

OPEN+ magazine

The Cedar Rapids Public Library

Fall 2025

Large Print Edition

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From the Director:

Every few years, the library creates a new strategic plan, meant to guide our work to support our community. This year, we're also unveiling a new mission: Welcome to All.

Welcome to All is the foundation of everything we do. Built upon this foundation are our new strategic priorities for this Fiscal Year 2026-2027: Access, Connection, and Service.

You'll see that work in the programs we offer, such as a new storytelling festival we're hosting this fall with local nonprofit TellersBridge.

You'll see it in our dedication to promoting a collection that represents our community. You'll see it as we celebrate the freedom to read during Banned Books Week, Oct. 5-11, and as we work to connect more people to the library during Library Card Sign-up Month in September.

You'll see it as we continue to prepare to open a whole new library on our city's west side, because we believe all parts of our community deserve access to the best library we can offer.

You'll see it whenever you encounter the library, in the community or in our buildings, as our staff work to welcome you in and connect you to resources, whether that means finding your next favorite read, accessing technology, or developing your career at the Opportunity Center.

You'll see it in our vision: My library champions discovery, builds connections, and strengthens community.

Learn more about our new strategic plan at CRLibrary.org. In the meantime, just know that Welcome to All means we can't wait to welcome you to the library this fall.

- Dara Schmidt

Cedar Rapids Storytelling Festival

Everyone has a story – and we need to listen to each other's stories.

That's the message behind the Cedar Rapids Storytelling Festival, a new event organized by local nonprofit TellersBridge. The festival will be Oct. 1-4 at locations around Cedar Rapids, including at the Downtown Library.

"Stories are happening every second of every minute, and they're happening all around you," TellersBridge storyteller Kory May said. "Everyone has a story to tell. Everyone has multiple stories to tell."

Founded in 2019, with regular meetings since 2022, TellersBridge puts on storytelling performances around the Corridor, as well as virtual storytelling workshops anyone can participate in.

The founding members, Sue Schmitt, Gary Whitehill, Mark Latta, Kory May, Ben Trachsel, and Jamie Ward, were all Toastmasters, and they started talking about how the area needed a storytelling group. They now do two shows a month, skipping December, one at Rayo Mexican Bar & Grill in North Liberty and one at Parlor City in Cedar Rapids.

May said they model what they do off NPR storytelling shows like “The Moth,” “Snap Judgment,” and “This American Life.” He has participated in several Moth events, winning two Moth story slams and two grand slams, and telling a story at a Moth mainstage performance at the Englert in Iowa City.

Shows are a combination of curated stories and open mic, with anyone in the audience invited to get up and share. Each show has a theme – this fall’s themes include “windfall” in September, “spooked” in October, and “grace” in November. Each show is about two hours, with at least six stories told, each about 6-8 minutes long.

“We’ve played to an audience of one, and we’ve played to an audience of 45,” May said.

They also do two workshops via Zoom each month, which are free to attend. Participants workshop stories and bounce ideas off each other.

They officially became a nonprofit this spring, with the primary mission of creating a storytelling community. That

led to the idea for the festival.

At the time of this printing, the details are still being finalized, but plans include partnerships with other local organizations such as the Cedar Rapids Opera and the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. They also plan to have professional storytellers come in, workshops for storytellers, and other events. They said they want to represent a diverse set of voices.

“The whole art and act of storytelling is multi-cultural,” May said. “Every culture has an art of storytelling. It’s a reminder of our common humanity.”

Schmitt said the public library was a perfect setting for the festival – a place already filled with stories ready to transport readers into experiences and perspectives different than their own.

“Stories are windows into different worlds. You may not know what it is to be a Black man in America, but when I tell a story, you have the chance to access it,” May said. “I don’t know what it was like to grow up as a girl in Iowa during the Vietnam era, but when Sue shares a story, I can access it.”

Everyone, of all ages and backgrounds, is invited to share their story.

“We want to hear from 20-year-olds, from 30-year-olds. We once had a kid tell a story at an open mic, and that

was great,” Latta said.

