

LIBRARY SERVICES

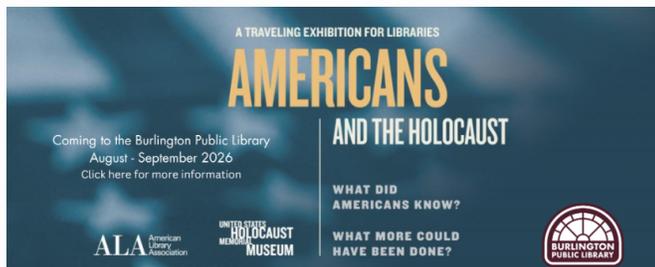
MARCH 2024

BURLINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Grant Awards

This month the Burlington Public Library announced that we are one of the recipients of the Americans and the Holocaust traveling exhibit. As one of 50 libraries chosen nationwide, we are thrilled to host this exhibit in August - September of 2026. This grant is an award presented by the American Library Association and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and was won for us through the hard work of our very own Becky Nelson and Stephanie Jones.

Many people and organizations, including the Anne Frank Museum of Danville and the University of Northern Iowa wrote in letters of support for this initiative, and we look forward to partnering with them and many more come summer of 2026.



BPL was also the recipient of another American Library Association grant in March, with the award of \$10,000 through the Libraries Transforming Communities grant. Becky Nelson wrote this grant specifically to enhance our collection for those who are visually impaired or who would benefit from additional audio components for circulation.

The Community Foundation of Des Moines County announced that BPL was the recipient of a \$2,500 grant to help support our Read to Grow initiative this summer. These funds will help to pay for the 50 trees that we will collectively read towards planting during this year's summer reading program.

Local History, Local Hero

The first Saturday of every month here at the Burlington Public Library is always a lively one, as one of our beloved local history experts, Terry Abrisz, hosts That's Yesterday's News in rooms A & B. Every month participants are taken on a journey through time into a specific area of Burlington's history all through the lens of newspaper clippings.

This month, Terry packed the library with over 100 people to reminisce about the dearly departed department store, J. S. Schramm's.



This partnership with Terry and program that he hosts is near to my heart as it's community building in action. Terry does a fabulous job of narrating Burlington's history, but he also is excellent at inviting others to share their own stories, helping to weave together a communal tapestry of oral history.

This type of engagement helps people to feel seen, to feel valued, and to feel like they are still part of the modern day Burlington story. We stand here on the shoulders of those who have come before us, and by paying homage to bygone eras we are connecting the generations, celebrating our history, and breathing new life into it all at the same time. Many thanks to Terry and all of the passion and dedication he puts into this program, and our community.

Advocacy

Library lovers from across the state packed their bags and made the trek to our stunning capitol building on March 5th to champion library services and the folks who keep them running.



Library Director, Brittany Jacobs, Trustee President, Becky Godfrey, and Friends member Ron Givens were there representing SE Iowa and the Burlington Public Library. With library statistics in hand we were able to engage with legislators, lobbyists, state library staff and the wider Iowa library community in conversations highlighting the importance and the impact of Iowa libraries.

March by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: **23,781** (22,508)

Number of Programs: **76** (110)

Program Participants: **1,251** (2,397)

New Borrower Accounts: **35** (71)

Use of online databases: **6,548** (5,877)

WiFi & Computer Use: **4,054** (3,867)

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: **176** (154)

Meeting Room Reservations: **307** (342)

Door Count: **9,871** (9,504)

March '24 / February '24

More News and Projects

Dragons invaded the library this month and our young patrons had a fun-filled time searching through the stacks on a dragon scavenger hunt! For several families, this was the first time they had ventured over into the East wing of the library, and many of them commented about how stunning our genealogy room and our view was.

Patron comments:

Social media comment regarding the announcement of the Holocaust exhibit: "This speaks to the quality of library service we have in Burlington. Our library is an asset to the community in more ways than just a place to check out a book! The next time you're there remember to thank the staff for all they do. If you've never been there, they would love to give you a tour, explain all that's available and sign you up for a card."

Patron called in with a hold question and raved about the library and the staff, "You guys do so much and I'm so thankful for our library! You all do an amazing job!" Said she loves both the eResources and the physical collection. <3

Partnerships

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

- West Burlington
- Middletown
- Des Moines County
- Greater Burlington Partnership
- Burlington Community School District
- PiECES
- Bridges Out of Poverty
- Murray Foundation
- Oakview
- Local Historian, Terry Abrisz
- Kulture City
- Addington Place
- Bickford
- Iowa State Extension Office
- Iowa STEM Council
- State Library of Iowa
- Des Moines County Master Gardeners
- Special Needs Foundation
- Iowa State University
- Network Nirvana
- Burlington High School Jazz Band
- Black Iowa News
- Forest McCurren
- Burlington Auditorium
- The Capitol Theater
- NASA

