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**James Kennedy Public Library
Report to the Mayor and City Council
February 16, 2026**

Highlights from the Librarian's Report to the Board of Trustees for January 2026 are:

- 7,174 items were checked out. This is a 14.2% decrease from January 2025. Fiscal year to date, circulation is up 1.5%.
- 21 library cards were issued to new patrons. Fiscal year to date, 179 new library cards have been issued.
- 77 programs were offered in person, virtually, remotely, and as activity kits. 1,788 people engaged with these activities.
- Four public access computers and three children's computers were available and were used for 184 hours and 394 sessions. Year to date computers were used for 1,332 hours and 2,888 sessions.
- WiFi Use: 1,016 sessions, 905 visits, and 344 unique users. Year to date WiFi use included 7,401 sessions, 6,291 visits, and 1,422 unique users.
- There were 4,212 library visits. Year to date visits are up 1.4%.

Upcoming Events:

Enclosed please find a copy of the February events schedule, as well as a preliminary schedule of activities planned for March. Some of the events scheduled include a special LEGO® city building challenge for National Engineer's Week, the Bear Creek Carvers open house, Mini-golf in the stacks, STEAMFest - with activities for all ages, a Storytime Symphony presented by the Dubuque Symphony, and a presentation on vision and dementia. Kids Can Cook has started and sessions are offered in March and April. There is still time to purchase tickets for annual Mystery Dinner Fundraiser. The Love My Library and Build-a-Basket Fundraisers are off to a great start.

Prepared by: Shirley Vonderhaar, Library Director

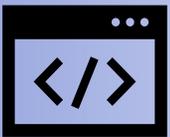
JAMES KENNEDY PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTHLY REPORT

Librarian's report to the Board of Trustees

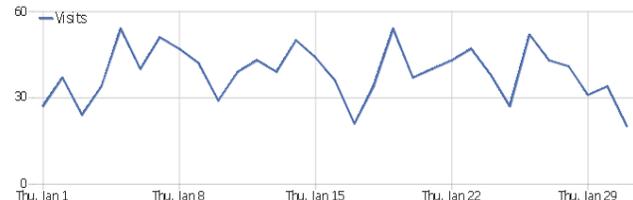
Month: January-26
 YTD: July-25 to January-26
 Previous YTD: July-24 to January-25

	Library visits		Items loaned		Library cards issued		
					City resident	Total	
Month	4212	(↓ 13.8%)	7174	(↓ 14.2%)	15	21	(↓ 27.6%)
YTD	34343	(↑ 1.4%)	54894	(↑ 1.5%)	117	179	(↓ 4.8%)

Website traffic



Visits	Average visit duration
1198	1:39



Computer use



Month	Hours		Month	Sessions	
	YTD	Prev. YTD		YTD	Prev. YTD
184	1332	1459	394	2888	3027

Wifi use



Sessions		Visits		Unique visitors	
Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
1016	7401	905	6291	344	1422