Building bridges across cultures, ideologies, and other divides is one of the motivations behind the festival.

“Everybody’s got a story, everybody’s got a voice,” Schmitt said. “We all need to be talking to each other. We think storytelling is especially vital to our community ... I think it is timely.”

May agreed.

“This was the best time to build something here in Iowa,” he said. “We need it. We need to talk to each other. It’s a time for us to speak and connect and relate.”

What: Cedar Rapids Storytelling Festival

When: Oct. 1-4

Where: Downtown Library on Oct. 4; other locations to be announced

Details: tellersbridge.org

Westside Library Update

A wet summer didn't keep the Westside Library Project from progressing on schedule. The project broke ground on Oct. 18, 2024, and work has been steady since then.

If you drive past the site of the new library, which is located behind Aldi's between Edgewood Road and 20th Avenue SW, you will see that the structure of the building is in place. Walls have gone up, the roof is on, and framing has begun inside. The building needs windows to be fully enclosed before winter.

A new road has been paved on the site, which divides the library and park from new neighbors to the west. This road, to be called Sandberg Lane, honors Nadine E. Sandberg, a library lover whose transformational estate gift helped kick off this project in 2020.

The new library will cost less than \$25 million. The City of Cedar Rapids has allocated \$6 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the Linn County Board of Supervisors has allocated \$4 million in ARPA funds. The Sandberg gift of \$2 million to the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation was used to purchase the land, and additional funds have come in from private and corporate gifts and grants to the Foundation's Inspiring Big Dreams campaign.

The new library will open in 2026. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

For the latest updates, visit CRLibrary.org/Westside.

Special Hours

The Downtown and Ladd libraries will be closed Aug. 31-Sept. 1 and Nov. 11 & 27-28.

Tiny Art

You're invited to make a Tiny Art masterpiece to be displayed at the library and the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art.

The Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, and Marion public libraries, the North Liberty Library, and the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art are coming together for this project. All ages and abilities are welcome to participate!

Register to pick up a Tiny Art Kit beginning Tuesday, Sept. 2, while supplies last.

Artists can celebrate at our Tiny Grand Opening on Thursday, Oct. 2, 5:30-6 pm at Ladd Library and 6:30-7 pm at the Downtown Library. The displays will be up until Sunday, Oct. 26. Try to visit each display to see all the local talent!

The art will then be displayed at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 410 Third Ave. SE, from the Tiny Museum Grand opening on Thursday, Nov. 6, 5:30-7 pm, until Wednesday, Nov. 19.

Need inspiration or want to create your Tiny Art with others? Register for a Tiny Art Workshop. We will provide the supplies you need to create your unique art.

Tiny Art Workshop

Kids, teens, and adults may register to make Tiny Art together.

Thursday, Sept. 4, 6-7 pm

Ladd Library, Community Room

Thursday, Sept. 18, 6-7 pm

Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

Tiny Art Workshop at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

Join the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art for two special workshops featuring unconventional materials. During these open-studio sessions, use any materials they have on hand to create your mini masterpiece from unexpected media. They'll have leftover "junk" like puzzle pieces or clay, yarn, beads, and other 3-dimensional stuff. Or bring in a creation you made at home, like embroidery, jewelry, or a tiny photo, and they can help you mount it for display.

For ages 16+. Registration required at CRMA.org.

Thursday, Sept. 11, 5-7 pm &
Saturday, Sept. 13, 1-3 pm
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 410 Third Ave. SE

Saturday Story Time: Tiny Artists

Children are invited to listen to stories about creating art and then make a Tiny Art piece of their own. No registration required; however, supplies are limited for this event and are available on a first come, first served basis. Wristbands will be handed out an hour in advance.

Saturday, Sept. 20, 10-11 am
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

School's Out: Tiny Art Workshop

Kids and teens are invited to register to make Tiny Art while school is out.

Monday, Sept. 22, 1-2 pm
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

Tiny Grand Opening

See all of the amazing art you and your neighbors made!

