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**James Kennedy Public Library
Report to the Mayor and City Council
December 15, 2025**

Highlights from the Librarian's Report to the Board of Trustees for November 2025 are:

- 6,487 items were checked out. This is a 12.25% decrease from November 2024. Fiscal year to date, circulation is up 4.2%.
- 23 library cards were issued to new patrons. Fiscal year to date, 138 new library cards have been issued.
- 92 programs were offered in person, virtually, remotely, and as activity kits. 2,188 people engaged with these activities.
- Four public access computers and three children's computers were available and were used for 179 hours and 408 sessions. Year to date computers were used for 1,014 hours and 2,165 sessions.
- WiFi Use: 977 sessions, 843 visits, and 330 unique users. Year to date WiFi use included 5,424 sessions, 4,559 visits, and 1,083 unique users.
- There were 4,291 library visits. Year to date visits are up 3%.

Upcoming Events:

Enclosed please find a copy of the December events schedule, as well as a preliminary schedule of activities planned for January. Some of the events scheduled include a presentation on living with dementia presented by Dementia Friendly Iowa, a holiday music program presented by local musicians, and a mitten story time with a fur filled giant mitten and a program on evergreen trees – both presented by the Dubuque County Conservation. The Layette Quilt Display and Sale, in partnership with the Dyersville Layette group runs until December 23, the annual Soup fundraiser is scheduled for January 12, and tickets for the jigsaw puzzle fundraiser at Textile Brewing on January 22 are available to purchase starting December 15.

Prepared by: Shirley Vonderhaar, Library Director

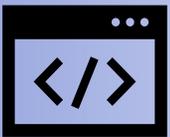
JAMES KENNEDY PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTHLY REPORT

Librarian's report to the Board of Trustees

Month: November-25
 YTD: July-25 to November-25
 Previous YTD: July-24 to November-24

	Library visits		Items loaned		Library cards issued		
					City resident	Total	
Month	4291	(↓ 10.3%)	6487	(↓ 12.2%)	13	23	(↑ 9.5%)
YTD	26041	(↑ 3%)	40644	(↑ 4.2%)	89	138	(↓ 0%)

Website traffic



Visits	Average visit duration
995	1:11



Computer use



Month	Hours		Month	Sessions	
	YTD	Prev. YTD		YTD	Prev. YTD
179	1014	1078	408	2165	2219

Wifi use



Sessions		Visits		Unique visitors	
Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
977	5424	843	4559	330	1083

