

LIBRARY SERVICES

NOVEMBER 2025

Storytime with BFD

The Burlington Fire Department joined Wiggle Time this month for a very special story time. Firefighters donned their gear and brought some of their equipment in for little ones to learn about, and read aloud to the group sparking joy and curiosity! The story time ended with a walk outside where an engine was waiting for little wiggles to explore! Many thanks to the BFD for bringing excitement and safety lessons to Wiggle Time!



Family Night Unplugged

Families were able to unplug from their devices and spend some quality time together at the library's Fort Night! This after-hours event is always a hit, and this year families had a blast building forts in the stacks, eating smores snacks, and once the lights were out they read by flashlight! For some additional fun the kids played glow in the dark hide-and-seek.

This kind of imaginative play and group work is an important step in young kids' cognitive and social development, and the best part is that they are having so much fun, they don't even realize that they're learning!



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Dementia Friendly

This year during the November 11th All Staff Day, the Burlington Public Library team explored the 'politics of aging.' We were given a tour of the much anticipated Heart Song adult day care center, led by their executive director, Denise Hanks. Conversations about how the library could partner with Heart Song were had as we explored the services that will be on offer once they open.



By visiting organizations like Heart Song and learning from area experts we are helping to weave the social fabric that is at the heart of a healthy community. We are proud to be a Dementia Friendly library, and look forward to partnering with Heart Song once they are open.

We Are
Dementia
Friendly



Friends & Foundation Outreach

The two non-profits that support the library, the Friends and Foundation, were on display and talking shop at the Greater Burlington Partnership's inaugural Reason for the Season Expo on November 20th.

The Friends provide funding support for the library's programs and events, and the Foundation invests for the library's long-term success. Both groups are vital to ensuring the highest quality of services are on offer at the Burlington Public Library.

Warming Center

As the weather turns for an early winter, the Burlington Public Library is once again serving as a warming center during our operating hours. In partnership with the Des Moines County Emergency Management Agency, we do everything we can to remain open during extreme weather so we can provide a warm and safe space for those in need. This month the library stayed open through the majority of the November 29th snow storm, though we ended up closing early at 12pm for the staff's safety.

A community box of hats, gloves, socks, and scarves is available in the library lobby for anyone needing additional layers to stay warm this season.

November by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: 21,191 (23,614)

Number of Programs: 47 (44)

Program Participants: 1,251 (2,236)

New Borrower Accounts: 61 (101)

Use of online databases: 15,400 (10,846)

WiFi & Computer Use: 3,000 (4,721)

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: 148 (193)

Meeting Room Reservations: 286 (303)

Door Count: 8,505 (9,968)

November '25 / October '25



Staff Recognition

Congratulations to Sam, Watson who had his 5-year work anniversary with the Burlington Public Library on November 10th. Sam is our Manager of Public Services and is often on the front lines at the public service desks. Sam is also our main resource for patrons needing tech help, and is the keen eye behind our redesign efforts to create efficiency and a user-friendly space.



Bright Ideas

This month kicks off a new program for area 3rd to 5th graders with Bright Ideas, a Jr. Optimist Club! Becky Ruberg, the Teen Specialist, oversees the Teens Inspiring Change, Optimism, and Service (TICOS) which is a Jr. Optimist Club which operates as the library's teen advisory board, and proposed the idea for a similar style club for younger kids.

Bright Ideas is open to kids who are passionate about volunteering and giving back to the community, and will foster creativity and leadership while providing hands-on leadership experiences.

The inaugural meeting brought kids together to meet and mingle while making invitations for friends at school to join Bright Ideas, writing kind notes to pass out, and assembling hygiene kits for the library to pass out. For the creative element of the meeting, they celebrated the Wings of Fire book series and made cardboard wings for dragons!



November by the Numbers: E-Lending

OverDrive/Libby & Hoopla

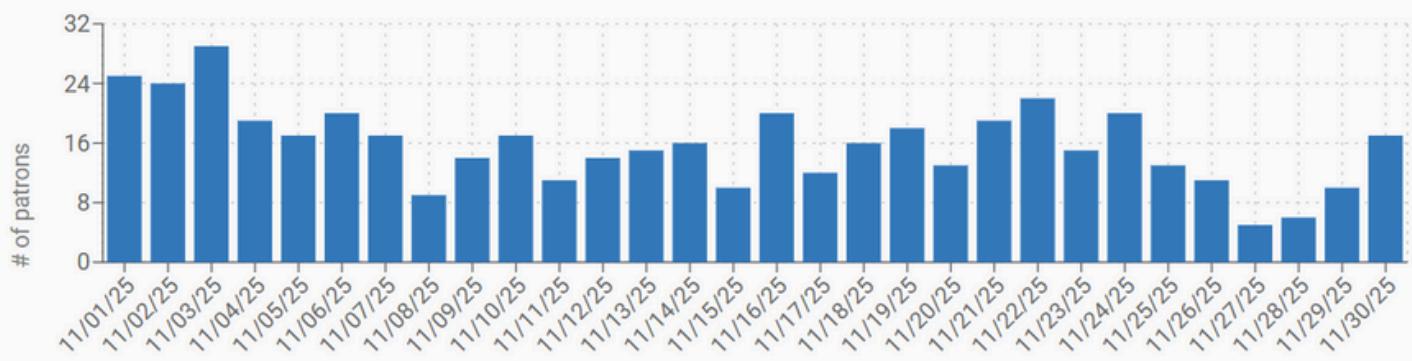
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	Total Circulation	Amount Spent	Unique Patrons	New Patrons	Average Circ/Patron
Hoopla	539	\$1,321.20	306	25	1.8
BURLINGTON Libby	3,043	\$504.64	652	26	4.67
State Libby	281,087	\$52,450	58,380	2,288	4.81