Tiny refreshments provided. Art on display through Sunday, Oct. 26 at the Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, and Marion public libraries and the North Liberty Library.

Thursday, Oct. 2, 5:30-6 pm, Ladd Library, & 6:30-7 pm, Downtown Library

Tiny Museum Grand Opening

The Tiny Art will be on display through Wednesday, Nov. 19 at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art.

Thursday, Nov. 6, 5:30-7 pm
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 410 Third Ave. SE

Children

Early Learning Story Time

Join us for a fun-filled story time for children ages 2-5, featuring stories, songs, parachute play, and bubbles.

Tuesdays, Sept. 2-Nov. 4 & Nov. 18, 10-10:30 am
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room
Mondays, Sept. 8-Nov. 17, 10-10:30 am
Ladd Library, Community Room

Baby & Toddler Story Time

Join us for this 15-minute story and song program for newborns to three-year-olds, followed by a 45-minute playtime. This program helps strengthen babies' and toddlers' foundation for literacy with rhymes, rhythm, repetition, story, and movement.

Wednesdays, Sept. 3-Nov. 19, 9:30-10:30 am
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room
Fridays, Sept. 5-Nov. 21, 9:30-10:30 am
Ladd Library, Community Room

Sensory Story Time

Designed for attendees with multi-sensory needs, including low lights, reduced sounds, and opportunities for social interaction and play.

Thursdays, Sept. 4-Nov. 20, 10-10:30 am
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

Expressive Arts with Tanager

From theatre games and clay sculptures to creative movement and ukulele songs, this program is about processing, feeling, and healing through the arts. Geared to pre-K to second graders.

Fridays, Sept. 5, 12 & 26, Oct. 10 &
Oct. 24-Nov. 21, 10-11 am
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

Read to Dogs

Trained, certified therapy dogs provide companionship to emerging readers as they earn a free library book and bookmark. Stay for a performance at 7 pm. Presented in partnership with Therapy Dogs International.

Thursdays, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, & Nov. 20, 6:30-7:15 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room

Story Time

Read stories, sing, dance, and play at this interactive story time. All ages welcome, and parents and caregivers are encouraged to join the fun.

Saturday, Nov. 15, 10-10:30 am
Ladd Library, Community Room

Family Fort Day

Families are welcome to bring blankets and other fort-building materials. We will have campfire stories and songs and yummy snacks as we get cozy for the

afternoon.

Saturday, Nov. 29, 10-11:30 am
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

Children & Teens

Family Art Night

Experiment with different art supplies and learn new concepts at Family Art Night this fall. Registration required.

Mini Clay:

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 5:30-6:30 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room
Tuesday, Sept. 9, 5:30-6:30 pm
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

Ink Art:

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 5:30-6:30 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 5:30-6:30 pm
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

Watercolor:

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 5:30-6:30 pm,
Ladd Library, Community Room

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 5:30-6:30 pm
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

Charcoal:

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 5:30-6:30 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 5:30-6:30 pm
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

Window Clings & Sun Catchers:

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 5:30-6:30 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 5:30-6:30 pm
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

Art On Exhibit This Fall

Downtown Library, Third Floor Gallery: "Sonder," a solo show by Lauren Manninen

“Sonder” explores the quiet weight of intertwined living beings. Each individual human, animal, or plant carries their own inner experiences and climate. Inspired by natural phenomena such as erosion, gravity, and our changing ecosystems, this body of work reflects on the unseen experiences that surround us. Each painting is a moment of presence, a meditation, and an invitation to witness without intruding.

Lauren Manninen is a visual artist based in Cedar Rapids. Her work is rooted in mindfulness, abstraction, and the natural world. Lauren holds a BFA in Painting from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and spent time studying art in Japan. She currently owns 5th Story Studio in downtown Cedar Rapids.

Downtown Library, Skywalk Gallery: Art Happens Here

Libraries are full of stories – and so are the people who work in them. This exhibit highlights the creative expressions of library staff and serves as a reflection of the creativity, diversity, and individuality that extend beyond what you see in our roles at the library.