Meeting room use



Month	YTD	Prev. YTD
77	445	315

Online Learning

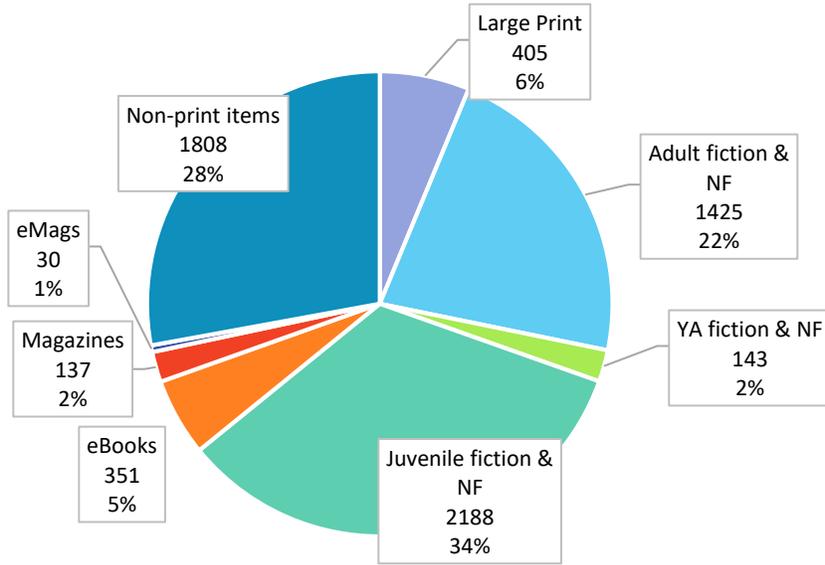
Sessions: 22

YTD: 668

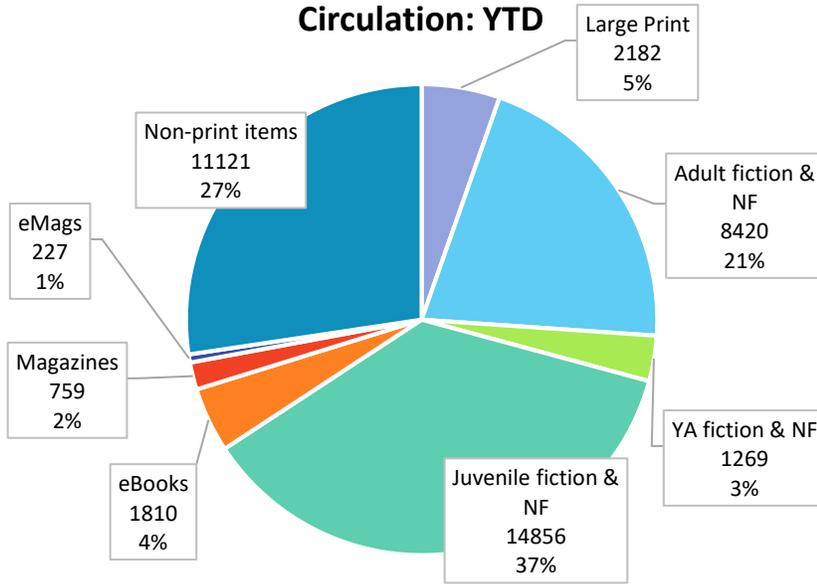



Circulation

Circulation: Month



Circulation: YTD



Non-print items	Month	YTD
eAudio	613	3341
Adult & YA audio	63	470
Juvenile audio & kits	12	109
Adult & YA video	581	3820
Juvenile video & DVD	250	1632
Games, LoT, etc.	289	1749
	1808	11121

Music

Downloads: 4
Total YTD: 15



Video (film and TV)

Downloads: 13
YTD: 73



Visits: 141
YTD: 845



Languages

Sessions: 30
YTD: 203



Genealogy

Visits: 311
YTD: 1420



World Culture

Visits: 0
YTD: 30



Hobbies

Sessions: 15
YTD: 50



Sessions: 0
YTD: 0



Collection

Items purchased

Month: 251
 YTD: 1145

Items donated

Month: 13
 YTD: 198
 Prev. YTD: 402

Items withdrawn

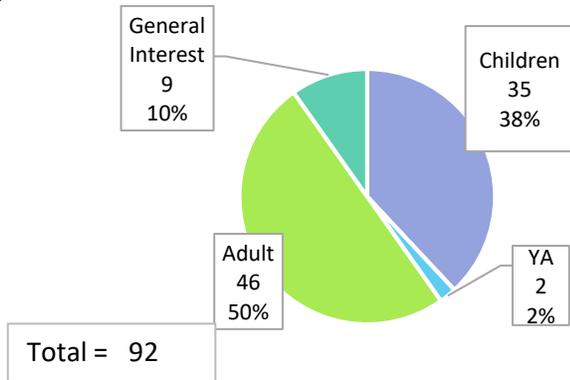
	Month	YTD
Books	314	1227
Audio	1	3
Video	3	441
Other	0	59
Total	318	1730

Summary of additions

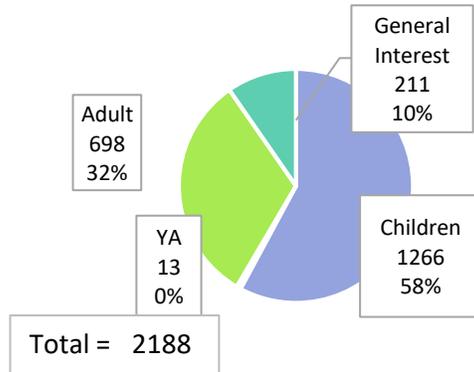
	Large print	Adult fiction	Adult & YA NF	YA fiction	Juvenile fiction	Juvenile NF	eBook & eAudio	Adult & YA audio	Juvenile audio	Adult & YA video	Juvenile video	CDs, games, misc.	Total
Current month	16	64	26	7	72	17	13	3	0	30	4	12	264
Previous month	20	57	33	17	75	15	9	4	0	27	26	5	288
Current YTD	73	360	146	88	351	38	57	17	2	142	30	39	1343
Previous YTD	121	423	196	78	336	91	46	29	1	155	49	25	1550