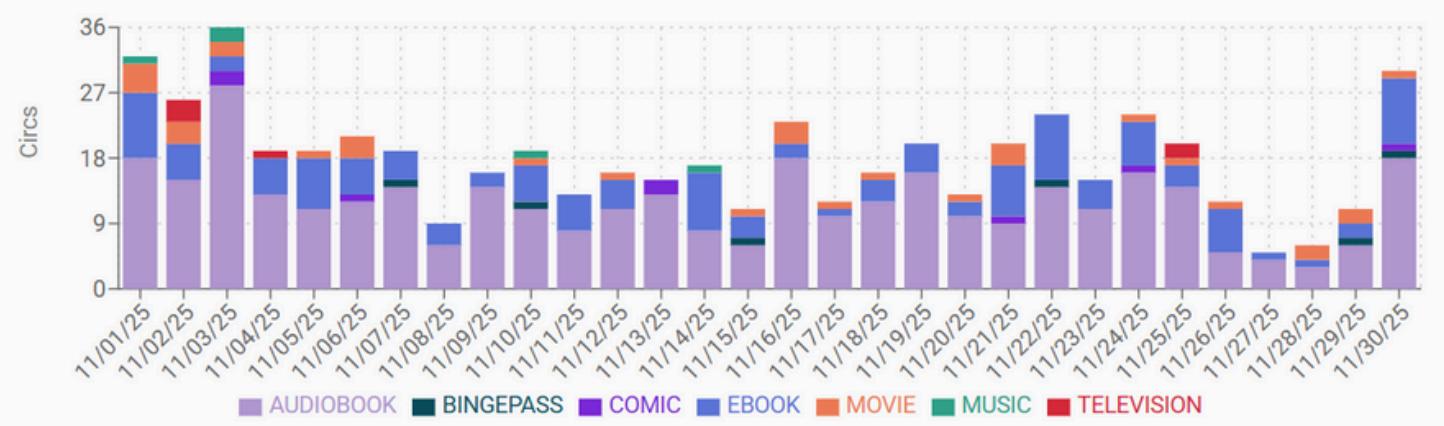
Hoopla Detailed Report

Patron Borrowing Report

There were **306** unique patrons borrowing Instant licenses from November 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025 with an average of **10** people borrowing at least one Instant item per day.



Circulations by Format



November Snapshots



Forts in the stacks



Forts in the stacks



Family Night Unplugged: Fort Night



Story Time with the Burlington Fire Department



Pumpkinpalooza in the Beacon newspaper



SCC Prism360 Meeting



Touring Heart Song Day Center

November by the Numbers: WiFi

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Burlington Public Library November-2025

In November, 558 unique patrons used your library WiFi. On average, these patrons visited to use the WiFi on just under 3 individual days.