Ladd Library, Gallery: Helen Hunter

Helen Hunter bloomed late as an artist. Believing that we should continue to learn throughout our life, Helen took four watercolor lessons in Florida and after each - with

much laughter - she shared what she had painted with her husband. Determined, however, to improve, she searched out a local teacher. What you see in this exhibit is the result of almost 20 years of learning and painting.

Teens

Teen Maker Club

Learn skills related to our Maker Spaces, such as sewing, the 3D Printer, and basic design using computer software. Each month we will meet twice, and both days will be spent working to complete a single project.

Sept. 2 & 16: Learn about circuits and get an introduction to design software.

Oct. 7 & 21: Learn basic sewing skills and make your own softie.

Nov. 4 & 18: Learn how to use the 3D printer and Tinkercad design software.

Tuesdays, Sept. 2 & 16, Oct. 7 & 21, &

Nov. 4 & 18, 4-5:30 pm

Downtown Library, Technology Classroom

Future Forward: Skills for Career Success

Learn to craft an impactful resume, ace interviews, network effectively, and more. Attend three sessions to receive a \$25 gift card, courtesy of Goodwill of the Heartland.

Mondays and Wednesdays, Sept. 3-Nov. 26, 11 am-noon
Ladd Library, Opportunity Center Classroom

Teen Advisory Club

Help plan teen programs, sign up for library volunteer opportunities, build leadership skills, and suggest teen books to be purchased by the library.

Wednesdays, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, & Nov. 5, 4-5 pm
Downtown Library, Conference Room

Teen Book Club

Join us on the first Thursday of each month for Teen Book Club. Participants are encouraged to read their favorite genres and come to chat with others about books they did or didn't enjoy.

Thursdays, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, & Nov. 6, 4-5 pm
Downtown Library, Union

Teen Art

Teens are invited to explore art the second Thursday of each month.

Sept. 11: Clay

Oct. 9: Slime

Nov. 13: Buttons

Thursdays, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, & Nov. 13, 4-5 pm
Downtown Library, Union

The Teen Zone

Teens are invited to vibe with us as we game, create art, and more. Activities will alternate each week.

Mondays, Sept. 15-Oct. 27 & Nov. 10-24, 3:30-5 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room

Teen Gaming

Play board games and experience online gaming with

other teens in a collaborative space.

Thursdays, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, & Nov. 20, 4-5 pm
Downtown Library, Union

Teens & Adults

Craft Your Perfect Resume

Learn essential strategies to structure your resume, highlight your skills, and showcase your achievements effectively while also catering to the job you are applying for.

Tuesdays, Sept. 2-Nov. 4 & Nov. 18-25, 9 am-noon
Ladd Library, Opportunity Center Classroom

How to Search & Apply for Reliable Jobs Online

Learn about some of the best online resources for job searching, avoiding scams, the importance of monitoring your online presence, and more.

Thursdays, Sept. 4 & 18, Oct. 2 & 16, & Nov. 6 & 20,
2-3 pm
Ladd Library, Opportunity Center Classroom

Computer Skills Training

Learn new computer skills or gain additional experience on current skills while earning a NorthStar Computer Literacy Certificate. This workshop is ideal for anyone looking to enhance their digital literacy skills, from students and job seekers to professionals and seniors seeking to improve their technological proficiency.

Mondays, Sept. 8-Nov. 24, 2:30-4:30 pm
Ladd Library, Opportunity Center Classroom

Halloween Sewing Block: Intermediate Level

Create a fun Halloween-themed wall hanging. Sewers will learn how to sew around applique pieces and use heat and bond for projects. You must be able to operate a sewing machine and sew a straight line. Registration required.

Tuesdays, Sept. 9 & Oct. 14, 10 am-noon
Downtown Library, Technology Classroom

Murder Mystery Club

Calling all true crime and murder mystery fans. Put on your detective hat and join other sleuths to solve a mystery at the library. Participants will work together to examine clues, read case files, and figure out whodunnit.

