

Upcoming Events for APRIL 2025

Sweet Potato Plant Program. Watch for the Sweet Potato Plant Program coming this spring! The Dubuque County Extension Office, in partnership with the James Kennedy Public Library (and other libraries in Dubuque County), will be offering a free Sweet Potato Plant Program to help educate local residents on how to grow a food crop to increase local food security. More details will be coming.

D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) Month - Dyersville Book Scavenger Hunt!: *April 1-30.* April is Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) month, a national month-long celebration of reading designed to remind folks of all ages to make reading a priority activity in their lives. To celebrate this year, the JKPL has again partnered with local businesses for a fun D.E.A.R. month scavenger hunt! Can you match the book with the business? Pick up a scavenger hunt form at the library or print one off from the library's website. The scavenger hunt form features pictures of book covers and each participating business in Dyersville has one of the book covers posted in their business. Match the book with the business then turn your completed forms into the library before May 1 to get entered into the prize drawing for one of several gift baskets. You get to choose which basket! Entries with at least ½ of the books / businesses identified correctly will receive one entry into the drawing. Get them all right to earn two entries!

Love Your Library Yard Signs: *April 1-30.* The JKPL has yard signs that say "I Love My Library" available for free! Signs are 18" x 24", vinyl, reusable, and come with a ground stake. Yard signs are available while supplies last. Already have one of these signs? Now's the time to put it up. Put a sign in your yard and let everyone know you love the library!

Children's Pretend Play Station: Farmer's Stand: *April 1-30.* Area families are invited to come to the library and explore what it has to offer in Grocery Store play!

Children's Scavenger Hunt: Fruits and Veggies: *April 1-30.* Area children and their families are encouraged to participate in our "Fruits and Veggies" scavenger hunt to earn a sticker! One sticker per child per library visit.

Kids Can Craft: Design a Carrot-Person Challenge: *April 1-30.* Kids of all ages are invited to stop in the library to design a carrot-person. Add arms, legs, clothing, eyes, mouth, nose, etc. to create a funny carrot character. Every design turned in qualifies artists for an entry into the drawing for a Spring book basket but is limited to one entry per day. Winner will be announced in early May.

Creation Station Craft: Spinning Top: *April 1-30.* Stop in and craft in the Creation Station at the library or grab a kit and create at home! This month's craft is a spinning top made out of an old CD. Kit includes most needed supplies and instructions. A video demonstration will also be available to view on the JKPL Facebook and YouTube channel. Kits available while supplies last.

Upcycled Greeting Card Kits: *April 1-30.* Want a unique card for someone special? Pick up one of these kits that use the front of an old greeting card combined with glue and cardstock to make an entirely new card. Each card kit includes a greeting card front with coordinating cardstock and an envelope. You will need to supply the glue. If crafting in the library, glue sticks may be borrowed from the desk for in-library use. Kits are available while supplies last.

Coloring, Creating and Doing @ Your Library: April 1-30. The JKPL is continuing to offer coloring pages, dot to dot, crosswords, sudoku, and other activity pages available for you to enjoy at the library or at home. They are intended for adults and teens. Each pack will include at least 10 different items and are available while supplies last. If you want to work on the activities while at the library, colored pencils, markers, and more are available in the Creation Station or to check out from the front desk.

Get Puzzled @ Your Library: April 1-30. Stop in the library this month to help us put together a new jigsaw puzzle. This month's puzzle, *Greatest American Novels*, was selected to celebrate Drop Everything and Read month. The puzzle is located on the table under the skylight and everyone is welcome to add a piece or two or more. Everyone who works on the puzzle is encouraged to put their name into a drawing to win the puzzle. Please stop at the front desk to get your name entered.