Meeting room use



Month	YTD	Prev. YTD
61	545	417

Online Learning

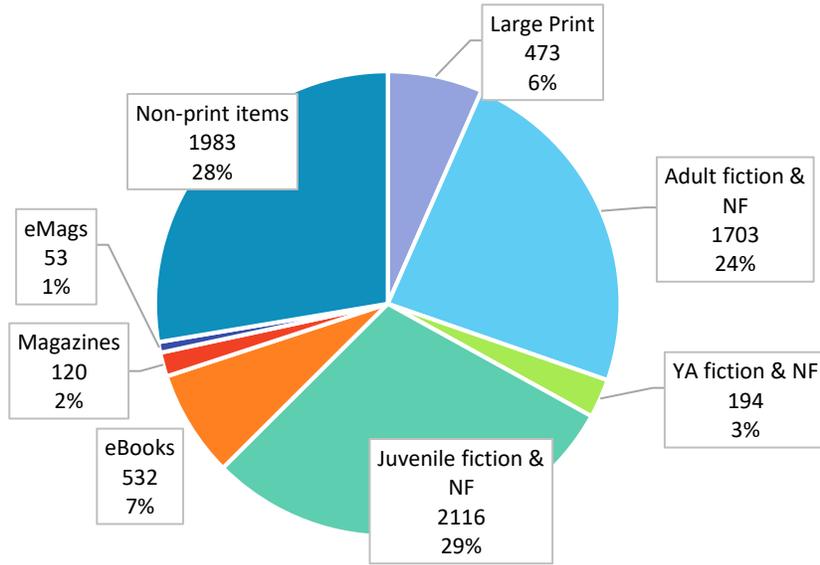
Sessions: 79

YTD: 757

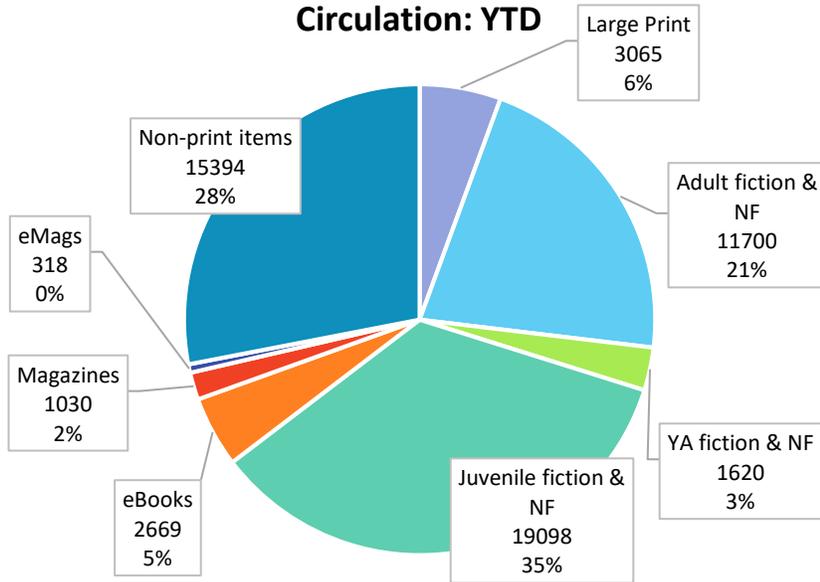



Circulation

Circulation: Month



Circulation: YTD



Non-print items	Month	YTD
eAudio	744	4729
Adult & YA audio	84	650
Juvenile audio & kits	27	153
Adult & YA video	599	5160
Juvenile video & DVD	226	2249
Games, LoT, etc.	303	2453
	1983	15394

Music

Downloads: 4
Total YTD: 21



Video (film and TV)

Downloads: 13
YTD: 95



Visits: 111
YTD: 1110



Languages

Sessions: 66
YTD: 299



Genealogy

Visits: 558
YTD: 2637



World Culture

Visits: 0
YTD: 30



Hobbies

Sessions: 31
YTD: 102



Sessions: 0
YTD: 0



Collection

Items purchased

Month:	238
YTD:	1601

Items donated

Month:	88
YTD:	305
Prev. YTD:	722

Items withdrawn

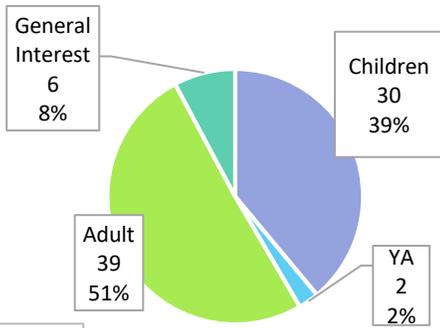
	Month	YTD
Books	170	1480
Audio	0	3
Video	7	451
Other	1	61
Total	178	1995

Summary of additions

	Large print	Adult fiction	Adult & YA NF	YA fiction	Juvenile fiction	Juvenile NF	eBook & eAudio	Adult & YA audio	Juvenile audio	Adult & YA video	Juvenile video	CDs, games, misc.	Total
Current month	16	117	26	32	64	9	14	8	1	29	1	9	326
Previous month	19	189	32	23	66	19	18	1	0	37	35	18	457
Current YTD	101	546	197	128	482	68	71	28	4	197	32	52	1906
Previous YTD	149	644	245	115	435	110	64	35	2	215	84	50	2148

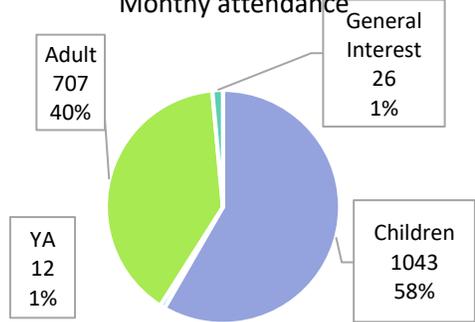
Programs

Monthly programs



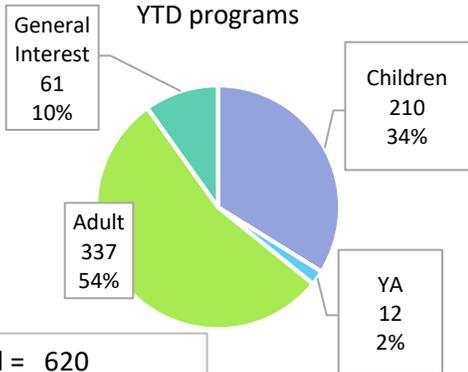
Total = 77

Monthly attendance



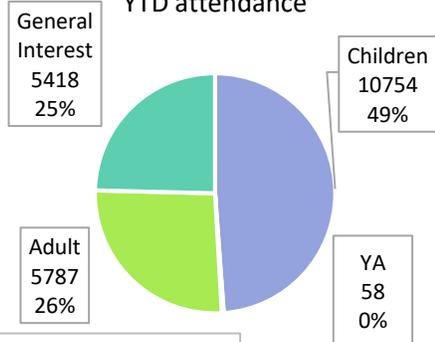
Total = 1788

YTD programs



YTD Total = 620
 Previous YTD = 551
 Change = (↑ 12.5%)

YTD attendance



YTD Total = 22017
 Previous YTD = 16360
 Change = (↑ 34.6%)

FEBRUARY 2026

Love My Library Fundraiser: February 2026.

Do you “Love Your Library”? Then consider participating in this annual fundraising activity that will improve the collections, programs, and services the library is able to offer.

- Library staff have identified books and other materials, furnishings, equipment, programs, supplies, and more that the library needs.
- Select one or more items and donate the funds needed for purchase. Or purchase the items yourself and donate them to the library.
- Donations will be acknowledged on the library windows, website and social media.
- Where appropriate the library will attach a tag or book plate acknowledging the donation and the donor will be the first to check it out.
- Selected possible donations are posted on the bulletin board in the entry to the library as well as being featured on the library’s social media. The complete list can be viewed at the front desk or at www.dyersville.lib.ia.us/events/love-my-library
- *Not finding something you want to “love”? Bring your ideas to a librarian!*



Build-A-Basket Fundraiser Begins: Sunday, February 1.

