

CHECK IT OUT

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



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BURLINGTON, IA 52601

WWW.BURLINGTON.LIB.IA.US



LIBRARY CLOSINGS

JANUARY 1ST -
NEW YEAR'S DAY

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY
9 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
9 AM - 5 PM

SUNDAY - CLOSED

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome to 2026 - a year full of incredible milestones, exciting events, and endless possibilities! This year marks our semiquincentennial (250 years) since signing the Declaration of Independence. For better or for worse, our civilian-led democracy has certainly given us something to talk about, and I encourage you to take the next year to learn as much as you can from as many viewpoints as possible on our country's history. From biographies to historical fiction, our collection of over 100,000 items has something in it for you to travel back in time and explore the past 250 years here in America.

The Burlington Public Library was 1 of 50 libraries chosen nationally to host the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's traveling exhibit, Americans and the Holocaust, and this summer the exhibit will make its way to Burlington. This six-week exhibit will open on August 19th and will be housed in the East wing of the library. We are incredibly honored to have been selected to house this exhibit and provide an opportunity for our community to examine the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s.

2026 also marks the 20th anniversary of this incredible library building opening. In the fall of 2006 community members loaded up wagons and helped carry down the collection, artwork, office supplies, and furniture from our Crapo-funded building on Columbia Street to this 55,000 square foot facility on Court St. This new building opened up the next chapter of library services for the greater Burlington area, allowing BPL to host a larger collection, more programs, dedicated meeting rooms, two archives, and ample workspace for the staff. Later this year in November we will celebrate our anniversary and all that this building has allowed us to accomplish since the move.

While we have several big moments to look forward to this year, there are countless opportunities to feed your curiosity, meet new people, and help shape our thriving community by joining a library program, checking out our rich collection of resources, and gathering in our stunning 'new' library. Happy reading this year, and happy 2026!

Brittany Jacobs
Library Director

FRIENDS NEWS

Welcome to the New Year! The Friends of the Burlington Public Library always welcome the New Year in with a book sale so that there is reading available for the dark winter days to come! This January is no exception!

The book sale will be Friday, January 23 for paid Friends members, Saturday, January 24 for the general public, and Monday, January 26 for a clearance bag sale. As always over 9,000 books will be available to purchase. Games and puzzles, and other miscellaneous items will also be available for purchase.

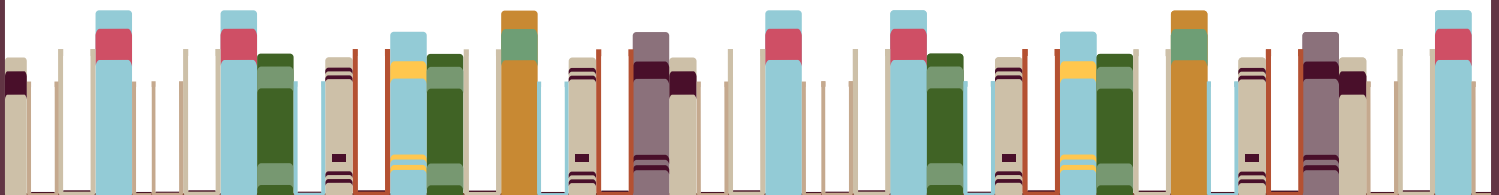
As well as coming to purchase books and items, many hands will be needed to make the sale operate smoothly. Opportunities for volunteers include setting up the sale on Wednesday and Thursday, working during the sale, and tearing down the sale on Monday after 2. If you wish to volunteer, a sign-up sheet will be available in Footnotes.

Enjoy the new year and be sure to get enough reading materials to make it through those long, cold, dark days of winter!

Cindy Murphy Book
Distribution Chair



**NEW LIBRARY CARD DESIGNS
COMING IN 2026!**



JANUARY EVENTS

THE FROST FAIR

Monday, January 19 || 10 AM - 5 PM

Celebrate the magic of winter at our 3rd annual Frost Fair! This all-day event brings together seasonal crafts, hands-on workshops, live demonstrations, and outdoor activities designed for all ages. Explore creative stations, learn new skills from guest presenters, enjoy family-friendly games, and experience the joy of winter traditions. Whether you stay for an hour or the whole day, there's something exciting happening from morning to afternoon.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

CHESS CLUB

Saturdays, January 3 & 17 || 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.

NEW! BEGINNER BRIDGE CLASS

Tuesdays, January 13, 20 & 27 || 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. Information will be presented in easy-to-digest bites that will be connected to the fun part of this popular card game. Each session will begin with a short lecture, and then we'll play designed hands that illustrate the topics discussed. At the end of this hour-long session, a free play of 30 minutes will be held. Players are encouraged to stay for the free play as their schedules allow. The course is limited to 12 people, so sign up quickly. Steven Stiefel is the instructor.

MINDFUL MONDAYS

Mondays, January 19 & 26 || 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 non-judgmental acceptance. Each week we may do short creative exercises, gentle yoga, a short guided meditation, and enjoy herbal tea.

DES MOINES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS MEET AND GREET

Saturday, January 31 || 1 - 3 PM

*Burlington Public Library and Des Moines County Master Gardeners are partnering for this casual Meet & Greet event. Representatives of this local volunteer gardening group, under the guidance of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, will be available to introduce you to their projects, events, public gardens, community involvement, mission, and more. Discover how Master Gardeners are involved in learning, teaching, volunteering, and beautifying Burlington and the surrounding communities in Des Moines County. Bring your plant and garden questions and learn how you can become a Master Gardener, too!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

In hibernation! Check out the Frost Fair on January 19th, Regular children's programming will be back in February!

TWEEN PROGRAMS

BRIGHT IDEAS

JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUB

Tuesdays, January 13 & 27 || 5 - 6 PM

Bright Ideas is a Junior Optimist Club for 3rd-6th graders. We do a Bright Idea for others, a Bright Idea for fun and plan for future Bright Ideas. All are welcome!

TWEEN TUESDAY

Tuesday, January 6 || 6 PM

Brrr It's cold outside. Come inside and make a snowflake garland to celebrate the winter season and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

TEEN PROGRAMS

TICOS

Thursday, January 8 || 6:30-7:30 PM

TICOS is a Junior Optimist Club for 7th-12th graders functioning as our teen advisory group. We do a service project and a fun activity. Teens plan and run the club meetings and all attendees earn volunteer time for participation. All teens are welcome to join.

ADULT PROGRAMS

FIRST FRIDAY: HOMESTEAD 1839

Friday, January 2 || 10 AM

Learn Local! We are welcoming guests from the Homestead 1839 in West Burlington to share their mission, passions, and knowledge. The Homestead is a non-profit organization striving to promote food sovereignty, education, and love for the land. Come learn with us!

THAT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Saturday, January 3 || 10AM

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 Burlington's Historic Restaurants! No registration required; all are welcome!

BANNED CAMP BOOK CLUB

Saturday, January 10 || 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 George Orwell's 1984. 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, January 15 || 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!

GROWING NATIVE PLANTS FROM SEED

Saturday, January 17 || 10 AM

*This event is in partnership with the Des Moines County Master Gardeners: Are you interested in adding native plants to your garden while saving money? Why not try growing your own native plants? Winter is actually the time to start! Dan Sears, a volunteer board member for the Iowa Prairie Network, will share his knowledge on how to start and grow your own native plants at home. He'll bring free samples of beginner-friendly native plant seeds to share and help you to bring nature home. See you there!

TALES FROM THE PANTRY: THE ART OF FOOD PRESERVATION & FOOD STORIES

Wednesday, January 21 || 11 AM- Noon

Join us for another Tales From the Pantry: Part 2 "Holiday Kitchen Shenanigans" We're returning in January to share our post holiday food stories. Whether it's a beloved festive dish that was more "oops" than "yum," a holiday kitchen catastrophe you'll never live down, or a hilarious food mishap that still makes you laugh, we want to hear all the delicious disasters and triumphs! Just bring your love of food and storytelling—and if you'd like, a recipe to share. Perfect for food enthusiasts and storytellers.

NEW! THE DISCOVERY READERS

Friday, January 23 || 11 AM - Noon

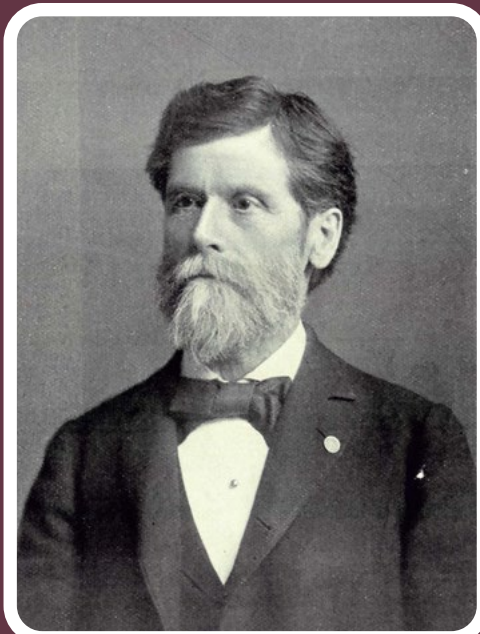
The Discovery Readers are a non-fiction reading club for anyone who loves learning something new. Each month highlights a different theme, and participants bring a book or article connected to that topic to share with the group. For our first official meeting, there's no set theme—simply bring your favorite non-fiction read on any subject and tell us what makes it great!

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 27 || 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!

FROM THE ARCHIVES



2026 begins our 141st year of service as a free public library! The support of Philip M. Crapo made the Burlington Public Library possible. See our website for more details.

Mailed to you by:
Friends of the Burlington Public Library



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HELP US EXPAND OUR PROGRAMMING!

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 at:
burlington.lib.ia.us/services/calendar-events

**Suggest a
Program!**