Westside Park StoryWalk®: "Roll, Roll, Little Pea" by Cecile Bergame: April 1-30. (Winter start/end dates for the StoryWalk® are approximate due to weather.) Families are invited to walk the StoryWalk® at Westside Park which begins south of the parking lot by the baseball diamond. Walk the trail and read the story to your children. The StoryWalk® is made possible by the Dubuque Racing Association, Friends of the Library, and the Richard Osterhaus Memorial Fund. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

Fun and Games with Paul presents Discover Virtual Reality: April 1 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Drop in at this monthly gathering where library staff member Paul will share a fun and interesting activity. Each month will feature a specific game or activity that guests will be able to try out or play while at the library. Guests are welcome to come for a few minutes or stay the whole time—whatever works for them. Not interested in the featured activity? Drop in for other activities like working on a puzzle together or just to socialize. This program is intended for members of the neurodivergent community, their families and caregivers, but all are welcome. Those under the age of 7 need an adult companion. Fun and Games will be held monthly, typically on the first Tuesday of the month. This program is made possible by Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL). Refreshments provided.

Incorporating Mindfulness in Everyday Life - KEYS Chat: Tuesday, April 1 @ 4:00 pm. More details are coming.

Dubuque County Reads!: March 27-April 15: The James Kennedy Public Library is participating in the third annual *Dubuque County Reads* book discussion! We partnered last year with the Dubuque County Library District, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, University of Dubuque Library, Clarke University Library, and Loras College Library to create a county-wide initiative. The purpose of the *Dubuque County Reads* program is to facilitate events that encourage productive conversation around a common book, with the selected title aiming to invigorate community members and inspire dialog about important issues and topics. The selected title for 2025 is *What My Bones Know* by Stephanie Foo. *Dubuque County Reads* book discussions will happen at various locations around the county between March 27th-April 15. Different libraries will be holding discussions on different days and times in the hopes that one of them will work with your schedule so you can attend. Feel free to attend as many

sessions, at any location, as you like. There will also be an author meet for Stephanie Foo on April 10th at Loras College and a mental health panel on trauma on March 27th at University of Dubuque. The book is available to borrow at each participating library, with the appropriate library card required. Also each library will have a set number of copies available to give away. Contact your local library for details. Digital copies are available to borrow electronically through the Carnegie-Stout Public Library or James Kennedy Public Library, with the respective city resident library card required. Some libraries may even have audiobook copies to borrow. Books will be ready to be picked up at the JKPL starting March 4. Alternatively, you can purchase a copy of the book from River Lights Bookstore in Dubuque for a discount. For more information about the book and a full list of participating libraries, go to: <https://libguides.dbq.edu/dubuquecountyreads>.

Book discussions will be held at following locations:

Divine Word College: Tuesday April 1st @ 1:00 pm.

Loras College Library: Wednesday April 2nd @ 4:00 pm.

Wartburg Seminary: Thursday April 3rd @ 12:00 pm.

James Kennedy Public Library Books for Lunch Discussion: Monday, April 7th @ 12:00 pm.

University of Dubuque: Monday April 7th @ 2:30 pm.

Carnegie Stout Public Library: Monday, April 7th @ 6:00 pm.

Clarke University Library: Tuesday April 8th @ 2:30 pm.

Dubuque Co. Disability Council: Tuesday April 8th @ 4:00 pm (Virtual).

Dubuque County Library District (Asbury): Wednesday April 9th @ 6:30 pm.

Cascade Public Library: Tuesday April 7th @ 4:30 pm.

James Kennedy Public Library: Tuesday April 14 @ 5:00 pm.

Special programs:

Mental Health Panel on Trauma at University of Dubuque Heritage Center: Thursday, March 27th @ 6:30 pm.

Meet Author Stephanie Foo at Loras College: Thursday, April 10th @ 6:30 pm.

Tween Zone: Drop in to Hang Out: Wednesday, April 2 from 4:00-5:00 pm. Do you love snacks, books, puzzles, and games? Join us to hang out, eat snacks, talk about your favorite book, and discover our new Turing Tumble puzzle game, a low-tech yet high-fun gaming experience! Registration is not necessary. Program designed for ages 8 - 12. *The STEM Scale-Up Turing Tumble game sets are funded by the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council.*

Kid Librarian Storytime: Wednesdays, April 2 & 9 @ 10:00 am & 6:30 pm. Calling all book-loving kids: Come to Kid Librarian Storytime in the Children's Area to enjoy a program where YOU are the librarian! Pick your favorite picture book from our shelves or bring one from home to read aloud to other participants. Not yet reading? Simply tell the audience about your favorite book, read the pictures, or lead them in a movement song or nursery rhyme. Enjoy a moment to shine, then have fun playing in our Children's Area with other children. Kid Librarian Storytime is open to all ages and abilities. Adult participation is required. No registration is necessary.