Would you like to help raise money for the library? It is fun and easy!

- Just pick something you love and build a basket of items around that theme. Or pick a favorite book and build a basket around that book.
- Create your basket and donate it to the library by early March.
- The baskets will be auctioned off in a silent auction that runs March 1-29.
- The library will provide you with an empty basket if you need one. Or you can just donate your items to the library and we can put them all in a basket for you.
- All funds raised are used to support library programs, collections, and services.



Winter Wonderland Library Challenge Continues: February 1—28

The JKPL is once again offering a winter library program and this year, participants are using a new activity sheet to track their participation.

- Complete activities and read to earn prize entries.
- For each snowflake completed, the participant will earn an entry into the prize drawings (max of 10 entries per person)
- Several prize options, for various ages and interests, will be available to choose from.
- Those that complete at least one item per column, will earn a canvas book bag and be able to adopt an item to be added to the library collection.
- All ages of readers are welcome.
- Everyone will get a free book just for signing up!
- Activity sheets are available on or after January 2, or can be printed from the library website.



Children’s Pretend Play Station: Coffee Shop: February 1—28. Area families are invited to come to the library and explore what it has to offer in Coffee Shop play!

Children’s Scavenger Hunt: Donuts: February 1—28. Area children and their families are encouraged to participate in our “Donuts” scavenger hunt to earn a sticker! One sticker per child per library visit.



Kids Can Craft: Create a Donut Poem: February 1—28. Kids of all ages are invited to stop in the library to write a donut-shaped poem and/or color a donut. Every design turned in qualifies the artist for an entry into the drawing for a prize basket. Limit is one entry per day. The winner will be announced in early March.

Creation Station Craft: Polar Bear Twirler: February 1—28. 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 paper plate polar bear twirler. Kits include how-to instructions plus all needed supplies, except for glue and scissors. 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: February 1—28. 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: February 1—28. The JKPL is continuing to offer coloring pages, dot to dot, crosswords, sudoku, and other activity pages 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: February 1—28. Stop in the library this month to help us put together a new jigsaw puzzle. This month's puzzle is *Love is Everywhere*. 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®: "The Book That Almost Rhymed" by Omar Abed: February 1—28. 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.



Strength Training for Older Adults: Mondays and Thursdays, February 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 @ 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.

Books for Lunch Book Discussion: Monday, February 2 @ 12:00 noon. This group gathers on the first Monday of each month at noon. This month the group will discuss *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel. Copies of the book are available to borrow from the library. Participants are welcome to attend in person or remotely via Zoom. The Zoom room is opened upon request. New members are welcome to join at any time. If you plan to attend via Zoom, 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.



Genealogy with Ann: Monday, February 2 from 1:00—3:00 pm. Staff member Ann will be on hand to help you start, or continue to work on, your five-generation ancestor chart. Ann will also share information on free websites good for genealogy research. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own laptop, if they have one. Some library laptops will be available for use. Appointments with Ann can be made if that is more convenient.

"The Lion King 1 1/2"—An All-Abilities Movie Event: Monday, February 2 @ 6:00 pm. This outrageously funny retelling of *The Lion King* is told by Simba's pals Timon and Pumbaa. Find out how they met, share their memories of great moments in Simba's life and celebrate their enduring friendship as they help Simba rise in the "Circle of Life" to his place as the reigning king. Rated G (80 min.) Refreshments provided. Those under the age of 10 need an adult companion. Please note that this film may be shown with closed captioning enabled, ambient light and potentially other sensory friendly adjustments.



Information on Free Tax Return Preparation Assistance: Tuesday, February 3 @ 1:00 pm

Come learn about free tax return preparation assistance for low to moderate income taxpayers, seniors, persons with disabilities, and those with limited English proficiency. Learn where to go, who to call to make an appointment, and what to bring. Learn also about volunteer opportunities for the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. Presented by Melissa Nokes with the IRS. Melissa will be joining this presentation via Zoom.



Storytime: Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18 & 25 @ 10:30 am & 6:30 pm. Join Ms. Andrea for Storytime, where children are introduced to two or three books, rhymes, songs and a movement activity. Storytime is open to all ages and abilities but geared for those 1-6 years old. An adult companion is required and participation is encouraged. No registration required. Storytime will be held weekly through March 25 and will then resume April 15.

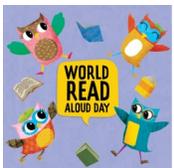


Sit & Stitch: Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 1:00—3:00 pm. Grab your hobby or craft and join other crafters at this fun gathering. There are lots of laughs, great company, conversation, and even some crafting! Participants are welcome to attend in person in the Hoffman Room or remotely via Zoom. New members are welcome to join at any time. The Zoom room is opened upon request. If you 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.

Early Out Afternoons: Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 3:30—4:30 pm. School's out early on Wednesdays, so head to the library every week for special activities geared toward kids of all ages! Children under age 7 are welcome but must attend with a teen or adult companion. The dates and activities are: February 4—Mini Diamond Art; February 11—LEGO Club; February 18—Writing, Drawing and Coloring; and February 25—Book Bingo.



