daily services, attention to the collection, and stellar building are an ongoing love-letter to you and the greater Burlington community. Happy Library Lovers' Month & happy reading!

Brittany Jacobs  
Library Director

## FRIENDS NEWS

Friends of the BPL is an organization dedicated to helping the Burlington Public Library. We fully support the programming offered by the library through monies raised by selling books in the Footnotes store, by book sales, by membership, and other means. If you are interested in membership, please see the Footnotes store or any volunteer. If you wish to help by volunteering, you need to be a paid member and fill out the volunteer form on the library website. We also appreciate all sales through the Footnotes Store and through book sales.

Cindy Murphy Book  
Distribution Chair



## NEW LIBRARY CARD DESIGNS ARE HERE!

ASK AT THE CHECKOUT DESK ABOUT  
GETTING A NEW CARD



# FEBRUARY EVENTS

## ALL AGES PROGRAMS

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### MINDFUL MONDAYS

**Mondays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 || 6 PM**

Join us each Monday evening in the Create Space to start your week off mindfully. Mindfulness is a practice that involves present-moment awareness and nonjudgmental acceptance. Each week we may do short creative exercises, gentle yoga, a short guided meditation, and enjoy herbal tea. Please register on our website.

### COMMUNITY VALENTINES

**Thursday, February 5 || 2 - 4:30 PM**

Come spread the love and create Valentines for our community and a few to take home.

### CHESS CLUB

**Saturdays, February 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.

### READY, SET, SEW!

**Thursday, February 19 || 6 - 7 PM**

Ready Set Sew is a beginner sewing class for tweens/teens and adults. Learn how to use a sewing machine and make a simple project. Registration is required and class size is limited.

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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### WIGGLE TIME

**Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 17 & 24 || 10 AM**  
**Wednesdays February 4, 11, 18 & 25 || 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, February 4, 11, 18 & 25 || 5:30 PM**  
**Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19 & 26 || 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, February 14 & 28 || 10 AM**

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

## TWEEN PROGRAMS

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### BRIGHT IDEAS

### JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUB

**Tuesdays, February 10 & 24 || 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.

### TWEEN TUESDAY

**Tuesday, February 10 || 6 PM**

Celebrate Valentine's Day by creating a friendship rock for someone special. Participants will paint a rock using thumbprints to design a heart-felt keepsake —letting love and friendship be set in stone! Please register on our website.

### POKÉMON CLUB

**Saturday Feb. 21 || 2-3 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.

## TEEN PROGRAMS

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### TICOS

**Thursday, February 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. We do a service project and a fun activity each meeting.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### FIRST FRIDAY: MR. U.S. GRANT, PT 2

Friday, February 6 || 10 AM

Join us for Dan Haughey's presentation "Mr. U.S. Grant, part 2." Grant's presidency was filled with political drama, scandal and corruption, yet Grant dealt with weighty issues of Lincoln's assassination, Reconstruction and reconciliation of Southern states, the possible annexation of Santo Domingo, Native American land issues, a possible war with Great Britain, and Civil Rights. The action of the play takes place in the White House, late at night, during his final days in office, December 1876. As he reflects upon and reviews the final draft of his "Annual Message to Congress"

### THAT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Saturday, February 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 The 1970's in Burlington! No registration required; all are welcome.



### COLORFUL CONNECTIONS: AN ACCESSIBLE COLORING HOUR

Wednesday, February 11 || 1:30 - 2:30 PM

Enjoy color-by-number pages and simple adult coloring activities in a calm, supportive environment. This program is designed with accessibility in mind and is geared toward adults with disabilities. Coloring, community, and connection, no registration needed, please join us!

### MOCKTAIL & MINGLE

Thursday, February 12 || 3:30 - 5 PM

Mocktail & Mingle Time: A perfect escape for library lovers—kick back with your favorite mocktail. Whether you're getting lost in a good book or just taking it easy, it's all about unwinding and enjoying some cozy, creative downtime.

### BANNED CAMP BOOK CLUB

Saturday, February 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 theme, or a specific book. For this month, we will be reading *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. Copies are available at customer service. Come with an open mind and be prepared to discuss the book, the freedom to read and other topics related to banned and challenged books

### BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, February 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!

## SPICY BOOK CLUB

Saturday, February 21 || 10 AM

In partnership with Thyme & Spice, the Burlington Public Library is excited to offer an opportunity to explore flavors, food, and make new friends in the library's spiciest book club. Each gathering will focus around a spice, and participants are encouraged to read a book that is in some way connected to its geography or culture. We'll gather in February to learn about basil. Basil is a fragrant plant with green or purple leaves and traces its origins to West India, and was brought to the Mediterranean by Alexander the Great. Sample basil in foods and drinks, learn from the Des Moines County Master Gardeners about growing basil, and share our books related to the spice or its native geographic area. No registration required.

## MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 24 || 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!

## 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.



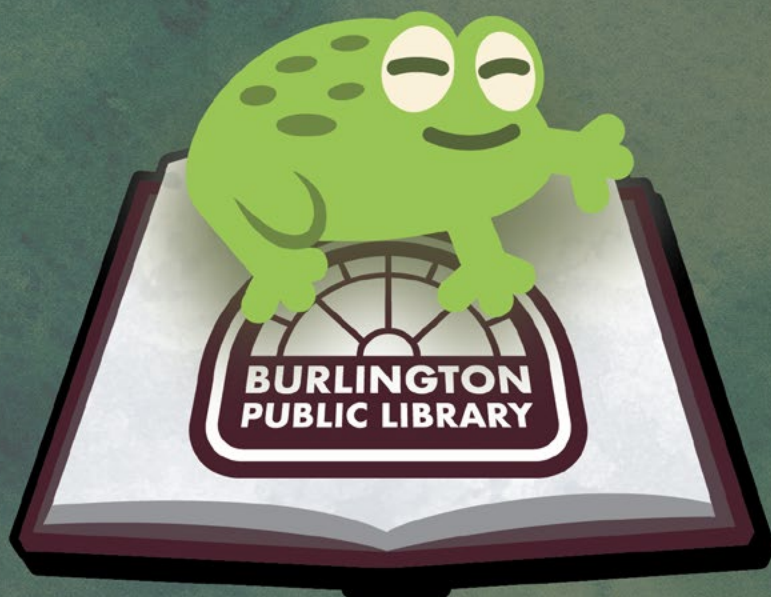
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Friends of the Burlington Public Library



210 Court Street, Burlington, Iowa 52601  
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# NEW YEAR NEW PROGRAMS!



Whether it's something  
you would like to see at  
the library, requesting  
that we come to your  
event, or proposing a  
program that you would  
like to host in partnership  
with us, let us know here:



**Suggest a  
Program!**