Change from prior month



1331 -47.7%

Monthly Sessions



1163 -43.3%

Total Visits



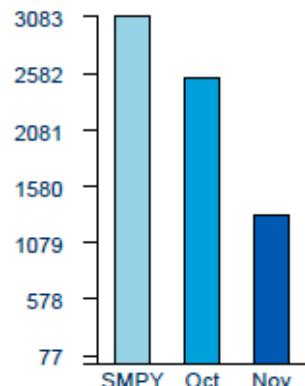
558 -20.63%

Unique Visitors

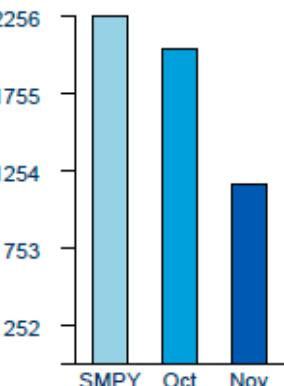


2.08 -28.77%

Total Monthly Session Count

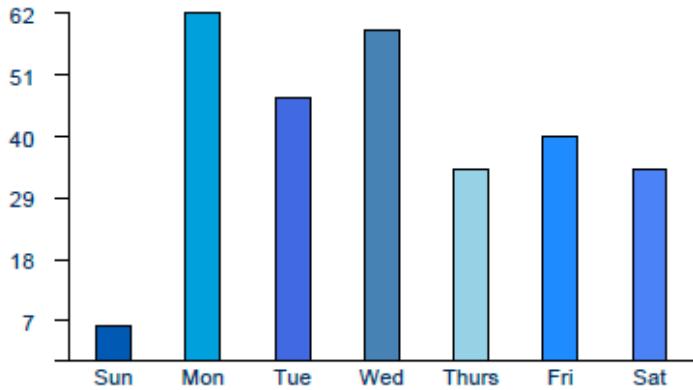


Total Monthly Visits

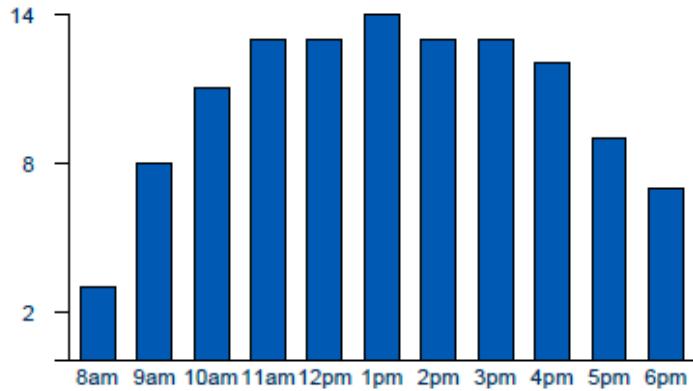


*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

Average Daily Visits



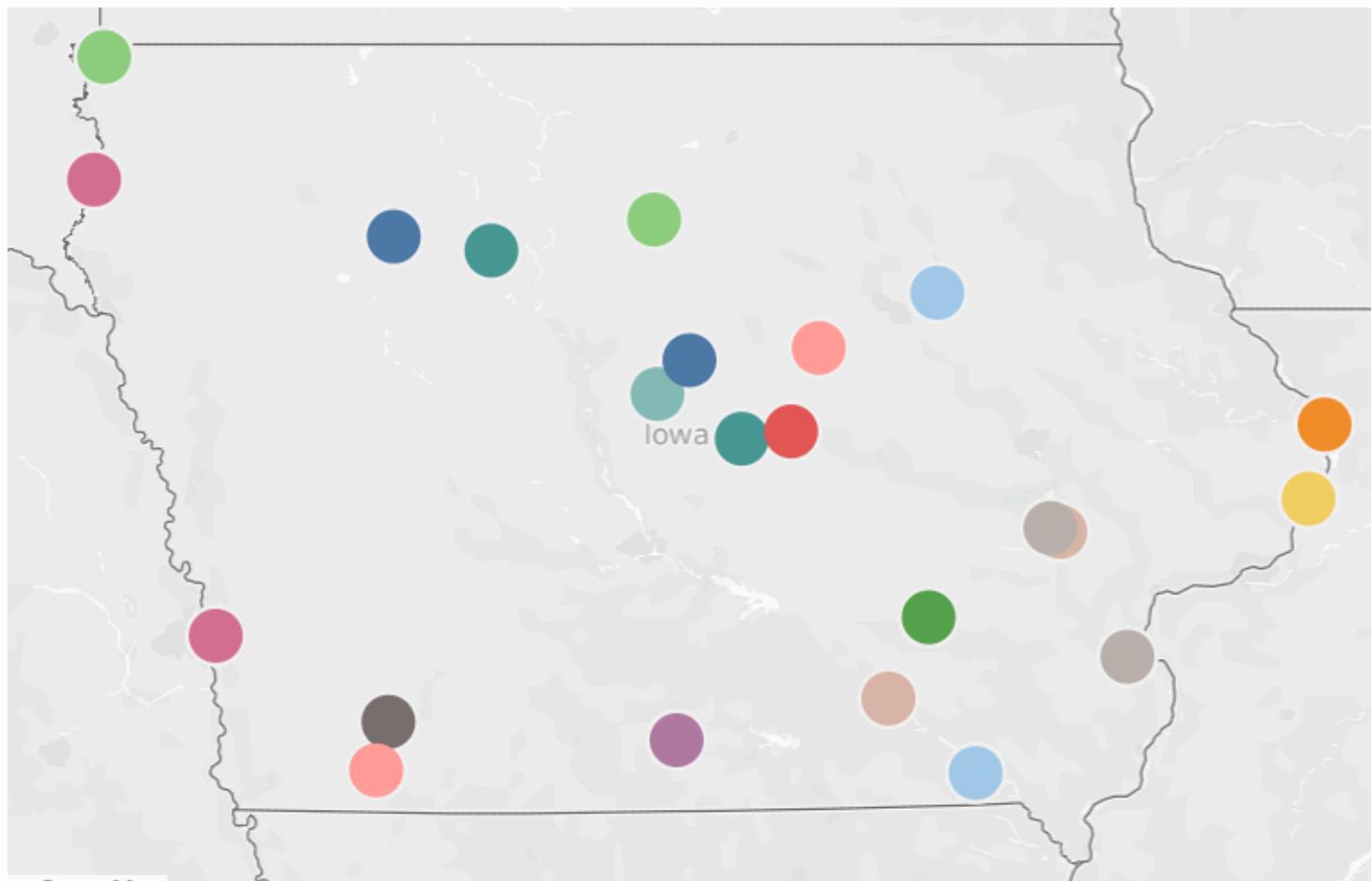
Average Peak Hourly



November Outgoing ILL Map

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83 items sent within Iowa



78 items sent & received nation-wide