Programs

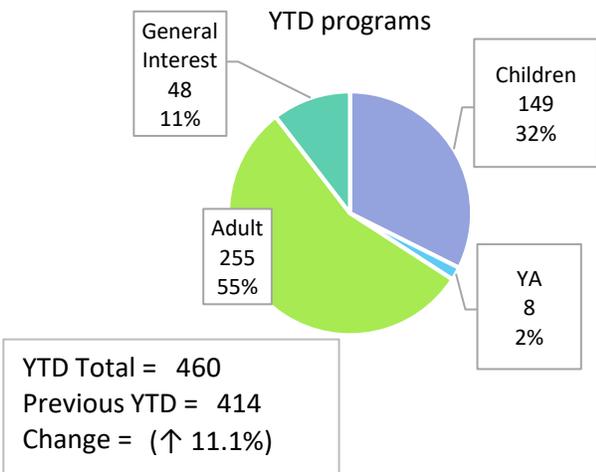
Monthly programs



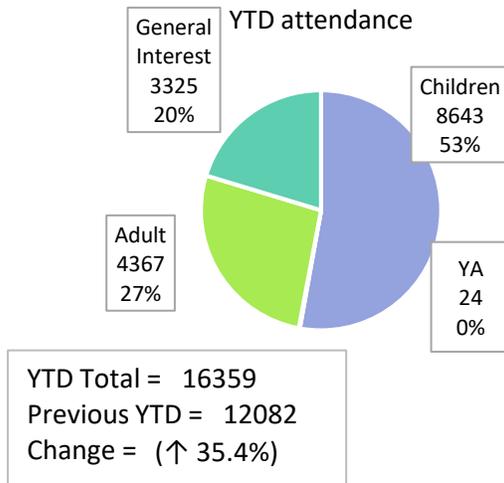
Monthly attendance



YTD programs



YTD attendance



DECEMBER 2025

Children's Pretend Play Station: Ice Cream: December 1—31. Area families are invited to come to the library and explore what it has to offer in Ice Cream Shop play!



Children's Scavenger Hunt: Ice Cream: December 1—31. Area children and their families are encouraged to participate in our "Ice Cream" scavenger hunt to earn a sticker! One sticker per child per library visit.

Kids Can Craft: Create a Snow Pet Challenge: December 1—31. Kids of all ages are invited to stop in the library to create a snow pet. Every design turned in qualifies artists for an entry into the drawing for a prize basket but is limited to one entry per day. Winner will be announced in early January.

Creation Station Craft: Beaded Tree Ornament: December 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 tree ornament made out of pipe cleaners and beads. The kit includes most of the needed supplies and how-to 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: December 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: December 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: December 1—31. Stop in the library this month to help us put together a new jigsaw puzzle. This month's puzzle is *The Perfect Tree*. 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®: "Snowflakes on Our Tongues" by Mike Ornstein: December 1—January 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.*



Layette Quilt Display and Sale Continues: December 1—23

The James Kennedy Public Library has partnered with the Dyersville Layette Ladies to share with you the work and talent of the Layette Ladies as well as raise some funds for both organizations. Several layette, lap size, and larger quilts that were made by the Layette Ladies continue to be on display at the library thru December 23. These quilts are available to purchase starting at \$25.00 (larger sizes are more) and proceeds will be split between the Layette Ladies and the JKPL. Photographs of the quilts are posted on the library's website and Facebook page.



Strength Training for Older Adults: Mondays and Thursdays, December 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22 & 29 @ 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, December 1 @ 12:00 noon. This group gathers on the first Monday of each month at noon. This month the group will discuss *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman. 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, December 1 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.

"Elf"—an All-Abilities Movie Event: Monday, December 1 @ 6:00 pm. After accidentally falling into Santa Claus' gift sack, a human baby is raised at the North Pole, growing up to believe he is an elf. Due to his large size, the "elf" causes chaos in Santa's workshop, forcing Kris Kringle to send him on a mission to find his human roots. Rated PG (97 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.



Storytime: Wednesdays, December 3, 10 & 17 @ 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 needed.



Sit & Stitch: Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17 & 31 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@dymersville.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.

Tween Craft Afternoons: Wednesdays, December 3, 10 & 17 from 4:00—5:00 pm. Children ages 8-12 are invited to the JKPL Creation Station for a weekly craft that introduces popular art trends, art concepts, artists, and/or techniques. The dates and themes are: December 3-Button Wreath; December 10-Kandinsky Tree; and December 17-Ornament Painting. Tween Craft Afternoons will resume on January 7.

Celebrate National Cookie Day: Thursday, December 4 from 10:00 am—7:30 pm. National Cookie Day is a day set aside to celebrate the joy of cookies. All cookies! Stop by the JKPL today to enjoy a cookie. Vote for your favorite cookie flavor between December 4 and 20 to enter your name in a drawing for a plate of homemade cookies. Pick up a special activity packet and join us in celebrating all things cookie! Packets will be available while supplies last.



Health & Wellness 365 with the Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging: Thursday, December 4 @ 11:15 am. Nutrition Specialist Colleen Lawler will be at the library to talk about nutrition over the holidays. There will also be food samples to try! All are welcome.

Sustainability & Conservation at Home: Thursday, December 4 @ 6:00 pm

Join us at the JKPL and listen to one of Dubuque County Conservation naturalists talk about steps to live a more sustainable life.