World Read Aloud Day: Wednesday, February 5. World Read Aloud Day is celebrated on the first Wednesday in February. This is a day dedicated not just to reading, but to the art and practice of reading aloud. LitWorld founded World Read Aloud Day in 2010 in celebration of the power of reading aloud to create community, to amplify new stories, and to advocate for literacy as a foundational human right. To celebrate, the JKPL will post a smash cut video on social media of library staff members reading aloud brief excerpts from favorite books.



Kids Can Cook: Thursdays, February 5, 12 & 19 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.

- Classes will be held February 5, 12 & 19; March 5, 12 & 19; and April 2, 9 & 16 from 4:00—5:30 pm.
- Registration for each session 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.



The menu for February is: Lemon Ricotta Pancakes (5th), Homemade Crunch Wrap Supremes (12th), and Chocolate Lava Cakes (19th).

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: Fridays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 1:00—3:30 pm. Join us Friday afternoons for Euchre in the Hoffman Room. Come meet, teach, and play with other players.

Take Your Child to the Library Day: Saturday, February 7 from 10:00 am—3:00 pm

Help us celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day, an international day that celebrates libraries, by bringing your children to the library to enjoy the following children's events for all ages:

- 10:00—11:00 am: LEGOs in the Hoffman Room
- 10:30—11:00 am: Storytime with Ms. Andrea in the Children's Area
- 11:15—11:30 am: Indoor Snowball Fight in the Hoffman Room
- 11:00 am—1:00 pm: BeanBoozled and Gummy Candy Tasting in the Creation Station
- 1:00—3:00 pm: *The Mitchells vs. The Machines* (Rated PG) with free popcorn and soda.



A huge community poster will also be available to color with **BRAND NEW** library markers all day long in the Creation Station! Also while here, participate in our donuts scavenger hunt and coffee shop pretend play station, enter our donut poem drawing challenge, and check out books to read in the library or at home.

Building Creativity One Block at a Time: a LEGO® program: Saturday, February 7 from 10:00—11:00 am. Join us for this monthly LEGO® program that is for children of all ages. Those under the age of 7 must be accompanied by an adult or older partner. 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. Sponsored by DuTrac Community Credit Union.



Family Movies @ Your Library presents "The Mitchells vs. The Machines": Saturday, February 7 @ 1:00 pm. After Katie Mitchell is accepted to the university of her dreams, her father decides that the whole family will drive her to school and have an adventure. However, their plans are ruined when technology—phones, appliances, personal robots, and more—stages a revolution against humanity. The Mitchells now find themselves with two malfunctioning robots working to save the world from destruction! Rated PG (114 minutes).

Nerf War @ Your Library: Saturday, February 7 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.



Adult Crafternoon—Sticker Art: Monday, February 9 from 1:00—3:00 pm. Join us this month to paint a picture with stickers. 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.

Fun and Games with Paul—"Magic The Gathering": Monday, February 9 from 3:30—5:30 pm. Drop in at this monthly gathering to play a game with Paul. This month, come learn to play *Magic: The Gathering*- a game where players summon monsters to attack each other strategically. Guests are welcome to come and go as they are able. 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 10 need an adult companion.



Inspirational Fiction: A Novel Approach to Faith Book Club: Tuesday, February 10 @ 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 *Double Indemnity* by Robert Whitlow. 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 email dschrandt@dyersville.lib.ia.us by 5pm on the day of the program so a link to the Zoom room can be emailed to you.

Virtual Reality with VictoryLabsFX: Saturday, February 14 from 10:00—11:30 am

VictoryLabsFX is a virtual reality educational program that the library can access with our Metaquest VR headsets. Join us as we do a little chemistry, check out some planets, and see some museum exhibits—all with VR! Feel free to drop in as you are able. For ages 12 and up.



Dungeons & Dragons Players Club: Saturday, February 14 @ 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 by 2:00 pm on the day of the program at Pzurawski@dyersville.lib.ia.us and the server invite will be sent to you.

Bingo Party: Monday, February 16 from 1:00—3:00 pm. Come enjoy bingo at the JKPL! There is a two card limit, there is no cost to play, and there are prizes! Registration is recommended as space is limited. Bring your friends!

Create with Audrey—Sticker Art & Confetti Bookmarks: Thursday, February 19 from 6:00—7:30 pm & Friday, February 20 from 10:00 am—12:30 pm. Join Audrey on the 3rd Thursday and Friday of each month to create a cool craft or art project. This month we will be painting pictures with stickers and making bookmarks filled with confetti. 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 10 need an adult companion.



Movies @ Your Library presents “Wicked—For Good”: Saturday, February 21 @ 12:00 pm. Elphaba, now The Wicked Witch of the West, lives in exile, continuing her fight to expose The Wizard. Meanwhile, Glinda has become a glamorous symbol of Goodness, basking in the perks of fame and popularity. As the angry citizens of Oz rise up against the Wicked Witch, Glinda and Elphaba must reunite and truly see each other—if they are to change themselves, and all of Oz. Rated PG (140 minutes).



Miniature Golf @ Your Library: Saturday, February 21 from 4:30—6:30 pm

Come to the library for this special after-hours event for all ages. For one night only, we'll turn the library into a mini-golf course! Come tee off between the stacks and navigate our book obstacles which will be designed by library staff and/or volunteers. All ages welcome but those under age 7 must be accompanied by an adult.



Strings Club: Monday, February 23 @ 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. Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome as space allows. Please contact the library to register.

