



Agenda: Board of Trustees
July 6, 2023, at 4 pm
Conference Room, Downtown Library

Literacy, Access, & Inclusion

Library Board Vice President – Monica Challenger

- A. Call to Order
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
 - o Minutes: June 1, 2023
- C. Public Comments and Communications
- D. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
- E. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
- F. Board Education: Strategic Plan Year 2 Update – Dara Schmidt
- G. Library Board Committee Reports
 - o Nominating Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - **Action:** Slate of Officers FY24
 - o Advocacy Committee – Rafael Jacobo, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - o Finance Committee – Monica Challenger, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - o Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - **Action:** 3.08 Right to Protest, Petition, and Assemble
 - o Westside Project Committee – Jade Hart, Committee Chair
 - No Action
- H. Library Director's Report
- I. Old Business
- J. New Business
- K. Adjournment

The next Board of Trustees meeting is **August 3, 2023 at 4 pm**, in the Conference Room, Downtown Library.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact Jessica Musil, Library Administrative Assistant, at 319.261.7323 or email musilj@crlibrary.org as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Cedar Rapids Public Library
Board of Trustees
June 1, 2023

Board members in attendance: [President] Clint Twedt-Ball, Chris Casey, Elisabeth Hepworth, Susie McDermott, Jeremy Elges (in person); [Vice President] Monica Challenger, Jade Hart (via Zoom)

Board members unable to attend: Rafael Jacobo, Hassan Selim

Staff in attendance: Dara Schmidt, Amber McNamara, Erin Horst, Patrick Duggan, Jessica Musil (in person); Jessica Link, Todd Simonson, Andres Gallardo, Nathan Peterson (via Zoom)

Others: Charity Tyler, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation; Libby Slappey, President, Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library

- A. Call to Order
 - Mr. Twedt-Ball called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
 - Minutes: May 4, 2023

Mr. Elges moved to accept the consent agenda. Ms. McDermott seconded. The action carried with unanimous approval.
- C. Public Comments and Communications
 - There being none, the meeting continued
- D. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
 - The Foundation budget has been developed and awaiting board approval. Ms. Tyler has been busy with capital campaign visits and submitting several grants. She passed around new copies of the campaign's case book, which includes new visuals and layouts. This book will be used with donors for the next several weeks.
 - The May 5 Literary Vines was the most successful so far, raising over raising over \$33,000. This is the third in-person event hosted by the Foundation. Several trustees shared praise for the event.
- E. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
 - The Friends have officially started their book sales season with the weekend May sale. The sale went well though Ms. Slappey felt it may have been better, however, due to an event in Greene Square, roads were closed around the library. The first farmer's market sale was successful to start the season.
- F. Board Education: Strategic Plan: Inclusion – Collection Locations & Fine Free Update – Erin Horst
 - Strategic Plan Update:
 - Materials Manager Erin Horst shared information on the strategic plan initiative to evaluate current collection locations and usage to make recommendations for future change, which falls under inclusion. The committee comprised of public service, materials, programming and community relations staff. The goal was to review collection locations for Downtown, as Ladd is a temporary location. Since opening in 2013, most collections have not significantly changed locations nor have been evaluated for continued appropriate placement. The committee worked within two major parameters: to not significantly decrease a collection nor change locations that would alter the physical space, for example the Children's Library and Non-Fiction would not swap.
 - The committee reviewed several types of data to inform the final recommendation, such as circulation and turnover, collection sizes, shelf measurements and types, loss rate, and responses from staff and volunteers.

- Ms. Horst explained the recommended changes to the different collections, such as in the re-arranging the children's library for improved navigation; large print moving into adult fiction on the first floor; condensing magazines to expand romance; combining graphic novels and science fiction on the second floor; and consolidating spark kits into one section.
- Over the summer, the materials team will develop plans to shift materials with the goal to shift items through Spring 2024. Ms. Horst will also review other key indicators to determine if the changes seem to improve patron experience and access, as well as material circulation.
- Mr. Twedt-Ball asked if the committee had good consensus on the recommendation. Mr. Horst noted that the group was very aligned and this final recommendation went through revisions. The committee was very dedicated and flexible with positive debate. Ms. Hepworth appreciates seeing the overlap and consensus between staff and volunteers.
- Fine Free Update:
 - Ms. Horst provided an update on the fine free initiative, which started in March 2020. This is a six-month comparison from the November 2022 update and we have consistent data, not impacted by disaster, to monitor change over time.
 - The rate in which materials are returned remains the same. In general, materials continue to come in on time 89% of the time. The number of blocked cards is about the same from November 2022 to May 2023. Blocked cards continue to spread out around the City and shift around instead of being concentrated on particular areas of Cedar Rapids, such as in 2018. Twenty to 30% of blocked cards are rotating between households, whereas we did not have rotation before but instead people were unable to get out of blocked card status. The number of blocked cards remains consistent month-to-month. In the beginning, blocked cards dropped from 16,000 to approximately 3,000 in a given month. Patrons are able to get out of blocked status by just returning the item instead of paying fines.

G. Library Board Committee Reports

- Nominating Committee – Susie McDermott & Jade Hart
 - Ms. McDermott and Ms. Hart agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. They will meet in June and bring a recommendation on slate of officers for vote in July.
- Advocacy Committee – Rafael Jacobo, Committee Chair
 - There being no report, the meeting continued.
- Finance Committee – Monica Challenger, Committee Chair
 - Ms. Challenger reviewed the April Finance memo as presented in the board packet. At this point of the year, we are expected to be at 83% for expenses and revenue, currently at 81% and 85%, respectively. Ms. Challenger highlighted that the Sale of Inventory revenue is low because the library halted the sale of fax cards while changing services. In addition, Printing and Duplication is lower because these services were free during the pandemic and charging for prints restarted in January. Rental of Equipment and Vehicles is significantly over budget in order to rent appropriate scaffolding to repair the Whipple Auditorium projector screen. Regardless of these issues, the budget remains on track overall.
 - **Action:** Purchase Order and Payment Approval – cost for new staff computers. Payment in the amount of \$123,064.20 to IT Outlet. New staff computers were last purchased in 2013, and they are becoming out of date and hard to maintain. The City released a bid and IT Outlet was the lowest bidder. Mr. Elges asked about the difference between monitors and PCs purchased. The library ordered 10 less monitors because we already have some in stock.

The committee recommendation to accept the purchase order and payment approval for staff computers from IT Outlet for \$123,064.20 carried with unanimous approval.

- **Action:** Purchase Order and Payment Approval – cost of subscription for circulation/cataloging software and services for the downtown and Ladd libraries, payment in the amount of \$129,389 to iii Innovative. In the past, the trustees approved the ILS platform for approximately \$80,000, with smaller bills under \$50,000 coming in later. However, the vendor has changed the way they submit their invoices to the library to include the product and other add-ons at the same time. All of the products and add-ons are the same and are part of the existing 5-year contract now in its third year.

The committee recommendation to accept the purchase order and payment approval for the subscription, software, and services for downtown and Ladd from iii Innovative for \$129,389 carried with unanimous approval.

- Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - **Action:** Policy 4.04 Environmental Policy. The committee recommends removing the Gold LEED level from the policy. When the policy was created, the Gold level isn't the same as it is today. Sustainability is the key and the committee does not want to tie the library to a standard that may not improve sustainability but would increase cost and overall maintenance. Since LEED has started, building sustainability is more common and chasing LEED of itself may not allow the flexibility for the building versus gaining a LEED point. Ms. Hepworth asked if there were other sustainability measures in place as we move toward the new building. LEED remains the main standard system. However, OPN and Design Engineers understand very well the board's commitment to sustainability, and top of mind throughout the design process.

The committee recommendation to accept the revised Policy 4.04 as presented in the packet carried with unanimous approval.

- **Action:** Westside Library Naming and Recognition Opportunities. The Foundation developed a Campaign Naming and Recognition Opportunities document. The committee felt the document is a good framework. The trustees are only approving the naming and recognition opportunities, and not the rest of the document, as it's a Foundation policy. A discussion was held on signage for the new building, which the Library can put rules around how the signage will look and be integrated. The opportunities are modeled after the standards set with the downtown library. This does not specify a donor recognition wall and as appropriate in the future, Ms. Tyler will request this from the trustees. Ms. Tyler also noted that if large spaces, such as conference rooms, do not have sponsored names, the trustees will name the spaces as the project progresses. Ms. Schmidt recommended that the board also add two print and copy nooks to the document as well.

The committee recommendation to accept the document, as presented in the packet with the with amendment adding two print/copy nooks, carried with unanimous approval.