Wednesdays, Sept. 17, Oct. 1, & Nov. 19, 6-7:30 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room

Picnic in the Meadow: “Twilight” Showing

Join us to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the “Twilight” novels. Bring your picnic blanket and snacks to watch the first movie in the “Twilight” series. Dressing up is encouraged!

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 5-7:30 pm
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

Poetry Reading with Iowa Poet Laureate Vince Gotera

Iowa Poet Laureate Vince Gotera will read from his books of poetry, “Dragons & Rayguns” and “The Coolest Month.” A book signing and chance to meet the author will follow. Books will be available for purchase.

Thursday, Oct. 16, 6:30-7:30 pm
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

All Hallows’ History: The Historical Evolution of Halloween

Explore the roots of Halloween, tracing its beginnings in ancient Celtic traditions and Roman festivals to its

evolution through medieval Europe and into modern pop culture. Discover how rituals and customs have blended over centuries, turning ancient pagan observances into the vibrant, multifaceted celebration of today.

Thursday, Oct. 23, 6-7:30 pm
Downtown Library, Whipple Auditorium

Fall Foliage: Watercolor Workshop

Vibe and paint with us. In this self-guided workshop, we focus on the process, relaxation, and fun with a fall foliage-themed watercolor. Beginners encouraged! Presenters will give basic tips for painting with watercolors and create a positive environment for relaxation and learning. Registration required.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 1:30-3:30 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room

Needle Felting

Learn the basics of needle felting. This simple craft uses a barbed needle to transform wool into a 3D object of your choice. Attendees will also make their own inexpensive felting mat to keep. Registration required.

Saturday, Nov. 15, 1:30-3:30 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room

Fabric & Foam Storage Basket: Basic Level

Looking for an easy, homemade holiday gift? Learn to sew a small fabric basket. Sewers will learn to incorporate foam lining to a project. Registration required.

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 10 am-noon
Downtown Library, Technology Classroom

Sound Bath Meditation

Join us for this uplifting sound meditation with Natalie Brown of Sounds Heal Studio to feel calmness and freedom from worries and stress. Registration required.

Thursday, Nov. 20, 5:30-6:30 pm
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

Adults

Civil Rights Commission Community Office Hours

Chat with staff of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission about your concerns and questions.

Thursdays, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, & Nov. 6, 2-4 pm
Downtown Library, Commons

Tango Práctica

Learn the basic steps of tango and grow your skills in an encouraging, welcoming group. No partner required. Smooth-soled shoes recommended.

Thursdays, Sept. 4 & 18, Oct. 2-16, &
Oct. 30-Nov. 13, 6-7:30 pm
Downtown Library, Whipple Auditorium

Chair Yoga

Join us for a beginner-level chair yoga class. Yoga teacher Tammy Bayer will adapt the class as needed to fit your needs and mobility levels. Chair yoga uses a chair for support with seated and standing postures to make yoga accessible to those who are new to it, have physical limitations, or find other yoga classes challenging.

Thursdays, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, & Nov. 6, 1-2 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room
Thursdays, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, & Nov. 20, 1-2 pm
Downtown Library, Beems B

How to Impress at Your Job Interview

Practice common interview questions, improve your impromptu conversation skills, and talk about the unwritten rules of interviewing. Earn a \$10 Goodwill voucher to shop

for an interview-ready outfit.

Thursdays, Sept. 11 & 25, Oct. 9 & 23, & Nov. 13, 2-3 pm
Ladd Library, Opportunity Center Classroom

National Voter Registration Day

Sept. 16 is National Voter Registration Day! Special guests from Linn County Elections will help register patrons to vote, inform them of any changes to voter regulations, and share information about upcoming elections.

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 10 am-noon
Downtown Library, Commons
Wednesday, Sept. 17, 10 am-noon
Ladd Library

Socially Anxious Hangout Group

Are you socially anxious, introverted, new in town, or just looking for an easy way to meet new people? Join us to play board games and have fun! Snacks provided. This group is designed for young adults ages 18-40.

