



# CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

**TO:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager  
**FROM:** Laura Blaker, Library Director  
**DATE OF MEETING:** March 2, 2026  
**ITEM TITLE:** Department Report – Library



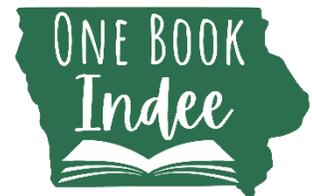
## One Book Indee

The community has been enjoying One Book Indee, our annual community reading program. This year's title is *To Catch a Storm* by Mindy Mejia, a thriller featuring a physicist and a psychic teaming up to solve two missing person's cases. Books are found at the library, Em's Coffee, S&K Collectibles, the Falcon Civic Center, Brick Kitchen, Gedney Bakery, and the Little Free Libraries.



People have been engaged in reading, discussions, and various events like an author presentation, Iowa Storm Chasers, and Undercover Investigations. There are many events to come, including an open house and tour of the airport, a program on cold cases by the Psychic Bureau of Iowa, etc.

*City Connection: Promote and encourage community involvement and engagement, Improved quality of life for everyone.*



## Proposed Legislation

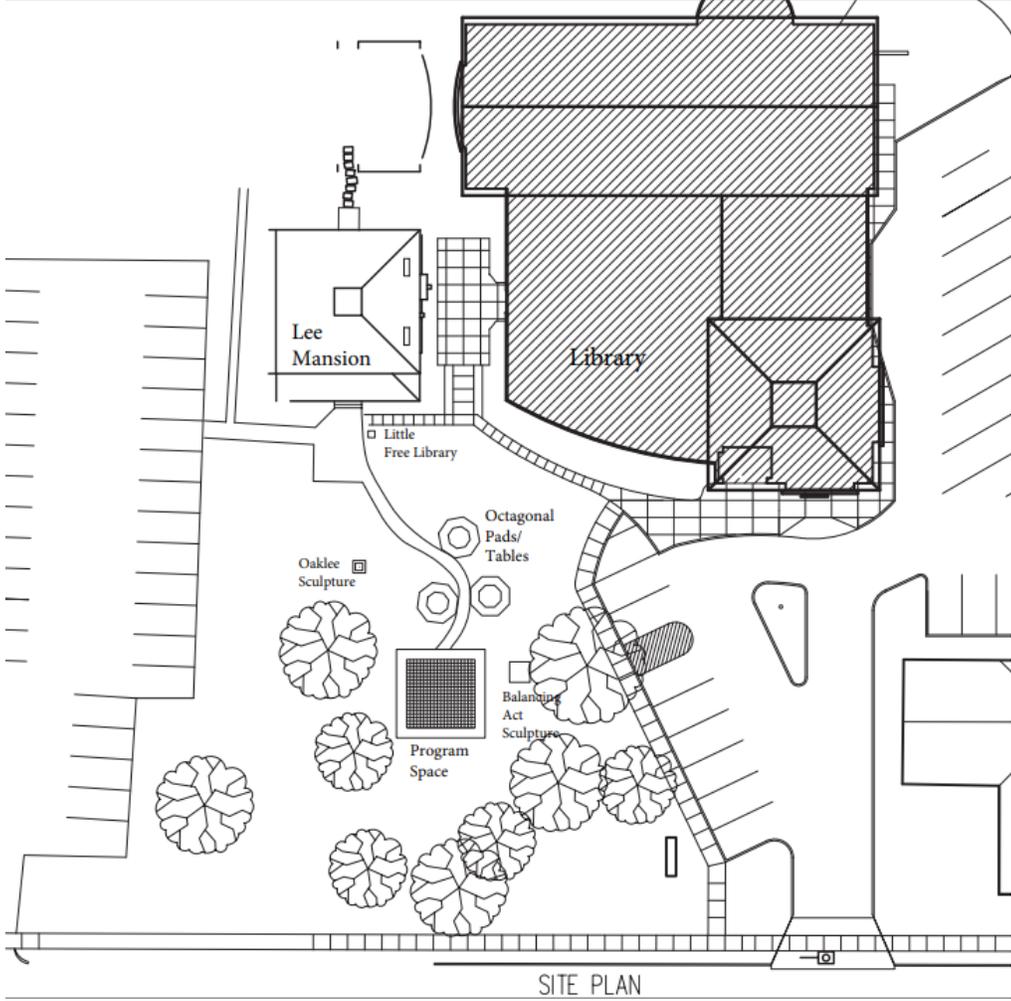
There are many threats to Iowa's cities and public libraries being discussed in the legislature. The property tax reform bills will erode cities, and especially small cities. Other states like Wyoming and Indiana, having passed similar bills, have experienced less upkeep and maintenance of parks, reduced or non-existent library services, cuts in fire departments, hiring freezes, and delayed capital projects. There are also harmful library bills that will increase burdens on libraries and cities, take rights away from parents, and increase legal liabilities.

*City Connection: threatens capacity to provide improved quality of life for everyone*

## Park Funding and Fundraiser

There is a park committee working on making decisions and acquiring funding for the green space north of the library. This is the park that has Oaklee and the Balancing Act Sculpture. So far, the group has received a matching grant from McElroy for \$6,300. We are looking at other grants with the intent of

applying for one or two of them. Also, the group is planning a fundraising event for Saturday, May 2 from 10 am – 2 pm. It will consist of the Friends Book Sale, a raffle, live music, and the sale of baked goods and other foods/drinks. Plan to attend to support the library and park improvements like improved seating, a programming space, lighting, electrical, and accessibility. The plan is currently as shown below.



*City Connection: Promote and encourage community involvement and engagement, Improved quality of life for everyone, Promote and encourage tourism and historical sites.*

Library Motto: Enriching Lives, Inspiring Growth