- Learn about, and see, sustainable products and simple DIY projects.
- Learn about the best ways to repurpose items, how to watch out for greenwashing, and learn how to implement these practices into your life.
- All ages welcome, but those under the age of 16 need an adult companion.
- Registration is requested by 12:00 pm on December 3 as a minimum of 10 participants is needed for this program to be held. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows.



Euchre Card Party: Fridays, December 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 1:00—3:30 pm. Join us Friday afternoons for Euchre in the Hoffman Room. Come meet, teach, and play with other players.

Cookie Walk Fundraiser: Friday, December 5 from 1:00—5:00 pm & Saturday, December 6 from 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Craving some special treats but don't have time to bake for yourself? Come to the library for the annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser!

- Guests will be able to purchase a dozen items for \$8.00 (or 24 for \$15.00).
- Choose from a delicious assortment of homemade treats to be placed on a plate, covered, and decorated with a bow.
- Cookies will be stored away from the public and handled only by staff and volunteers working the event.
- Prepackaged plates will be available while supplies last.



Snowball Fight Storytime: Saturday, December 6 @ 10:30 am. Ready to enjoy some snowy stories and snowballs? Come to Miss Andrea's special snowy storytime! Listen to a couple of snow-themed stories then enjoy an indoor snowball fight at the end! All ages welcome but those under the age of 7 need a teen or adult companion.



JKPL at the Merry Mingle Market: Saturday, December 6 from 12:00—4:00 pm

When visiting the market, be sure to stop by the JKPL pop-up library and check out the craft kits, the pop-up library, and the cookies!

Pop-Up Library

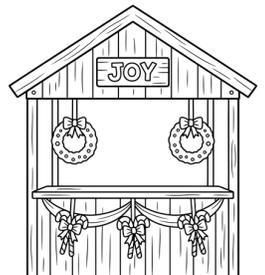
Learn more about the library and select a free book to keep. There will be books for all ages available.

Ice Fishing for Kids' Craft Kits

Come fish for kids' craft kits at our ice fishing pond! *Craft kits are sponsored by Tim & Angela English.*

Cookies and Cocoa

A variety of plated homemade cookies and sweet treats will be available to buy. Each plate will include 12 items and will be covered and decorated with a colorful bow. Cost is \$8.00 per plate. Want something to grab and go? Individual cookies will be for sale for \$1.00 each and hot cocoa for \$2.00 a cup.



Adult Crafternoon: Photograph Christmas Ornament: Monday, December 8 from 1:00—3:00 pm. Join us this month to make a Christmas ornament with a photograph in it. 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. The instructional video for how to do the craft will be posted on both the library's Facebook and YouTube pages and kits will be available while supplies last.

Inspirational Fiction: A Novel Approach to Faith Book Club: Tuesday, December 9 @ 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 *Tea with Elephants* by Robin Jones Gunn. 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.

National Cocoa Day Celebration: Saturday, December 13 from 10:00 am—3:00 pm. This time of year many people crave the sweet, dark, creamy beverage known as hot cocoa and this is a perfect occasion to indulge yourself! Stop by the library and enjoy a hot cup of cocoa from our cocoa bar while enjoying your local library.



Building Creativity One Block at a Time: a LEGO® program: Saturday, December 13 from 10:00—11:00 am. This LEGO® program is part of a monthly LEGO® building block program at the library sponsored by DuTrac Community Credit Union. This program is for all ages but children under 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.



Family Movies @ Your Library presents "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever": Saturday, December 13 @ 1:00 pm. When the notorious Herdman siblings, the worst kids in town, crash the annual Christmas pageant auditions looking for snacks, they unexpectedly land the lead roles. First-time director Grace, along with her family, must manage both the unruly children and angry townspeople, leading to chaos that ultimately reveals the real spirit of Christmas. Rated PG (114 minutes).



Dungeons & Dragons Players Club: Saturday, December 13 @ 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 the day of the program at Pzurawski@dyersville.lib.ia.us so the server invite can be sent to you.

Old Fashioned Christmas: Sunday, December 14 from 1:30—3:30 pm

The entire family is invited for an afternoon of live music, traditional Christmas carols, cookies, and spiced cider at the Dyer-Botsford House in Dyersville. Prizes will be given out in a drawing. All ages welcome, but children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. This event is sponsored by the Senior Advisory Committee of the JKPL and the Dyersville Area Historical Society.



Bingo Party: Monday, December 15 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!

Become A Dementia Friend: Tuesday, December 16 @ 1:00 pm

Join a growing movement of people like you who are helping fellow community members live with dementia! Become a Dementia Friend by attending this one-hour informational session to learn about living with dementia, and the simple things you can do to support someone living with the disease. Led by Nancy Fett from Dementia Friendly Iowa. All are welcome.



