

LIBRARY SERVICES

APRIL 2024

BURLINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

TICOS

Our Teen Advisory Board, locally known as TICOS (Teens Inspiring Change, Optimism, & Service) have been busy helping with the re-design of our teen space in the library. With a focus on staying true to the library's mission and values, our teens are imagining a space where kids will feel inspired and welcome to use our collection, hang out, and make new friends.

By shifting the adult non-fiction collection East, the teen area has opened up and now allows for groups to gather around tables and chairs. With input from the Art Center of Burlington, our teens are dreaming up a mural to cover one of the newly exposed walls. Keep an eye on the teen space as this project comes to life.



This unique partnership with the Optimist Club and the library was highlighted at the Pop YS Con held by the state library. Our very own Becky Ruberg gave a presentation on how to establish successful teen advisory boards using BPL's TICOS as an example.

By sharing our success stories we're able to help add valuable insight to the larger conversation of what libraries are and how we're meeting the needs of our communities. Becky has been at the helm of this partnership for many years, as our BPL TICOS celebrated their 10th birthday in March.

National Library Week

April 7th - 13th was National Library Week, a time to recognize the various departments and teams of people who help libraries thrive. First celebrated in 1958, this dedicated week in April calls attention to the various triumphs and struggles of libraries today.

From circulating non-traditional items to providing connection to social services, modern libraries are meeting the needs of our communities in creative and impactful ways. Each year during this week the American Library Association releases their State of America's Libraries report, publishing the previous calendar year's statistics on book banning.

With a 65% increase of unique titles banned in 2023 over 2022's numbers, last year saw a total of 4,240 titles challenged. Historically, the Office for Intellectual Freedom saw an average of 273 titles challenged annually during the two decades prior to 2021.

For more information on your right to read and the State of America's Libraries visit www.ilovelibraries.org

Friends of the Library



The Friends of the Burlington Public Library held their annual meeting on Friday, April 26th. Library Director, Brittany Jacobs, was the keynote speaker and two new board members were voted on after the departure of John Walz and Lois Rigdon. Many thanks to those two for their years of dedication to the Friends of the Library.

Public Library Association

Public Services Manager, Sam Watson, and Library Director, Brittany Jacobs, attended the 2024 Public Library Association Conference in Columbus, Ohio.



Themes for this year's conference ranged from HR practices in public libraries to libraries as a climate haven in times of turbulent weather patterns and hundreds of topics in-between. The ability to network and collaborate with other North American public library staff was invaluable and inspired many new ideas to bring to the Burlington Public Library.

April by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: **23,212** (23,781)

Number of Programs: **90** (76)

Program Participants: **1,580** (1,251)

New Borrower Accounts: **89** (35)

Use of online databases: **6,151** (6,548)

WiFi & Computer Use: **4,033** (4,054)

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: **161** (176)

Meeting Room Reservations: **389** (307)

Door Count: **9,841** (9,871)

April '24 / March '24

More News and Projects

We took another Vacation Thru Time this month as participants explored the mysteries of Stonehenge. Literary-themed mocktails were on order this month with our Tequila Mockingbird program showcasing fun and flavorful non-alcoholic drinks.

Patron comments:

Social media comment regarding the Vacation Thru Time Stonehenge exhibit:

"Great Travel adventures at home!"

Social media comments regarding National Library Workers' Day:

"The staff is always friendly and ready for any question. Our great granddaughter loves Babygarten and Miss Stephanie!"

"The BPL staff are always friendly, and just nice to talk to. They are a great asset to our community."

"Such as grand helpful group of people! Thank to one and all for all you do!"

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
- 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
- Black Iowa News
- Public Library Association
- The Capitol Theater
- NASA
- English Heritage
- Art Center of Burlington