Saturdays, Sept. 20, Oct. 11, & Nov. 22, 1-3 pm
Downtown Library, Conference Room

Corridor Games on Demand: Community Game Day

Play tabletop games with us! Bring your favorite indie role-playing game to share with the group or try a new game that one of our game masters has prepared.

Saturdays, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, & Nov. 29, noon-4 pm
Downtown Library, Conference Room

Bedazzle Your Favorite Banned Book

Celebrate the freedom to read during Banned Books Week at the library. Either bring a copy of your favorite banned book or choose one of our copies to bedazzle. The library will teach you and provide the supplies to bedazzle your own book cover. Registration required.

Thursday, Oct. 9, 6-7:30 pm
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

Plant Swap

Bring in your healthy plants or rooted cuttings to swap. Each plant will be awarded a ticket for trading. All plants should be in containers they can go home in. Rooted cuttings need to be in a sealed plastic baggie with a damp paper towel. Please label plants and cuttings with the type of plant being swapped. We ask that all plants and cuttings be healthy and pest free as a courtesy to other plant

lovers.

Plant and rooted cutting check-in is 1-1:30 pm. The swap begins after all plants have been checked in. After everyone with tickets has made their choices, leftover plants will be available to those without tickets.

Saturday, Oct. 11, 1-2:30 pm
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

Dip Recipe Swap

Show off your best dip recipe! Bring a sample (approximately a quart) of your favorite homemade dip and an item to serve with the dip, along with a copy of the recipe. Dips may be savory or sweet. Participants may try all the dips and take copies of dip recipes home.

Thursday, Nov. 6, 6-7 pm
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

Macrame Prism Window Hanging

Learn macrame and add a little sparkle to a window in your home. The library will provide all materials needed to make a cute macrame prism window hanging. Registration required.

Thursday, Nov. 13, 6-7:30 pm

Ladd Library, Community Room

Everyone

Dungeons & Dragons

Adventures await! Bring your first-level character and be ready to dive in. All ages and experience levels welcome. We are also looking for Dungeon Masters to start tables.

Wednesdays, Sept. 3-17, Oct. 1-22, & Nov. 5-26, 4:30-6:30 pm
Downtown Library, Beems B

Cedar Rapids Chess Club

Learn chess, advance your knowledge of the game, or teach others at this club for all ages. Visit chessiniowa.org for more information.

Wednesdays, Sept. 3-Nov. 26, 5:30-7:30 pm
Downtown Library, Beems A

Friends of the Library Farmers Market Book Sale

Purchase new and gently used books from the Friends of

the Cedar Rapids Public Library during Downtown Cedar Rapids Farmers Markets. Browse the books on the Urban Plaza in front of the Fourth Avenue doors of the Downtown Library. Proceeds benefit the Friends, who support the library and literacy efforts in our community.

Saturdays, Sept. 6 & 20, 7:30 am-noon
Downtown Library, Urban Plaza

Button Making

Drop in during the Farmers Market to create buttons from pre-made and DIY designs.

Saturday, Sept. 6, 9:30-11:30 am
Downtown Library, Commons

The Exposure Fashion Show

This family-friendly fashion show features creatives and designers from around Iowa. Mingling and morsels open the evening, with the show starting at 5:30 pm. Registration required to attend the backstage meet-and-greet with designers after the show.

Thursday, Sept. 11, 5-7 pm
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

Book Tasting

Stuck in a reading funk? Looking to try a new genre or author? Get recommendations and feast on the first pages of a fresh selection. Come with an open mind and leave with new books for your TBR. Featured books will be available to borrow after the event.

Saturday, Sept. 13, 1-3 pm
Downtown Library, Commons

Incredible Bats!

Kim White from Incredible Bats will present a special informative program on bats. Learn about and interact with bats and other animals from around the world, including Egyptian fruit bats and African straw-colored fruit bats.