Create with Audrey—Rubber Band Bracelets: Thursday, December 18 from 6:00—7:30 pm & Friday, December 19 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Join Audrey at the JKPL on the 3rd Thursday and Friday of each month to create a cool craft or art project. This month we will be making rubber band bracelets with charms. The rubber bands are neon colored and latex free. 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.

Mock-A-Movie Night for Teens: Friday, December 19 @ 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 *Kraven the Hunter* (PG-13) – a terrible movie involving *Spider-Man* characters. Refreshments will be provided. For ages 12-18.



Christmas Movies @ Your Library presents "Last Christmas": Saturday, December 20 @ 1:00 pm. A dysfunctional young woman working as Santa's elf at a year-round Christmas store in London finds her life taking an unexpectedly optimistic turn after becoming romantically entangled with a handsome and mysterious stranger over the holiday season. Rated PG-13 (103 minutes).



Nerf War @ Your Library: Saturday, December 20 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.

Live Holiday Music: Sunday, December 21 @ 2:00 pm

Join us at the JKPL for this special holiday event featuring local musicians! Sue Engelbrecht, Phil Kramer, Gary & Chris Bramel, Joe & Ken Schmitt, and Steve Dikkers will perform some seasonal favorites to get you in the holiday spirit. Refreshments provided.



Strings Club: Monday, December 22 @ 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. **NOT MEETING THIS MONTH!**

“The Mitten” Storytime with Dubuque County Conservation: Tuesday, December 23 @ 10:00 am

Do you love mittens and furry animals? Join a Dubuque County Conservation naturalist to listen to Jan Brett’s *The Mitten* storybook then climb into a HUGE mitten to touch the fur of different animals! All ages are welcome. No registration required.



Christmas Hours:

Library closes @ 5:00 pm: Tuesday, December 23

Library closed: Wednesday, December 24—Thursday, December 25



Family New Year Celebration Activity Kit: Friday, December 26. Looking for ways to celebrate New Year’s Noon, or New Year’s Eve, with the family? Stop by the library and grab one of our New Year’s Activity Kits! Each kit will come with multiple activities for the whole family. These kits will be available to pick up starting December 26th and will be available while supplies last.

Game Night @ Your Library: Friday, December 26 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 (*Note: new day/time*). All ages welcome but those under the age of 7 need a teen or adult companion.

JKPL Writing Group: Tuesday, December 30 @ 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.

New Year’s Hours:

Library closes @ 5:00 pm: Wednesday, December 31

Library closed: Thursday, January 1



Back by popular demand!

**Fit the Pieces Jigsaw Puzzle Fundraiser
Thursday, January 22 from 6:00—8:00 pm**

Join us in celebrating National Puzzle Day at this fundraising event to support the JKPL! This event will be held at Textile Brewery. Teams of up to 4 individuals can buy a table for \$60.00 which includes a 500-piece puzzle. Complete the puzzle first to win! Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place. Be sure to bring some cash to buy some fun twists like freezing the competition, making them wear gloves, putting them in jail and more—with all proceeds going to the library! Participation is limited to 15 teams. Textile Brewery will donate 10% of food sales during the event to the JKPL. All proceeds will benefit the James Kennedy Public Library. **Tickets on sale December 15.**

Save the Date!

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

The JKPL is excited to announce the 2026 Mystery Dinner Fundraiser! Join us for a night of mystery and intrigue in the wild and romantic era of the roaring ‘20’s! The show will be performed by the Brew Ha Ha Players, the meal will be catered by J & D Catering, and the event will be held at the Dyersville Social Center. Snow date is March 7. Themed dress is welcome! Tickets are \$75.00 per person or a group of six (6) for \$400.00. Seating is limited and tickets must be purchased in advance. These tickets make a good holiday gift! **Tickets on sale December 10!**

Save the Date!

**Soup Lunch and Dinner Fundraiser
Monday, January 12
11:30 am —1:00 pm & 4:30—6:30 pm**

Enjoy a bowl of homemade chili or chicken noodle soup. Or make it a meal with crackers, roll, and a cookie. Again this year, we are offering carryout service for lunch as well as dinner. Final details to be announced.



Teen Quiz Bowl
Saturday, January 3 @ 4:00 pm

Want to test your knowledge and try to win some prizes? Join us for a Library Teen Quiz Bowl! The game will consist of 3 rounds consisting of 2 questions on each of the core subjects which include Arts, Literature, Science, Pop Culture, and History. Participants can sign up for one of three teams (Max 6 players per team). Registration is requested, and walk-ins are welcome if there is space on a team. For ages 13-18 only. Spectators are welcome! This program is sponsored by TACKL.