National Engineers Week—City Building Challenge: Tuesday, February 24 from 3:30—5:00 pm

National Engineers Week (February 22—28) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of, and interest in, engineering and technology careers. To celebrate, the library is hosting a LEGO® building challenge!

- This year participants will work together using LEGOs® to build their own city layout, which will need to meet certain requirements to be successful.
- John Wandsnider, City Engineer for the City of Dyersville, will be on hand to answer questions about the challenge or general engineering questions.
- This program is designed for those ages 7 and up.



JKPL Writing Group: Tuesday, February 24 @ 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 including poetry, memoir, fiction, or nonfiction. New members are welcome to join at any time. If you want to participate via Zoom, please contact the library by 5:30 pm on the day of the event.

Health & Wellness 365 with the Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging: Thursday, February 26 @ 11:15 am. Nutrition Specialist Colleen Lawler will talk about simple techniques to help improve energy levels, especially during the afternoon hours. We will discuss nutritious foods that can naturally boost energy and share practical tips for staying active throughout the day. There will be food samples to try. All are welcome.



Evergreens & Tea: Thursday, February 26 from 6:00—7:30 pm

Join Dubuque County Conservation in learning about evergreen trees found here in Eastern Iowa. Be ready to learn about the differences between cedars, spruces, pines, and other evergreens. We will also be creating a pine needle tea to taste during our presentation and you'll take home another recipe to try on your own. For ages 12 and up. Registration is encouraged as a minimum of 8 participants is required for this event to be held. Register by calling the library or signing up online. This program was



Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser: “Murder at the Fish Fly Club”: Saturday, February 28 @ 6:30 pm

Join us at the Dyersville Social Center for a night of mystery, music, and mayhem in the wild and romantic era of the roaring '20's! The show will be performed by the Brew Ha Ha Players and the meal will be catered by J&D Catering.

- Tickets are \$75.00 each or a group of six (6) for \$400.00.
- **Seating is limited and tickets must be purchased before February 18.**
- Doors open at 5:45 pm and the performance starts promptly at 6:30 pm.
- Themed dress is welcome!
- Show description, menu, and more details can be found at <https://www.dyersville.lib.ia.us/events/murder-mystery-dinner-fundraiser>



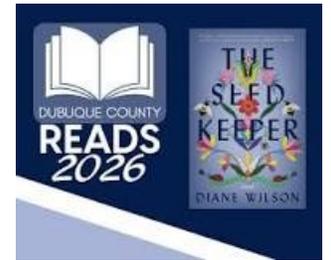
LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday thru Thursday: 9:00 am—8:00 pm / Friday: 9:00 am—5:00 pm / Saturday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm / Sundays: 1:00—4:00 pm



Dubuque County Reads: March 1—April 23

The James Kennedy Public Library is participating in the fourth annual Dubuque County Reads (DCR) book discussion along with other libraries and organizations in the county. The purpose of the DCR 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 *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson.



DCR book discussions and events will happen at various locations around the county between February 28—April 23. There will be 12 book discussions, 2 special events, and 4 related storytimes for children. Feel free to attend any and all discussions and events, at any location. All events are free and open to the public.

- The JKPL will hold a book discussion on Monday, March 16 at 6:00 pm.
- The JKPL will hold a children’s storytime with the book *Berry Song* by Michaela Goade on Wednesday, March 25 @ 10:30 am and 6:30 pm.
- Author Diane Wilson will be at Steeple Square in Dubuque (101 East 15th Street) on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 pm.
- DCR will host a panel discussion featuring Indigenous leaders and advocates at the intersection of environmental justice and cultural survival working towards a more just and beautiful world. This event will be held at the Dubuque Museum of Art on Saturday, February 28 at 2:00 pm.

The book is available to borrow at each participating library, with the appropriate library card required. Digital copies or audiobooks may be available to borrow through your library as well. Alternatively, you can purchase a copy of the book from River Lights Bookstore in Dubuque for a discount. Each participating library has limited copies of the book to give away!

For more information about the book, a full list of participating libraries, and a schedule of all events go to: www.DBQREADS.org or scan the QR code.



**A New Lens on Dementia:
Understanding the Impact of Visual Impairment
Tuesday, March 3 @ 1:00 pm**

In this presentation, Alison Vanderpool, M.S.Ed bridges the gap between vision loss and cognitive care, offering a research-based look at how to support individuals living with both dementia and blindness. Attendees will gain insights into current statistics, evidence-based care strategies, and practical environmental adaptations designed for both professional and home-based caregivers.

**STEAMFEST
Saturday March 28 from 9:30 am—2:30 pm**

Join us at the JKPL for this special event and discover some of the exciting S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art, and music) activities available at the library! There will be different activities available throughout the day in different spaces of the library. Come for one or come for all! All ages welcome but those under the age of 7 require a teen or adult companion. More sessions might be added so check the library website for updated information on the schedule!

**Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Storytime Symphony
A Musical Journey Down the Mississippi River
Saturday, March 7 from 10:00—11:00 am**

Pack your imagination and join us for a musical adventure! Storytime Symphony takes young listeners on a journey down the mighty Mississippi River from Iowa and Illinois, past frogs and river creatures, through the Mississippi Delta, and all the way to vibrant New Orleans. The Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Storytime Symphony is geared toward young children and their families but all are welcome; children under the age of 10 need an adult companion.



**Bear Creek Carvers Open House and Demo
Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 am—2:00 pm**

Members of the Bear Creek Woodcarving Club will be at the library to demonstrate carving techniques and display their carvings. Questions are welcome! Everyone is invited.

