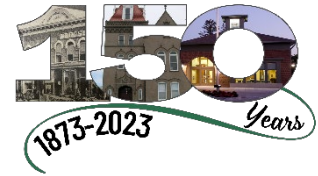




## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

**TO:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager  
**FROM:** Laura Blaker  
**DATE OF MEETING:** November 6, 2023  
**ITEM TITLE:** Department Report – Library



### IPL's Sesquicentennial Celebration

Independence was the first city in Iowa to offer a free, tax-supported public library! It began in 1873, 150 years ago!

#### Programs

The Rest of the Story: How Libraries Grew up with Iowa - Darcy Maulsby (was 10/10)

IPL: Iowa's First Free Library - Tony Bengston and Judy Olsen (was 10/26, but video recording will be made available)

Nov. 9 – Determined, Defiant, and Self Reliant - Kathy Wilson



#### Podcast

Listen to the podcast with three library staff members whose time with the Independence Public Library has been more than 75 years. Amy, Vonnie, and Laura talk about library changes, patrons, bats, and interesting memories.

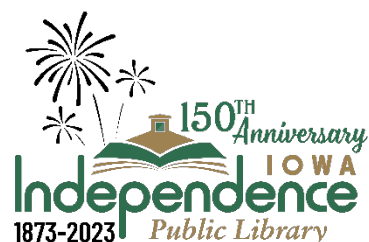
#### A Tribute to our Past: City and Library History Exhibit

The historical exhibit will start on Saturday, Nov. 4, with opening remarks by Mayor Bleichner and State Librarian, Michael Scott. It is a unique opportunity to see a timeline of Independence history with coordinating historical artifacts, articles, photos, and interesting pieces. A Tribute to our Past is open during library hours Nov. 4 – Nov. 7.

#### Faces of IPL

We are asking people to share their stories, memories, or how the library has made a difference to them. See the submissions on our website, and submit yours online or stop by the library to get a paper form.

Find out more here: <https://tinyurl.com/ipl-150years>



## Interactive Wall and Community Kiosk



Through a grant from the Buchanan County Community Foundation, the library has added an interactive wall. It is “pinnable” for our contests, questions, surveys, etc.

The counter that was in this space is now being used by the Fire Department and works well for them!

Our Community Kiosk should be ready in the new year, so we will be better able to inform people about the community, market materials and programs, provide art supplies for in-library use, and offer an online card catalog in a small space.

## LFL at school

There is a refurbished and restocked Little Free Library on school grounds. This one used to be at the corner of Liberty Trail and Trotter Trail and was vandalized frequently. This location has more light, traffic, and the school has cameras that cover this area. The school was very helpful in allowing it to be on their property and putting it up for us!



## Roof

The library’s metal roof (primarily northeast section that slopes gradually) has been leaking, and it needs to be repaired. The library has worked hard to change our budget and make adjustments to help pay for the repairs and will be taking care of more than 80% of the \$10,700 cost. Repairs will begin soon.

## Updated Strategic Plan

The library has a newly updated Strategic Plan. It is based on our pillars and values:

Wide Variety of Opportunities – Empower individuals and encourage creativity and innovation

Relevant Services – Excel in service to others

Community Partnerships – Engage in relationships and community

Enhanced Marketing – Enact proactive, relevant solutions

All of these relate to our sixth value, evaluate and improve continually. I will attach the new plan or provide copies at the City Council Meeting.