Registration for Kids Can Cook Begins
Monday, January 5

Kids Can Cook will teach kids ages 10-12 basic kitchen skills and how to make healthy food choices. 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.
- 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.

***Home Alone*—an All-Abilities Movie Event**
Monday, January 5 @ 6:00 pm

Join us for this classic holiday favorite! A mischievous 8-year-old who's picked on by his older siblings and ignored by his parents would really rather be left alone—and that's exactly what happens when he gets accidentally left behind in a frenzied rush to the airport for a family vacation in Paris over the holiday season. After learning to fend for himself, the boy has to protect his house against two bumbling burglars who are planning to rob it. Rated PG (102 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.

Fun and Games with Paul: Exploding Kittens
Monday, January 12 from 3:30—5:30 pm

Drop in at this monthly gathering to play a game with Paul. Each month will feature a specific game that guests will be able to play while at the library. This month will focus on *Exploding Kittens*, a card game where players blow each other up with cats!

- Guests are welcome to come and go as their schedule permits.
- Refreshments provided.
- This program is for those age 7 and older.

Create with Audrey: Glow-In-the-Dark Rocks
Thursday, January 15 from 6:00—7:30 pm
Friday, January 16 from 10:00 am—12:30 pm

Join Audrey at the JKPL on the 3rd Thursday and Friday of each month to create a cool craft or art project. This month we will be decorating rocks with neon, glow-in-the-dark paint.

- 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.

***Kobolds Ate My Baby* Role Playing Game**
Friday, January 16 @ 6:00 pm

Join us after-hours for *Kobolds Ate My Baby*, a role playing game with simple rules and lots of shenanigans. The library will have completed character sheets available. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Evergreens & Tea
Tuesday, January 20 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.

Used Book Sale
Friday, January 23 thru Monday, January 26

Join us for the Friends of the Library used book sale, which will be held in the basement of the James Kennedy Public Library. Bags of books are \$2.00 on Monday, the last day of the sale. Hours are:

Friday, January 23: 9:00 am—5:00 pm
Saturday, January 24: 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Sunday, January 25: 1:00—4:00 pm
Monday, January 26: 9:00 am—6:00 pm

Antique Children's Book Sale
Saturday, January 24 from 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Visit the Library to peruse a donated collection of antique children's picture books from the 1960s through the late 1990s. Enjoy the memories of bygone books, and support the library by purchasing some for your own collection. Books will be priced to sell at \$5 each, but the memories, laughs, and potential finds are priceless!

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Layette Quilt Sale continues through December 23!</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am</p> <p>Books For Lunch @ 12pm</p> <p>Genealogy with Ann from 1-3pm</p> <p><i>Elf</i> (PG) @ 6pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Storytime @ 10:30am & 6:30pm</p> <p>Sit & Stitch from 1-3pm</p> <p>Tween Craft Afternoon from 4-5pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Celebrate National Cookie Day!</p> <p>Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am</p> <p>Health & Wellness 365 @ 11:15am</p> <p>Sustainability & Conservation @ 6pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Euchre Card Party from 1-3:30pm</p> <p>Cookie Walk from 1-5pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Cookie Walk from 9am-3pm</p> <p>Snowball Fight Storytime @ 10:30am</p> <p>JKPL at Merry Mingle Market from 12-4pm</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am</p> <p>Adult Crafternoon from 1-3pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>A Novel Approach to Faith book club @ 7pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Storytime @ 10:30am & 6:30pm</p> <p>Sit & Stitch from 1-3pm</p> <p>Tween Craft Afternoon from 4-5pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Euchre Card Party from 1-3:30pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Celebrate National Cocoa Day from 10am-3pm</p> <p>Building Creativity One Block at a Time: a LEGO® program from 10-11am</p> <p><i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i> (PG) @ 1pm</p> <p>Dungeons & Dragons @ 3:30pm</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Old Fashioned Christmas from 1:30-3:30pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bingo Party from 1-3pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Become a Dementia Friend @ 1pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Storytime @ 10:30am & 6:30pm</p> <p>Sit & Stitch from 1-3pm</p> <p>Tween Craft Afternoon from 4-5pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am</p> <p>Rubber Band Bracelets from 6-7:30pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Rubber Band Bracelets from 10am-12:30pm</p> <p>Euchre Card Party from 10am-12:30pm</p> <p>Mock-A-Movie Night @ 6pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>The Last Christmas</i> (PG-13) @ 1pm</p> <p>Nerf War from 4-6pm</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Live Holiday Music @ 2pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>The Mitten</i> Storytime @ 10am</p> <p>Library closes @ 5pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Library closed</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Library closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Euchre Card Party from 1-3:30pm</p> <p>Game Night from 6-8pm</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Strength Training @ 9:30am & 10:30am</p>	<p>30</p> <p>JKPL Writing Group @ 6:30pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Sit & Stitch from 1-3pm</p> <p>Library closes @ 5pm</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Library closed</p>	<p><u>December 1—31</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coloring, Creating, & Doing • Upcycled Cards kits • Get Puzzled • StoryWalk® 	<p><u>December 1—31</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a snow pet challenge • Children's Pretend Play Station & scavenger hunt • Beaded Christmas Tree craft kits • New Years Kits (available December 26)