Free Trees for Earth Day!

The JKPL is celebrating Earth Day again this spring by participating in the Annual Neighborhood Forest free tree program, whose aim is to provide free trees to kids every Earth Day.

- Parents can find more information and sign their children up to receive a tree at this link: <https://bit.ly/FreeTrees24>
- Trees (6 to 12 inches in size) will be delivered to the JKPL and families will be able to pick them up at the library around Earth Day (April 22).
- Planting instructions and species information will be emailed a few days prior to the trees arriving.
- Deadline to register is March 15.
- Donations can also be made at the same link.

February 2026

- Winter Wonderland Library Challenge Continues thru February 28
- Love My Library Fundraiser February 1—28
- Build-A-Basket Fundraiser begins February 1

- February 1-28
- Create a donut poem challenge
 - Children's Pretend Play Station & scavenger hunt
 - StoryWalk@
 - Polar bear twirler craft kits

- February 1-28
- Coloring, Creating, & Doing
 - Upcycled Cards kits
 - Get Puzzled

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am Books For Lunch @ 12pm Genealogy with Ann from 1-3pm <i>The Lion King 1 1/2</i> (G) @ 6pm	3 Tax Return Prep Assistance @ 1pm	4 Storytime @ 10:30am & 6:30pm Sit & Stitch from 1-3pm Early Out Afternoons from 4-5pm	5 Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am Kids Can Cook from 4-5:30pm <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Today is World Read Aloud Day!</div>	6 Euchre Card Party from 1-3:30pm	7 Take Your Child To The Library Day from 10am-3pm Building Creativity One Block at a Time: a LEGO® program from 10-11am <i>The Mitchells vs. The Machines</i> (PG) @ 1pm Nerf War @ 4pm
8	9 Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am Adult Crafternoon from 1-3pm Fun & Games with Paul from 3:30-5:30pm	10 A Novel Approach to Faith book club @ 7pm	11 Storytime @ 10:30am & 6:30pm Sit & Stitch from 1-3pm Early Out Afternoons from 4-5pm	12 Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am Kids Can Cook from 4-5:30pm	13 Euchre Card Party from 1-3:30pm	14 Virtual Reality from 10-11:30am Dungeons & Dragons @ 3:30pm
15	16 Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am Bingo Party from 1-3pm	17	18 Storytime @ 10:30am & 6:30pm Sit & Stitch from 1-3pm Early Out Afternoons from 4-5pm	19 Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am Kids Can Cook from 4-5:30pm Create with Audrey from 6-7:30pm	20 Create with Audrey from 10am-12:30pm Euchre Card Party from 1-3:30pm	21 <i>Wicked: For Good</i> (PG) @ 12pm Mini Golf from 4:30-6:30pm
22	23 Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am Strings Club @ 6pm	24 City Building Challenge from 3:30-5pm JKPL Writing Group @ 6:30pm	25 Storytime @ 10:30am & 6:30pm Sit & Stitch from 1-3pm Early Out Afternoons from 4-5pm	26 Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am Health & Wellness 365 @ 11:15am Kids Can Cook from 4-5:30pm Evergreens & Tea @ 6pm	27 Euchre Card Party from 1-3:30pm Game Night from 6-8pm	28 Murder Mystery Dinner @ 6pm

Upcoming Events for MARCH 2026

Free Trees for Earth Day! The JKPL is celebrating Earth Day again this spring by participating in the Annual Neighborhood Forest free tree program, whose aim is to provide free trees to kids every Earth Day. Since 2010, Neighborhood Forest has reached over 100,000 families and planted over 50,000 (mostly urban and residential) trees through the hands of children and parents across North America. The JKPL is excited to be participating in this wonderful program that teaches kids stewardship through the magic and wonder of planting and watching trees grow. Parents can find more information and sign their children up to receive a tree at this link: <https://bit.ly/FreeTrees24>. The deadline to sign up for this program is March 15. Donations can also be made at this link. Trees (6 to 12 inches in size) will be delivered to the JKPL and families will be able to pick them up around Earth Day (April 22nd). Planting instructions and species information will be emailed a few days prior to the trees arriving.

Build-A-Basket Fundraiser Silent Auction Begins: Monday, March 2. Join us for the Annual Build-A-Basket Fundraiser! Organizations, businesses, and individuals have donated some amazing baskets this year and now is your opportunity to bid on them. All items are on display in the library and a photograph with a description of contents is posted on both the library's Facebook page and website at www.dyersville.lib.ia.us. Bids can be placed in person at the library, by calling the library, or emailing librarian@dyersville.lib.ia.us. The highest bid will be listed along with the photo of the item on the library's website. This list will be updated daily. Bidding in the Silent Auction runs March 2-29 and ends promptly at 3:00 pm on Sunday, March 29. All funds raised are used to support library programs, collections, and services.

Dubuque County Reads: March 1-April 23. The James Kennedy Public Library is participating in the fourth annual Dubuque County Reads (DCR) book discussion along with other libraries and organizations in the county. The purpose of the DCR 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 2026 is *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson. This is a haunting novel spanning several generations that follows a Dakhóta family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most.

DCR book discussions and events will happen at various locations around the county between February 28—April 23. There will be 12 book discussions, 2 special events, and 4 related storytimes for children. Feel free to attend any and all discussions and events, at any location. All events are free and open to the public.

