



Summer Programming Draws Crowds

From virtual visits with award-winning authors, to story times and loads in-between, we packed a whopping 80 programs in the month of June. With a 15% increase in the amount of programs we hosted in June of 2021, we managed to snag an incredible 40% increase in attendance this year, rocketing us on an upward trajectory!

Another point to note is the incredible balance we've brought to our programming as a whole. While we offered significantly less programs this year for children and teens, we increased the amount of adult programs by nearly 60% and general interest programs by 2,500%. This is important because it not only casts a wider net to the community, moving us away from excelling in only youth oriented programs, but also disperses the weight of work among the staff, avoiding burnout and summer struggle, particularly with the youth services team. So, while we dipped down in the amount of programs for kids and teens, we've spent a lot of time and energy making sure that what we do offer is quality, and it's paid off!



Bookmobile Partnership with BCSD

Thanks to the Burlington Community School District, we have had a very successful first half of summer out on the road giving away free books to City Camp, the YMCA camps, Kid Zone and the BCSD Summer School kids. Having the ability to use the school's bookmobile has given us a lot of time to think about and plan for our own future bookmobile!



First Friday Series Is Back

Local historian Russ Fry kicked off the return of the monthly First Friday series. Russ presented on his research on Chief Blackhawk.



Pop Up Library @ Snake Alley Art Fair



We again participated in the Snake Alley Art Fair, interacting with around 180 people, signing young readers up for the summer reading program, and highlighting upcoming marquee events.



June By The Numbers

27,631 physical items borrowed & 4,062 items downloaded
3,294 participants attended 80 programs
202 new borrower accounts opened
4,423 uses of online databases
178 items borrowed and loaned through interlibrary loan
286 meeting room reservations made



Capitol Theater Partnership

Throughout the month of June we hosted two high-energy and family-friendly shows at the Capitol Theater, the first of which nearly hit the theater's capacity! Mikayla Oz stunned 325 amazed audience members with her magic show and Bubbles the bird! A few days later, Martika brought the circus to town with her one-woman circus act, sparking joy and wonder for all 170 participants. Not only did the Capitol Theater prove to be a comfortable and magical venue for the kids and their families, but it brought hundreds of young people to this historic building that they otherwise might not get the opportunity to visit.



More News and Projects

The check-in room process is still on-going. The latest development has been knocking a hole in the wall that is just waiting on it's wooden framing and we'll be good to go!



We've seen a marked uptick in regular attendees to our weekly Tech Help sessions. Patrons are discovering that the library is serving as a good resource for inquiries about technology devices they can't get answered elsewhere.

We also started the process of hiring a new Library Clerk position. We had a number of well qualified applicants that would make an excellent addition to our library team. Watch for more news in July.

TICOS teens put up and took down flags on Flag Day.



The library popped up at the Youth Jamboree with a booth and a storywalk along one of the trails. The storywalk then moved to the Riverfront alongside the sidewalk obstacle course.

Juneteenth, Pride and Jump Ropes

Jump on the Move, a Double Dutch club led by Tiara and Stephanie, visited city camp to read books and to teach safety, techniques. and rhymes with the ropes.

As our NAACP liaison, Tiara helped in Juneteenth planning. Multiple team members participated in the event by doing face painting, leading Double Dutch, offering books for checkout, promoting summer reading, and networking with the community about library services.

The library team also popped up at Pride in the Park in partnership with the Human Rights Commission to engage with the community, promote library resources, and give out books.

As Tiara summed it up: "Each and every one of these events is exceptionally unique and wonderful! It is represented by the people who call Des Moines County home. It's an indescribable beauty of watching a 1st week non-jumper, turned 5th week Double Dutch fanatic. It's a great feeling of meeting your jumpers parents at Pride in the Park and bonding over their progress."



Community Comments

"This is such a beautiful thing to be offered omg" "This makes my heart happy" and "Signed up. Excited to learn some new tricks. The last 8 years I have relied on you tube for help with foster kiddos hair" -- comments about the Hair Love program

"The wonderful young lady at the IT desk by the computers helped me set up and type and send my son's obituary to the family. She offered me a private room as well. When I was done she helped me save it to a zip drive. Please thank her so much for her kind assistance and caring words." --email from community member



Friends News

At their June meeting, the Friends board granted the library funds for newsletter postage and printing costs, program expenses, and landscaping maintenance.