Upcoming Events - JANUARY 2026

Library closed: Thursday, January 1

Children's Pretend Play Station: Pizza Restaurant: January 2-31. Area families are invited to come to the library and explore what it has to offer in Pizza Restaurant play!

Children's Scavenger Hunt: Pizza: January 2-31. Area children and their families are encouraged to participate in our "Pizza" scavenger hunt to earn a sticker!

Kids Can Craft: Create a Pizza Person: January 2-31. Kids of all ages are invited to stop in the library to design and color a hilarious pizza person. Pepperoni wearing a wedding dress? Vegetarian in farm overalls? Be creative and have fun! Every design turned in qualifies the artist for an entry into the drawing for a prize basket. Limit is one entry per day.

Winter Wonderland Library Challenge: January 2-February 28. The JKPL is once again offering a winter library program for all ages. Details to be decided.

Creation Station Craft: January 2-31. Stop in and craft in the Creation Station at the library or grab a kit and create at home!

Upcycled Greeting Card Kits: January 2-31. 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: January 2-31. 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 desk.

Get Puzzled @ Your Library: January 2-31. Stop in the library this month to help us put together a new jigsaw puzzle. This month's puzzle is *Home Cooking*. 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®: "Snowflakes On Our Tongues" by Mike Ornstein: January 2-31 (continued from December). 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.

Euchre Card Party: Fridays, January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 1:00-3:30 pm. Join us Friday afternoons for Euchre in the Hoffman Room. Come meet, teach, and play with other players.

Building Creativity One Block at a Time: a LEGO® program: Saturday, January 3 from 10:00-11:00 am. This LEGO® program is part of a monthly LEGO® building block program

at the library sponsored by DuTrac Community Credit Union. This program is for all ages but children under 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.

Teen Quiz Bowl: Saturday, January 3 @ 4:00 pm. Want to test your knowledge and try to win some prizes? Join us for a Library Teen Quiz Bowl! The game will consist of 3 rounds consisting of 2 questions on each of the core subjects which include Arts, Literature, Science, Pop Culture, and History. Participants can sign up for one of three teams (Max 6 players per team). Registration is requested, and walk-ins are welcome if there is space on a team. For ages 13-18 only. Spectators are welcome! This program is sponsored by TACKL.

Registration for Kids Can Cook Begins: Monday, January 5. 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. 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.*

Strength Training for Older Adults: Mondays and Thursdays, January 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26 & 29 @ 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, January 5 @ 12:00 noon. This group gathers on the first Monday of each month at noon. This month the group will discuss *The Santa Claus Girl* by Patricia Goodin. 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, January 5 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.

"Home Alone" – an All-Abilities Movie Event: Monday, January 5 @ 6:00 pm. Join us for this classic holiday favorite! A mischievous 8-year-old who's picked on by his older siblings and ignored by his parents would really rather be left alone—and that's exactly what happens when he gets

accidentally left behind in a frenzied rush to the airport for a family vacation in Paris over the holiday season. After learning to fend for himself, the boy has to protect his house against two bumbling burglars who are planning to rob it. Rated PG (102 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.

Storytime: Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28 @ 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 needed. Storytime will be held weekly through March 25.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Party, January 7 @ 7:00 pm. All children who have enrolled in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program in 2025 are invited to attend the 1000 Books Party and Graduation after our regularly scheduled evening storytime. Kids who attend the party will receive a picture book and Goldfish crackers, and graduates of the program receive a trophy!. An email invitation will be sent to participants, and all family members and siblings are welcome to attend. Adult supervision is required.

Sit & Stitch: Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28 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, January 7, 14, 21 & 28 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: January 7- Pom Pom Shooters; January 14- LEGO Club; January 21- Writing, Drawing and Coloring; and January 28- Book Bingo.