1. The JKPL will hold a book discussion on Monday, March 16 at 6:00 pm.
2. The JKPL will hold a children's storytime with the book *Berry Song* by Michaela Goade on Wednesday, March 25 @ 10:30 am. A limited number of copies of *Berry Song* are available to give away to those attending storytime.
3. Author Diane Wilson will be at Steeple Square in Dubuque (101 East 15th Street) on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 pm.
4. DCR will host a panel discussion, *Indigenous Voices: Land, Water, & Justice*, featuring Indigenous leaders and advocates at the intersection of environmental justice and cultural survival working towards a more just and beautiful world. This event will be held at the Dubuque Museum of Art on Saturday, February 28 at 2:00 pm.

Each library has copies of *The Seed Keeper* to give away to those interested. Otherwise, the book is available to borrow at each participating library, with the appropriate library card required. Digital copies or audiobooks may be available to borrow through your library as well. Alternatively, you can purchase a copy of the book from River Lights Bookstore in Dubuque for a discount. For more information about the book, a full list of participating libraries, and a schedule of all events go to: www.DBQREADS.org or scan the QR code.

Children's Pretend Play Station: School: March 1-31. Area families are invited to come to the library and explore what it has to offer in School play!

Children's Scavenger Hunt: Alphabet Letters: March 1-31. Area children and their families are encouraged to participate in our "Alphabet Letters" scavenger hunt to earn a special prize! One prize per child per library visit.

Kids Can Craft: Alphabet Letter Robot: March 1-31. Kids of all ages are invited to stop in the library to build and color a Alphabet Letter Robot. Then turn your creation in at the front desk for an entry into the drawing for one of several Easter prize baskets! Limit is one entry per day. The winners will be announced in early April.

Creation Station Craft: Polka Dot Snail: March 1-31. 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 Polka Dot Snail made with a popsicle stick, a pipe cleaner, and coding dot stickers. Kits include how-to instructions plus all needed supplies except for glue, tape, and scissors. 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: March 1-31. 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: March 1-31. The JKPL is continuing to offer coloring pages, dot to dot, crosswords, sudoku, and other activity pages 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: March 1-31. Stop in the library this month to help us put together a new jigsaw puzzle. This month's puzzle is *Iconic Landmarks of Ireland*. 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.

Adult Craft Kit: Fiddle Key Rings: March 1-31. Stop in and craft in the Creation Station at the library or grab a kit and create at home! This month's craft is fiddle key rings - a series of key rings hooked together and threaded with beads that you can fiddle with. These can be made into a keychain, a bookmark, or a bracelet! Kits include how-to instructions plus all needed supplies. A video demonstration will also be available to view on the JKPL Facebook and YouTube channel. Kits available at the front desk while supplies last. This kit is for adults only.

Westside Park StoryWalk®: "10 Dogs" by Emily Gravett: March 1-31. 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.

Strength Training for Older Adults: Mondays and Thursdays, March 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26 & 30 @ 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.

Books for Lunch Book Discussion: Monday, March 2 @ 12:00 noon. This group gathers on the first Monday of each month at noon. This month the group will discuss *The Life Impossible* by Matt Haig. Copies of the book are available to borrow from the library. Participants are welcome to attend in person or remotely via Zoom. The Zoom room is opened upon request. New members are welcome to join at any time. If you plan to attend via Zoom, 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.

Genealogy with Ann: Monday, March 2 from 1:00-3:00 pm. Staff member Ann will be on hand to help you start, or continue to work on, your five-generation ancestor chart. Ann will also share information on free websites good for genealogy research. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own laptop, if they have one. Some library laptops will be available for use. Appointments with Ann can be made if that is more convenient.

“Superman” – An All-Abilities Movie Event: Monday, March 2 @ 5:30 pm. Superman must reconcile his alien Kryptonian heritage with his human upbringing as reporter Clark Kent. As the embodiment of truth, justice and the human way he soon finds himself in a world that views these as old-fashioned. This is the 2025 movie. Rated PG-13 (130 min.) Refreshments provided. Those under the age of 10 need an adult companion. Please note that this film may be shown with closed captioning enabled, ambient light and potentially other sensory friendly adjustments.

A New Lens on Dementia: Understanding the Impact of Visual Impairment: Tuesday, March 3 @ 1:00 pm: In this presentation, Alison Vanderpool, M.S.Ed bridges the gap between vision loss and cognitive care, offering a research-based look at supporting individuals living with both dementia and blindness. Attendees will gain insights into current statistics, evidence-based care strategies, and practical environmental adaptations designed for both professional and home-based caregivers.

Storytime: Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 @ 10:30 am & 6:30 pm. Join Ms. Andrea for Storytime, where children are introduced to two or three books, rhymes, songs and a movement activity. Storytime is open to all ages and abilities but geared for those 1-6 years old. An adult companion is required. No registration required. Storytime will be held weekly through March 25 and resumes April 15.

Sit & Stitch: Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 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. The Zoom room is opened upon request. New members are welcome to join at any time. If you 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.

Early Out Afternoons: Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 3:30-4:30 pm. School's out early on Wednesdays, so head to the library every week for special activities geared toward kids of all ages! (Children under age 7 are welcome but must attend with a teen or adult companion). The dates and activities are: March 4-Paper/Yarn Weaving; March 11-LEGO Club; March 18- Sticker Paint Gumball Machine; and March 25-Book Bingo.