Thursday, Sept. 25, 6-7 pm
Downtown Library, Whipple Auditorium

Llama Encounter with Prairie Patch Farm

Have you ever wanted to learn more about llamas and alpacas? Prairie Patch Farm will bring two llamas (or alpacas) for attendees to learn about and meet.

Saturday, Sept. 27, 1-2 pm
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

Interactive “Hocus Pocus”

Enjoy an interactive showing of the spook-tacular family film “Hocus Pocus.” Three child-hunting witches from the 17th century are brought back to life in 1990s Salem, MA, and wreak Halloween havoc on the unsuspecting town in their bid to stay alive past sunrise. A prop bag with interactive elements will be supplied to attendees. Film is rated PG.

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2-4 pm
Downtown Library, Whipple Auditorium

Devonian Fossils: Ocean Life in Iowa

Did you know you could walk on a 375-million-year-old ocean floor here in Iowa? The fossils and limestone bedrock of the Devonian Fossil Gorge date back almost 200 million years before the dinosaurs. Staff from the US Army Corps of Engineers will discuss the different species found during the Devonian period, and attendees will have the opportunity to see many unique fossil specimens.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 10:30-11:30 am
Ladd Library, Community Room

Friends of the Library Big Fall Book Sale

Purchase new and gently used books for all ages and

interests from the Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Proceeds benefit the Friends, who support the library and literacy efforts in our community.

Friday, Oct. 31 & Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 am-5 pm, & Sunday, Nov. 2, 1-5 pm
Downtown Library

Learning about Día De Los Muertos Celebrations

Did you know many cultures celebrate Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)? For example, in Guatemala people honor their ancestors by flying kites, or barriletes. Learn about multiple traditions surrounding this special day.

Saturday, Nov. 1, 1-2 pm
Downtown Library, Children's Program Room

Camp Half-Blood

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief" with activities inspired by the novel such as camp cabin buttons, an Olympus photo opportunity, and Greek mythology-inspired games and crafts.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 1-2:30 pm
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

Found Art Sculpture Program for Families

Make one large sculpture or a group of smaller sculptures out of discarded materials and other items from the library's Maker Spaces. Families or groups can work together to create a one-of-a-kind art piece for their home. Registration required.

Saturday, Nov. 22, 1-3 pm
Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium

Book Clubs

When a title is a part of a Book Club Kit, it will be ready for pick-up the month before it is discussed. Other titles are available on hoopla and cloudLibrary. Copies may be picked up in person or by hold at any Metro Library Network location. Contact Amy Golly at gollya@crlibrary.org if you need assistance finding books.

Between the Covers Book Club

If you enjoy reading and good conversation in a relaxed atmosphere, this book group that meets the first Tuesday of each month is for you.

Sept. 2: "The God of the Woods" by Liz Moore

Oct. 7: "Daisy Jones & The Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Nov. 4: “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee

Tuesdays, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, & Nov. 4, 10-11 am
Downtown Library, UnConference Room

Book Lovers Book Club

Newcomers are always welcome to this general interest book club.

Sept. 9: “Mad Honey” by Jodi Picoult

Oct. 14: “That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Burning in America” by Amanda Jones

Nov. 18: “The Midnight Library” by Matt Haig

Tuesdays, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, & Nov. 18, 6:30-7:30 pm
Ladd Library, Community Room

More Digital Resources

Cedar Rapids Public Library patrons have access to two new digital resources! Dive into them both at CRLibrary.org/education-resources.

Mango Languages

Mango has online classes in over 70 languages, plus a variety of English course – all free to access with your library card.

Take guided classes, learn new vocabulary, stretch your language skills and expand your cultural horizons with Mango's immersive features.

Mometrix eLibrary

Mometrix eLibrary provides a wide range of study materials to help test-takers, including flashcards, practice tests, and guides, covering subjects from foundational education to specialized trades and advanced academic fields.

This online resource is available to all Iowa residents and authorized users and is funded by an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature.