

CHECK IT OUT

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



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

WWW.BURLINGTON.LIB.IA.US



LIBRARY CLOSINGS

MONDAY, APRIL 6
- STAFF TRAINING DAY

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY
9 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
9 AM - 5 PM

SUNDAY - CLOSED

LIBRARY NEWS

FRIENDS NEWS

This month we celebrate all of the incredible ways that Burlington Public Library impacts our community with National Library Week from April 19-25th! This year's theme is 'Find Your Joy' and with so many things to offer from our programs to collections, there are countless ways to find joy at BPL. For over 140 years, the Burlington Public Library staff has created welcoming environments where curiosity, civility, and community are encouraged.

Creating opportunities for all people to connect with others is the first charge of our mission statement, and for a good reason. Building connections between people who otherwise would not interact is one of the ways in which we help to build a stronger community. I find so much joy in knowing nearly 10,000 people visit our library on a monthly basis for a wide variety of reasons. Seeing little ones rush in for story time, folks looking for their next novel to escape in, or someone needing help filling out an application online are small vignettes that illustrate the impact that BPL has in our community.

Thanks to our staff who are always finding ways to meet needs, and who provide a welcoming environment for all who walk through our doors. Please join me in celebrating National Library Week by sharing your library joy with us via email, in person, or on our social media.

Happy Reading,
Brittany Jacobs
Library Director

April is a very important month in the life of the Friends of the Burlington Public Library. It is the last month in our fiscal year. That means a few different things:

As the last month of the fiscal year, it is time to ask our members to renew their memberships for another year. When you receive your renewal notice, please consider renewing. Your membership allows you to enter the three major book sales a year before the general public, to receive the monthly newsletter in your mail, and to support the programming of the library. Our three major sources of funding are book sales, sales from Footnotes merchandise and books, and membership.

Also, April is the month of the annual meeting of the membership. All of our paid members are invited to attend this meeting to hear how the organization has functioned during the past year, to hear plans for the future, and to vote on membership for any open seat of the board.

Finally, it is the time when we can see just how we performed and were able to help the library during the previous year. When you receive your notice of the annual meeting, please consider attending, and letting us know as soon as possible that you are. Attendance is limited by the size of the rooms, and seating is first come, first served. As we come to the end of another successful year in the Friends of the Burlington Public Library, it is fun to look back on how we have done and to look forward to where we hope to go. Please join us for that celebration.

Thanks,
Cindy Murphy
Book Distribution Chair



Celebrate NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

April 19-25, 2026



National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.
Celebration Days:

Monday, April 20th - Right to Read Day
Tuesday, April 21st - National Library Workers Day
Wednesday, April 22nd - National Library Outreach Day
Thursday, April 23rd - Take Action for Libraries Day

APRIL EVENTS

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

MINDFUL MONDAYS

Mondays, April 13, 20, 27 || 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, April 4 & 18 || 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.

MOVIE FEATURE STARRING ERROL FLYNN AS SHERWOOD'S GREATEST HERO

Tuesday, April 7 || 5:30 PM

This film (1938) stars Errol Flynn as the legendary outlaw who defies Prince John's tyranny while King Richard is away. After being declared an enemy of the crown, Robin retreats to Sherwood Forest, where he gathers a band of loyal Merry Men and fights for justice on behalf of England's oppressed commoners.

VACATION THRU TIME: THE LEGEND OF ROBIN HOOD

Friday, April 10 || 1 - 5 PM

Saturday, April 11 || 9 AM - 5 PM

Monday, April 13 || Noon - 6 PM

This month join the Vacation Thru Time Team as we travel to Sherwood Forest to meet one of history's most famous heroes, Robin Hood. Learn about the legendary hero and his band of merry men, while exploring Medieval England during the age of King Richard the Lionheart and his brother Prince John.

EARTH DAY THANK YOU THEATER

Saturday, April 18 || 11:30 AM

Join the *Earth Day Committee, in partnership with the Burlington Public Library after the morning Earth Day clean up for a special screening of the classic animated tale about a mustached guardian who "speaks for the trees."

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

WIGGLE TIME

Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 || 10 AM

Wednesdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29 || 10 AM

Registration requested; please visit online to register.

BABYGARTEN

Wednesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 || 5:30 PM

Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 || 10:30 AM

Babygarden 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

Saturday, April 25 || 10 AM

No registration required!

TWEEN & TEEN PROGRAMS

GIRLS WHO CODE

Thursdays, April 2, 16, & 30 || 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. *Hosted by instructor, Chris. No registration required.

POKÉMON CLUB

Saturday, April 11 || 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.

BRIGHT IDEAS

Thursdays, April 9 & 23 || 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. Members can make new friends, learn the value of community service, and develop essential life skills.

TWEEN TUESDAY

Tuesday, April 14 || 6 PM

Hop into spring and create an adorable painted wood block bunny! We will paint and decorate a wooden bunny perfect for spring décor. Please register on our website.

TICOS

Thursday, April 30th || 5:30-6:30 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.

ADULT PROGRAMS

BEGINNER BRIDGE CLASS

Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 || 2 - 3 PM

Learning to play bridge can be intimidating. This 6-week course is designed for people who have never played or have struggled to learn. The course is limited to 12 people, so sign up quickly. *Steven Stiefel is the instructor.

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, April 3 || 10 AM

Join author and historian Jeff Kluever to hear about his writing and publishing journey, and learn the inspiring tale of the United States Colored Infantry featured in his new book, *Marching Home: A Story of Love, War, and Freedom*.

SILENT BOOK CLUB

Friday, April 3 || 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, April 4 || 10 AM

This month, Terry presents "They Say it's your Birthday" At the end of the March program, attendees write down just their birthdays and we find what was in the news that day. No registration required; all are welcome.

BANNED CAMP BOOK CLUB

Saturday, April 11 || 10 AM

Join Burlington Public Library's Board of Trustees as we read challenged and banned books. To celebrate National Poetry Month, choose a poem or poet that has been banned or challenged. Come with an open mind and be prepared to discuss the month's theme, the freedom to read, and specific banned and challenged books.

COLORFUL CONNECTIONS: AN ACCESSIBLE CRAFT HOUR

Wednesday, April 15 || 10 - 11 AM

Join us for a creative and hands-on morning of painting your very own planter! We'll learn how rain helps flowers thrive and why water is so important for healthy plants. Crafts, community, and connection, no registration needed; please join us!

BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, April 16 || 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, April 18 || 10 - 11 AM

We'll gather in April to learn about coriander (cilantro). Coriander is an herbaceous annual with green leaves (known as cilantro) and traces its origins to southern Europe and the Middle East, though most plants are now grown in Morocco. Sample coriander in tasty food, learn from the *Des Moines County Master Gardeners about growing this annual, and share books related to the spice or its native geographic area. No registration required, Meeting will be held at Thyme & Spice (612 Jefferson St.)

MOCKTAIL & MINGLE HOUR

Thursday, April 23 || 3:30 - 5 PM

Join us for a Mocktail & Mingle grown-up hour at the library during Earth Day week with a Sparkling Pear & Mint Mocktail! Come mingle, create, and celebrate our planet with us in a refreshing and artistic way!

SPRING GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

Friday, April 24 || 9 AM - 5 PM

Saturday, April 25 || 9 AM - 5 PM

The two-day workshop features 1:1 help from knowledgeable staff and volunteers, multiple presentations from genealogists and historians, Lunch & Learn sessions on both days and a special children's program on Saturday. Registration is required for the Lunch and Learns on Friday and Saturday, please register on our website.



NEW! TECH CONNECT

Monday, April 20 || 5:30 PM

Tuesday, April 21 || 1:30 PM

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, April 28 || Noon - 1 PM

Solve the mystery of what to read next by joining the Mystery Book Club! 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!

APRIL 2026



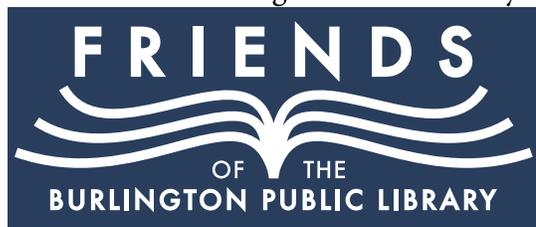
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL AGES PROGRAMS • CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS • TWEEN/TEEN PROGRAMS • ADULT PROGRAMS • OUTREACH EVENTS • LIBRARY CLOSINGS 	1	2	3	4
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BABYGARTEN 5:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BABYGARTEN 10:30 AM • GIRLS WHO CODE 6:45 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIRST FRIDAY 10 AM • SILENT BOOK CLUB 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHESS CLUB 9 AM • THAT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS 10 AM
6	7	8	9	10	11
LIBRARY CLOSED - STAFF TRAINING DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM • BEGINNER BRIDGE CLASS 2 PM • MOVIE FEATURE 5:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM • BABYGARTEN 5:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BABYGARTEN 10:30 AM • BRIGHT IDEAS 5 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACATION THRU TIME 1-5 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACATION THRU TIME 9-5 PM • BANNED CAMP BOOK CLUB 10 AM • POKEMON CLUB 2 PM
13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACATION THRU TIME 12-6 PM • MINDFUL MONDAYS 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM • BEGINNER BRIDGE CLASS 2 PM • TWEEN TUESDAY 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COLORFUL CONNECTIONS 10 AM • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM • BABYGARTEN 5:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BABYGARTEN 10:30 AM • BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB 12 PM • GIRLS WHO CODE 6:45 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHESS CLUB 9 AM • SPICY BOOK CLUB 10 AM • EARTH DAY THANK YOU THEATER 11:30 AM
20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TECH CONNECT 5:30 PM • MINDFUL MONDAYS 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM • BEGINNER BRIDGE CLASS 2 PM • TECH CONNECT 5:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM • BABYGARTEN 5:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BABYGARTEN 10:30 AM • MOCKTAIL & MINGLE HOUR 3:30 PM • BRIGHT IDEAS 5 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRING GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP 9 AM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRING GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP 9 AM • BRICKMASTERS 10 AM
27	28	29	30		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MINDFUL MONDAYS 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM • MYSTERY BOOK CLUB 12 PM • BEGINNER BRIDGE CLASS 2 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM • BABYGARTEN 5:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BABYGARTEN 10:30 AM • TICOS 5:30 PM • GIRLS WHO CODE 6:45 PM 		

MAY 2026



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL AGES PROGRAMS • CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS • TWEEN/TEEN PROGRAMS • ADULT PROGRAMS • OUTREACH EVENTS • LIBRARY CLOSINGS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SILENT BOOK CLUB 6 PM • FIRST FRIDAY (CAPITOL THEATER) 6 PM • DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHESS CLUB 9 AM • THAT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS 10 AM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MINDFUL MONDAY 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM • BEGINNER BRIDGE 2 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COLORFUL CONNECTIONS 10 AM • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM • BABYGARTEN 5:30 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BABYGARTEN 10:30 AM • BABYSITTING 101 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE: MEMBERS ONLY 9 AM • SUMMER VOLUNTEER TRAINING 2 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BANNED CAMP BOOK CLUB 10 AM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MINDFUL MONDAY 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BABYSITTING 101 6 PM • GIRLS WHO CODE 6:45 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE: MEMBERS ONLY 9 AM • SUMMER VOLUNTEER TRAINING 2 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE 9 AM • CHESS CLUB 9 AM • SUMMER VOLUNTEER TRAINING 2 PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE: CLEARANCE 9 AM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TWEEN TUESDAY 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIGGLE TIME 10 AM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB 12 PM • BABYSITTING 101 6 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE: MEMBERS ONLY 9 AM • SUMMER VOLUNTEER TRAINING 2 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POKÉMON CLUB 2 PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIBRARY CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MYSTERY BOOK CLUB 12 PM 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BABYSITTING 101 6 PM • GIRLS WHO CODE 6:45 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUMMER READING KICK-OFF KIDS DANCE PARTY 2 PM • SUMMER READING KICK-OFF TEENS DANCE PARTY 4 PM • SUMMER READING KICK-OFF ADULTS DANCE PARTY 7 PM 	
25	26	27	28	29	30

Mailed to you by:
Friends of the Burlington Public Library



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(319) 753-1647
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FRIENDS
OF THE
BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Dinner

Thursday, April 30th

5:15 PM doors open, 6 PM dinner

Catered by Billy Sims (picnic style)

Keynote Speaker: Library Director, Brittany Jacobs

Burlington Public Library, 210 Court St. Burlington, IA 52601

Enjoy time with your fellow library supporters,
elect board members, and review the past year
of Friends' activity during a brief meeting.