

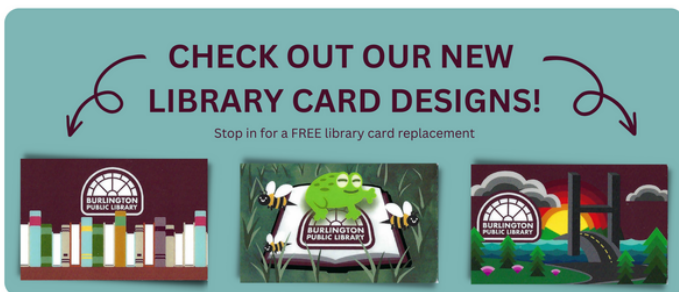
LIBRARY SERVICES

JANUARY 2023
BURLINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kicking-Off the New Year

The BPL staff kicked-off January with a bang, announcing our new library cards, our fine free policy and our winter reading program!

Our very own Joseph Burgus designed five new library cards, of which the staff whittled down to three for printing. Below are the new cards that went into use at the beginning of this month:



At the beginning of the pandemic many libraries across the country, including BPL, went to a temporary fine-free policy in order to remove barriers to access. After much deliberation, research and board approval, BPL announced on January 1st that we were moving forward with a permanent fine-free policy! This news was warmly received, and has been such a positive talking point among patrons in the library and online.



See insights and ads

Boost post



3 comments 23 shares

Trending Upward

The January '23 numbers contrasted with the January '20 numbers (one of the last 'normal' months prior to the pandemic) show some interesting trends in statistics. The number of programs offered for kids and teens in January 2020 was a whopping 60, with a total of 898 participants. January '23 shows a 20% decrease in programs offered at 48, yet there was a 34% increase in participation with 1,373 people attending! This scale-back in programs offered not only helps our staff avoid burn-out, but it lets them focus on the quality of the program. The attendance numbers are confirming that the quality of what we are offering is bringing people in our doors!

The number of programs we are hosting for adults and general interest is also on the rise, creating a more balanced calendar of events for our community. From monthly First Friday programs to story times and video game clubs, BPL proudly offers classes and events for people of all ages.

The single largest increase in our circulation report, compared to January '20 is our online database use. The world was forced to go a bit deeper into the digital realm over the past several years with school, work and many other traditionally in-person exchanges taking place online. BPL not only increased awareness about our online databases, but we increasingly expanded our mobile hot spot and Chromebook collection. This January's database use was at 9,566 compared to January '20 3,514. What's more, our non-circulation downloadables skyrocketed to 2,539 - 1,970 more than recorded in January 2020.

With 16,062 registered library card holders (compared to 15,297 in 2020) BPL is connecting people with resources, sparking curiosity with programs and meeting the needs of our community in greater and greater numbers.

Community News



Addington Place highlighting our senior outreach!



Rotary Club President, Chad Bird, and Elizabeth Pappas, Director of the Art Center, presenting a book to the children's collection of BPL.

More News and Projects

BPL have been meeting and working together in anticipation of switching our Integrated Library System (ILS). Several people went on a field trip to Mediapolis to talk with their librarians and look at their ILS as research, and after much group deliberation we have decided on the new ILS for BPL. This migration of data will be the first transition as our current ILS is the same one we went with when we went online from card catalogs in 1991!

Partnerships

This month we partnered with the following for programs, outreach, research and community-building:

- Greater Burlington Partnership
- Burlington Community School District
- PiECES
- West Burlington School District
- LEGO Foundation
- Bridges Out of Poverty
- Murray Foundation
- Oakview
- Dungeon Master Norah Bell
- Hoover Museum
- Local Historian, Terry Abrisz
- Kulture City
- Network Nirvana
- Des Moines County Historical Society
- Addington Place
- Documentarian, Craig Dudnick

January By The Numbers

physical items borrowed & items downloaded - 23,453

participants attended programs - 1,552

new borrower accounts opened - 84

uses of online databases - 9,566

items borrowed and loaned through interlibrary loan - 204

meeting room reservations made - 257

door count - 9,415