Sit & Stitch: Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 1:00—3:00 pm. Grab your hobby or craft and join other crafters at this fun gathering. There are lots of laughs, great company, conversation, and even some crafting! Participants are welcome to attend in person in the Hoffman Room or remotely via Zoom. New members are welcome to join at any time. If you are a new participant and wish to join virtually, please email librarian@dyersville.lib.ia.us by 10 am on the date of the gathering and an

invitation will be emailed to you. The same Zoom room link is used each week.

Strength Training for Older Adults: Mondays and Thursdays, April 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, & 28 @ 9:30 and 10:30 am. Older adults of any age and fitness level are invited to join this special exercise program made possible by a partnership between the Geri-Fit® Company and the James Kennedy Public Library. Participants will exercise to a Geri-Fit® DVD and most of the exercises will be performed seated in a chair. There is no dancing or aerobics involved. Classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays and last approximately 45 minutes. For best results, participants should attend as many of the sessions as possible. Each participant will need a set of 2 or 3-pound dumbbell weights, a medium weight stretch band, and water to drink. Space is limited so registration is required.

Kids Can Cook: Thursdays, April 3, 10 & 17 from 4:00-5:30 pm. Kids Can Cook will teach kids ages 10-12 basic kitchen skills and how to make healthy food choices. The first ten minutes of each class will focus on kitchen safety and introductory cooking information, such as how to read a recipe. The remainder of each class will be hands-on learning, cooking, and cleaning up. Kitchen safety and cleanliness will be emphasized. At the end of the school year, children who have participated in over half of the classes will receive an apron. The menu for April is: Pork Chops & Mashed Potatoes (April 3); Pumpkin Blender Muffins (April 10); and Chicken Satay with sauce and Thai Quickles (April 17). Registration is required as there is a limit of 12 children per session. A waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian must be on file for a child to attend. *This program is funded by Theisen's More for Your Community, Dyersville Area Community Foundation, Jeanne M. Coppola Endowment for Education, the Friends of the James Kennedy Public Library, and various library fundraising events.*

Euchre Card Party & Games: Fridays, April 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 1:00-3:30 pm. Join us Friday afternoons for cards, dominoes, or other games in the Hoffman Room. Come meet, teach, and play with other players. The library has some games or you are welcome to bring your own.

Breakfast Burrito Grab and Go Fundraiser: Saturday, April 5 from 9:00-11:00 am. Kick off National Library Week by stopping by the JKPL and enjoying a delicious breakfast burrito! For just \$7.00, you can support the JKPL and enjoy a delicious freshly made breakfast burrito. Potential ingredients include eggs, sausage, hash browns, cheese, salsa and more. Weather permitting, a tent will be set up outside the library for this event. If not, step into the Hoffman Community Room to get your breakfast and support your library! Burritos available while supplies last. All proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support library services and collections. Thank you to Fareway of Dyersville for supporting this fundraiser!

Building Creativity One Block at a Time: a LEGO® program: Saturday, April 5 from 10:00-11:00 am. This month's theme is *Surprise!* This program is for all ages but children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult or older partner. This LEGO® program is part of a monthly LEGO® building block program at the library sponsored by DuTrac Community Credit Union. Each month there is a theme to help inspire creativity. Photos of the creations are displayed in the children's area of the library and on the library's social media pages. All children who participate have their names entered into a quarterly drawing for a special LEGO® related prize provided by DuTrac.

Nerf War @ Your Library: Saturday, April 5 from 4:00-6:00 pm. Bring your Nerf gun and ammo and head to the library for this bi-monthly Nerf War! Participants must be 13 or older and anyone under 18

must have a signed parental waiver. Registration requested as 10 people are required to hold the program and a max of 20 is allowed. Walk-ins welcome, if space allows. Participants must provide their own Nerf guns and ammo but no modifications to darts or guns to increase range or hitting power will be allowed. Guns with excessive hitting power will not be allowed.

