



LIBRARY SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2024
BURLINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Lover's Month

This February we celebrated Library Lover's Month in style at the Burlington Public Library. An interactive display was up throughout the month where people were encouraged to write what they love about the library on a heart that was added to our display wall.

From the books to feeling safe and welcome in our space, there's something for everyone to love about the Burlington Public Library. Custom BPL stickers were made for patrons to take and show their library love out in the community.

Mayor Billups and City Council proclaimed February as Love Your Library Month for the City of Burlington and encouraged all community members to utilize and support our public library. Several Trustees and community members were present to receive the proclamation and Trustee Jennifer McMillan thanked the Council and spoke to the importance of our library in the greater Burlington community.



Frost Fair

In an ironic twist, January's Frost Fair was rescheduled to February due to dangerously low temperatures, and on February 23rd the BPL team hosted a full-day winter extravaganza. From a concert with guitarist Forest McCurren to a live ice carving demonstration, we offered a variety of opportunities for people to explore history, music and the arts at this year's Frost Fair.



This event was inspired by the Frost Fairs of London held on the frozen River Thames circa the 1550's. As a river town ourselves, a Frost Fair themed event fits well with our community and offers our patrons an opportunity to get out and explore the world around them from the comfort of their own public library.



www.burlington.lib.la.us

Advocacy

On the same evening of our Love Your Library Month Proclamation, City Council decided to back-fill the FY25 budget with local options sales tax. Many of those present for the proclamation were there for discussions around the library budget in light of the loss of our library levy due to last year's HF718.

This stop-gap secures another year of funding for BPL, but requires City staff, Library Trustees, and the Council to begin having conversations around the FY26 budget now. The Burlington Public Library is the oldest and longest-running library in the State of Iowa, and we intend to keep that streak going long into the future.

Comments from the public, conversations with city and library leaders, and the statistics showing how the community uses this library all helped to give us momentum going into this budget season. Our community loves this library, and everyday advocacy from folks championing the library via word of mouth, social media, and library use will be the foundation on which we stand throughout these turbulent financial times.

February by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: 22,508 (22,992)

Number of Programs: 110 (67)

Program Participants: 2,397 (1,011)

New Borrower Accounts: 71 (102)

Use of online databases: 5,877 (6,429)

WiFi & Computer Use: 3,867 (3,561)

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: 154 (142)

Meeting Room Reservations: 342 (273)

Door Count: 9,504 (8,452)

February '24 / January '24

More News and Projects

This month we featured the Burlington High School Jazz Band at our First Friday event. This was a fabulous opportunity for the kids to play before a live audience and connect the community with our talented students.



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 Abriz
- 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