Family Movies @ Your Library presents "Freaky Friday": Saturday, January 10 @ 1:00 pm. Dr. Tess Coleman and her teenage daughter Anna have one thing in common -- they don't relate to each other on anything. Then one night a little mystic mayhem changes their lives and they wake up to the biggest freak-out ever - they are trapped inside each other's body! But Tess's wedding is Saturday and the two must find a way to switch back -- fast! Literally forced to walk in each other's shoes, will they gain respect and understanding for the other's point of view? Rated PG (97 minutes). *Join us January 24 for the sequel!*

Dungeons & Dragons Players Club: Saturday, January 10 @ 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.

Soup Lunch and Dinner Fundraiser: Monday, January 12 from 11:30 am —1:00 pm & 4:30—6:30 pm. Enjoy a bowl of homemade chili or chicken noodle soup. Again this year, we are offering carryout service for lunch as well as dinner. Lunch will be available from 11:30 am—1:00 pm and dinner will be offered from 4:30—6:30 pm (or until we run out).

Adult Crafternoon: Monday, January 12 from 1:00-3:00 pm. 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: Exploding Kittens! Monday, January 12 from 3:30-5:30 pm. Drop in at this monthly gathering to play a game with Paul. Each month will feature a specific game that guests will be able to play while at the library. This month will focus on *Exploding Kittens*, a card game where players blow each other up with cats! 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. Refreshments provided. These programs are for ages 7 and older.

Inspirational Fiction: A Novel Approach to Faith Book Club: Tuesday, January 13 @ 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 *Under the Texas Mistletoe* by Karen Witemeyer. 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.

Create with Audrey - Glow-In-the-Dark Rocks: Thursday, January 15 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm and Friday, January 16 from 10:00 am-12:30 pm. Join Audrey at the JKPL on the 3rd Thursday and Friday of each month to create a cool craft or art project. This month we will be decorating rocks with neon, glow-in-the-dark paint. 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.

Kobolds Ate My Baby Role Playing Game: Friday, January 16 @ 6:00 pm. Join us after-hours for *Kobolds Ate My Baby*, a role playing game with simple rules and lots of shenanigans. The library will have completed character sheets available. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Family Movies @ Your Library presents "Freakier Friday": Saturday, January 17 @ 1:00 pm. 22 years after Tess and Anna endured an identity crisis, Anna now has a daughter and a soon-to-be stepdaughter. As they navigate the challenges that come when two families merge, Tess and Anna discover that lightning might strike twice. Rated PG (97 minutes).

Bingo Party: Monday, January 19 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!

Health & Wellness 365 with the Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging: Thursday, January 22 @ 11:15 am. Nutrition Specialist Colleen Lawler will present. There will be food samples to try. All are welcome.

Evergreens & Tea: Tuesday, January 20 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. 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.

Fit the Pieces Jigsaw Puzzle Fundraiser: Thursday, January 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Join us in celebrating National Puzzle Day at this fundraising event to support the JKPL! This event will be held at Textile Brewery. Teams of up to 4 individuals can buy a table for \$60.00 which includes a 500-piece puzzle. Complete the puzzle first to win! Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place. Be sure to bring some cash to buy some fun twists like freezing the competition, making them wear gloves, putting them in jail and more - with all proceeds going to the library! Participation is limited to 15 teams. Textile Brewery will donate 10% of food sales during the event to the JKPL. All proceeds will benefit the James Kennedy Public Library.

Used Book Sale: Friday, January 23 thru Monday, January 26.

Join us for the Friends of the Library used book sale, which will be held in the basement of the James Kennedy Public Library. Bags of books are \$2.00 on Monday, the last day of the sale. Hours are: Friday, January 23: 9:00 am—5:00 pm; Saturday, January 24: 9:00 am—3:00 pm; Sunday, January 25: 1:00-4:00 pm; and Monday, January 26: 9:00 am—6:00 pm.

Antique Children's Book Sale: Saturday, January 24 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Visit the James Kennedy Public Library to peruse a donated collection of antique children's picture books from the 1960s through the late 1990s. Enjoy the memories of bygone books, and support the library by purchasing some for your own collection. Books will be priced to sell at \$5 each (with price reductions on each hour), but the memories, laughs, and potential finds are priceless! The funds raised at this event will help fund a wooden play structure in the library's children's area.

Game Night @ Your Library: Friday, January 23 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.

Strings Club: Monday, January 26 @ 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 encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome as space allows. Please contact the library to register.

LEGO® Builder Challenge program: Tuesday, January 27 from 3:45-4:45 pm.

Looking to challenge your LEGO® building skills? This competitive LEGO® program has participants is part of a monthly LEGO® building block program at the library sponsored by DuTrac Community Credit Union. This program is for all ages but children under 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. The winner will receive a special LEGO® related prize provided by DuTrac.

JKPL Writing Group: Tuesday, January 27 @ 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.