Family Movies @ Your Library presents “The Pagemaster”: ***Saturday, April 5 @ 1:00 pm.*** After seeking shelter from a storm in a mysterious library, an easily terrified kid is transported to an animated fantasy world. There, he encounters characters and situations from classic literature. Rated G (76 minutes).

National Library Week - Drawn to The Library: April 6-12, 2025. Millions of people across the country visit their libraries every week. What’s the draw? Everything! From young families stopping in for play and story time, to students sketching out their next creative project in a makerspace, to seniors seeking tech help and everyone in between, libraries of all kinds help us connect the dots from one part of our journey to the next. Chart your next literary adventure by browsing the stacks or joining a book club. Let an author color your imagination at an author talk, outline your big business idea at an entrepreneur workshop, or trace your history with your library’s genealogy resources. Make your mark and get involved with your library by volunteering or spreading the word. Whatever draws you in, the library has something for everyone. *JKPL activities to be decided.*

Bowling: an All Abilities Event. The JKPL will host this fun bowling event at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Dyersville (across the alley from the library). Date, times and details TBD. This program is intended for members of the neurodivergent community, their families and caregivers, but all are welcome. Those under the age of 7 need an adult companion. Registration requested as space is limited. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows. This program is made possible by Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL).

Books for Lunch Book Discussion: Monday, April 7 @ 12:00 noon. This group gathers on the first Monday of each month at noon. This month the group will discuss the 2025 Dubuque County Reads selection *What my Bones Know* by Stephanie Foo. Copies of the book are available to borrow from the library. Participants are welcome to attend in person or remotely via Zoom. New members are welcome to join at any time. If you need a link to the Zoom room, please email librarian@dyersville.lib.ia.us by 10:00 am on the day of the program and an invitation to the Zoom room will be emailed to you.

Drawn to the Library Meeting and Social: Tuesday, April 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The Members of the Board of Trustees of the JKPL invite you to celebrate National Library Week by attending this open house. Come meet the Board members and learn what is new at the library. Attend the regular monthly board meeting (starts at 6 pm and typically lasts less than an hour) or just drop by any time. Refreshments provided. *Details to be confirmed.*

Inspirational Fiction: A Novel Approach to Faith Book Club: Tuesday, April 8 @ 7:00 pm. Join us for this book club that features a variety of books that weave religious faith into the characters and storylines. For this month we will be reading *The Wings of Poppy Pendleton* by Melanie Dobson. Books are available to borrow from the library. Participants are welcome to attend in person or remotely via Zoom. If you want to attend via Zoom and haven’t attended before, please register by 12 noon on the

day of the program at <https://bit.ly/NOVELAPPROACH> so a link to the Zoom room can be emailed to you.

Mock-A-Movie Night for Teens: Friday, April 11 @ 6:00 pm. Join us for a night of terrible cinema, good food, and lots of fun mocking the movie! This evening we will be watching *Borderlands* (PG-13) – a terrible movie based on a video game series. Refreshments will be provided. For ages 12-18 only.

Dungeons & Dragons Players Club: Saturday, April 12 @ 3:30 pm. Join us for this monthly gaming event for D & D players that meets in-person or you can join remotely via Discord. This group meets the second Saturday of every month and new players of all ages and skill levels are welcome. The library has materials available but feel free to bring your own. To join via Discord, contact Paul at Pzurawski@dyersville.lib.ia.us by 2:00 pm the day of the program to receive the server invite.

Build-A-Basket Fundraiser Closing Reception: Sunday, April 13 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Join us for refreshments and one last chance to bid on the baskets donated to the library for the Build-a-Basket Fundraiser! Many themed baskets have been donated by area businesses, organizations and individuals. There is something for nearly every interest so be sure to come and take a peek and bid on your favorite. The silent auction will end at 3:00 pm sharp. These baskets make great gifts - for yourself or someone you love! All proceeds will be used to support library collections and services.