Kids Can Cook: Thursdays, March 5, 12 & 19 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. The menu for March is Muesli (5th), Takeout Style Sesame Noodles (12th), and Vegetable Stir Fry (19th). Classes will also be held in April. Registration for each session 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: Fridays, March 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 1:00-3:30 pm. Join us Friday afternoons for Euchre in the Hoffman Room. Come meet, teach, and play with other players.

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra's Storytime Symphony: A Musical Journey Down the Mississippi River: Saturday, March 7 @ 10:00 am. Pack your imagination and join us for a musical adventure! Storytime Symphony takes young listeners on a journey down the mighty Mississippi River - from Iowa and Illinois, past frogs and river creatures, through the Mississippi Delta, and all the way to vibrant New Orleans. Featuring engaging stories, lively music, and interactive moments, this 45-minute program introduces children to orchestral music through storytelling and sound. This program is geared toward young children and their families but all are welcome; however, children under the age of 10 need an adult companion.

Movies @ Your Library presents "Rental Family": Saturday, March 7 @ 1:00 pm. A down-and-out actor living in Tokyo is hired as a token American guy for a Japanese rental-family company, leading him on an unexpected journey of self-discovery through the roles he plays in other people's lives. Stars Brendan Fraser. Rated PG-13 (110 minutes).

Dungeons & Dragons Players Club: Saturday, March 7 @ 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.

Fun and Games with Paul: Dungeons & Dragons: Monday, March 9 from 3:30-5:30 pm. Drop in at this monthly gathering to play a game with Paul. This month, come learn to play *Dungeons and Dragons*. Paul will teach players the basics of the game and play through a short scenario. Guests are welcome to come and go as they are able. 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 10 need an adult companion.

Inspirational Fiction: A Novel Approach to Faith Book Club: Tuesday, March 10 @ 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 *Just For The Summer* by Melody Carlson. 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 email dschrandt@dyersville.lib.ia.us by 6pm on the day of the program so a link to the Zoom room can be emailed to you.

Mock-A-Movie Night for Teens: Friday, March 13 @ 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 *Madam Web* (PG-13) – a terrible movie involving Spider-man characters. Refreshments will be provided. For ages 12-18 only.

St. Patrick's Day parade: Saturday, March 14 @ 1:30 pm. Library will stay open until 3:30 pm.

Bingo Party: Monday, March 16 from 1:00-3:00 pm. Come enjoy bingo at the JKPL! There is a two-card limit, there is no cost to play, and there are prizes! Registration is recommended as space is limited. Bring your friends!

Create with Audrey - Decorate a Coaster: Thursday, March 19 from 6:00-7:30 pm and Friday, March 20 from 10:00 am-12:30 pm. Join Audrey on the 3rd Thursday and Friday of

each month to create a cool craft or art project. This month we will be decorating coasters. This program is intended for adults of all-abilities. Children over the age of 10 may attend with an adult companion.

Bear Creek Carvers Open House and Demo: Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Members of the Bear Creek Woodcarving Club will be at the library to demonstrate carving techniques and display their carvings. Questions are welcome! Everyone is invited to stop in during this open house and view the carvers and their work.

Building Creativity One Block at a Time: a LEGO® program: Saturday, March 21 from 10:00-11:00 am. Join us for this monthly LEGO® program that is for children of all ages. Those under the age of 7 must be accompanied by an adult or older partner. 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. Sponsored by DuTrac Community Credit Union.

Fun with VR: Sunday, March 22 from 1:30-2:30 pm. Come try out some of the VR games you can access with the library's Metaquest VR headsets. Come check out the ocean, play some drums and much more! Feel free to drop in as you are able. For ages 12 and up.

Strings Club: Monday, March 23 @ 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. Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome as space allows. Please contact the library to register.

JKPL Writing Group: Tuesday, March 24 @ 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 including poetry, memoir, fiction, or nonfiction. New members are welcome to join at any time. If you want to participate via Zoom, please contact the library by 5:30 pm on the day of the event.

Dubuque County Reads Storytime: Wednesday, March 25 @ 10:30 am. Join Ms. Andrea for a special storytime that focuses on celebrating the Dubuque County Reads children's story, *Berry Song* by Michaela Goade. Every family who attends this special storytime receives a free copy of *Berry Song* to keep! This program is open to all ages and abilities but geared for those 1-6 years old. An adult companion is required. No registration required.

Health & Wellness 365 with the Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging: Thursday, March 26 @ 11:15 am. Presented by NEI3A Nutrition Specialist Colleen Lawler. There will be food samples to try. All are welcome.

Game Night @ Your Library: Friday, March 27 from 6:00-8:00 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 Friday of every month. All ages welcome but those under the age of 7 need a teen or adult companion.

STEAMFEST: Saturday March 28 from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. Join us at the JKPL for this special event and discover some of the exciting S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art, and music) activities available at the library! There will be different activities available throughout the day in different spaces of the library. Activities planned include a STEAM themed storytime, marble painting, robots, circuits, button making, Shrinky dinks, balloon powered cars, games and more. Come for one or come for all! All ages welcome but those under the age of 7 require a teen or adult companion.

Friends Used Book Sale: Saturday, March 28 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Did you miss the winter sale? Here is your chance. Join us for this Friends of the Library used book sale in the basement

of the James Kennedy Public Library. Come check out the variety of items including books, movies, audios and more!

Build-A-Basket Fundraiser Closing Reception: Sunday, March 29 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! 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.