Adult Crafternoon. Monday, April 14 from 1:00-3:00 pm. Join us this month to make a fun craft – project to be decided. Stop in the library to create and take home your finished project. If you prefer, you can pick up a take-and-make kit and craft on your own at home. Kits will be available while supplies last.

Drop in and Create - Watercolor Painting: Friday, April 18 from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. Join us at the JKPL as we use water and paint brushes to create beautiful pictures! Participants will select a picture and use the attached watercolor palette to create their work of art. This is a drop-in event so guests are welcome to come and go as their schedule permits. Refreshments provided. This program is intended for members of the neurodivergent community, their families and caregivers, but all are welcome. Those under the age of 7 need an adult companion. Drop in and create programs will typically be offered the third Friday of each month. This program is made possible by Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL).

Library closed for Easter: Sunday, April 20

Bingo Party: Monday, April 21 from 1:00-3:00 pm. Come enjoy bingo at the JKPL! There is a two-card limit, no cost to play, and prizes! Registration is recommended as space is limited. Bring your friends!

Cricut with Christopher. Monday, April 21 @ 6:00 pm. Come learn about the Cricut Maker from local expert Lisa Christopher. Participants should be 14 or older. Registration is required as attendance is limited to 10. Cricut with Christopher will typically be held monthly on the third Monday of each month. This month's project to be decided.

Wildflower Hike @ New Wine Park: Monday, April 21 from 6:00-7:30 pm. Join us at New Wine Park (15971 New Wine Park Lane, New Vienna, IA) for this entertaining and informative hike led by a Dubuque County Conservation Naturalist. Walk along the trails at New Wine Park as you look closely at the forest floor. Be ready to learn about the flowers that are blooming and interesting ways you can use these plants, as well as their wildlife value. The 2-mile trail we are hiking will have uneven terrain and steep inclines. Please be prepared for this by wearing appropriate footwear and clothing. All ages welcome, but those under the age of 16 need an adult companion. Registration is requested by April 18 as a minimum of 10 participants is needed for this program to be held. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows. Register by contacting the library or online in the library's calendar of events at: www.dyersville.lib.ia.us/events.

JKPL Writing Group: Tuesday, April 22 @ 6:30 pm. Join us this month in person at the library, or remotely via Zoom, for a sharing session with writers of all types. New members are welcome to join at any time. If you want to participate via Zoom, please register by 11:00 am on the day of the event at <https://bit.ly/JKPLwriting>.

Health & Wellness 365 with the Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging: Thursday, April 24 @ 11:15 am. Presented by Nutrition Specialist Colleen Lawler. Topic to be decided.

"Champions" - Movie Matinee: Thursday, April 24 @ 1:00 pm. A former minor-league basketball coach, after a series of missteps, is ordered by the court to manage a team of players with intellectual disabilities. He soon realizes that despite his doubts, together, this team can go further than they ever imagined. Rated PG-13 (125 min.) Refreshments provided. This program is intended for members of the neurodivergent community, their families and caregivers, but all are welcome. Those under the age of 7 need an adult companion. *This program is made possible by Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL).*

Movies @ Your Library presents "The Public": Saturday, April 26 @ 1:00 pm. A librarian helps a group of homeless people take refuge from a brutal winter night by staging a sit-in at the free public library. A misunderstanding causes his noble act to wrongly escalate into a hostage situation with a political candidate and a TV reporter stoking the drama for their own agendas. Rated PG-13 (122 minutes).

Game Night @ Your Library: Saturday, April 26 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Bring your favorite game (card game, board game, role playing game, or video game) and meet, teach, and play with others! Game night is held on the 4th Saturday of every month. All ages welcome but those under the age of 7 need a teen or adult companion.

Strings Club: Monday, April 28 @ 6:00 pm. Do you have a ukulele, guitar or other string instrument that you would like to play more often? Do you want to grow your skills by jamming with others? Then come join the JKPL Strings Club! Teen and adult musicians of all skill levels are welcome. NOTE: This is not a class but a jam session so participants should know basic chords. Facilitated by Gary Bramel. This group typically meets on the fourth Monday of each month from October to April. Registration encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows. NOTE: This is the last meeting before a break for summer. Gatherings will likely resume in October.