- Westside Project Committee – Jade Hart, Committee Chair
 - Ms. Hart reported that the committee has not met but behind the scenes work has continued.

H. Library Director's Report

- Ms. Schmidt shared an update on the Westside project. Staff are digging into details of the building with OPN and Design Engineers, which will help inform the next cost estimation expected in June and July. The layout presented to the board may continue to see changes as details and cost estimation conversations unfold. Two major differences in the layout center on the Sorter Room – the system layout change decreased the cost significantly – and added a Reading Room, which necessitated a change to study room

counts. Ms. Schmidt showed new visuals. A major change was to remove the wood ceiling, which was very costly. OPN was able to add warm wood tones throughout the building, and complemented in the end panels, to great effect. Ms. Hepworth asked if we planned to re-purpose current shelving. As much as possible, the library will re-purpose shelving and other furnishings. The goal is to take as much as we can but we need to investigate feasibility of this. Changing the end panels' wood tone gives the space a more open and welcoming feel.

- In the statistics, April usage is down a bit. However, this aligns with trends for past April months. We expect an increase in May, which held more events.

I. Old Business

- There being no old business, the meeting continued.

J. New Business

- FY24 Calendar
 - The FY24 board meeting calendar was reviewed. Trustees had no questions or concerns for the routine dates. Ms. Musil will send calendar invitations to trustees.
- **Action:** Library Services contract for City of Robins, FY24-28. The Metro Library Network (MLN) has contracted with Robins for library services for a long time, and this contract is to renew services for another five years. The MLN directors decided to use a different calculation model based on tax rate versus per capita to make calculations easy. This caused a slight reduction. However, they felt it was worth the reduction if the contract was extended to five years instead of three years, which has been past practice. Money from the contract is divvied up because the three libraries based on usage; Cedar Rapids get the least amount. The City of Robins will vote on the contract next week. Ms. Schmidt is asking for an approval now so service continues for residents.

Mr. Elges moved to accept the Library Services contract with City of Robins for FY24-28, contingent on approval by City of Robins. Ms. Hepworth seconded. The action carried with unanimous approval.

- **Executive Action Item Closed Session:** Iowa Code § 21.5(1)(i) (2009). Director's Performance Review
 - Mr. Twedt-Ball read aloud the Iowa Code pertaining to the reason for going into closed session. She noted that, in accordance with the code, Ms. Schmidt requested that her performance review be held in closed session.

Ms. Hart moved to enter closed session. Ms. Challenger seconded. The motion was carried with unanimous approval following a roll call.

- The roll call was taken of those present in the closed session: Monica Challenger, Chris Casey, Elisabeth Hepworth, Jade Hart, Jeremy Elges, Susie McDermott, and Clint Twedt-Ball; Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Musil remained, all others departed. The board went into closed session at 5:26 pm.
- The meeting resumed in open session at 5:39 pm.

K. Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 4 pm in the Conference Room, Downtown Library

IOWA TODAY



Cyclists coming July 25, 2015, from Hiawatha to Coralville on that year's RAGBRAI head to Iowa River Landing. This July marks the sixth time Coralville has been an overnight stop for the annual bike ride — and it coincides with both RAGBRAI's 50th anniversary and Coralville's 150th anniversary. (The Gazette)

WHAT THEY'RE THINKING

Summer energy: What you need to know

By Brittney J. Miller, The Gazette

Last year, summer heat raised concerns about the power grid — which was straining from high electricity demands and insufficient energy generation.

Now, amid warming temperatures, agencies and organizations are projecting how the grid may fare this summer. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, and the North American Electric Reliability Corp., or NERC, both released reliability assessments in May. So did the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, or MISO, which manages Iowa's energy on the power grid along with that of 14 other states and a Canadian province.

The Gazette spoke with Mike Deising, MISO's senior director of strategic communications, about how the power grid may fare this summer according to those projections. His answers are edited for brevity and clarity.



Mike Deising
MISO

Q. What do this summer's energy reliability projections look like for MISO?

A. The summer assessments from FERC, NERC and MISO generally all aligned. They indicated that, under normal operating conditions, the system will have enough generation to meet demand throughout the summer.

They also say during high-risk, low-probability events — whether it's significant heat or extreme weather — there is the potential to enter into emergency operating conditions to make sure we've got enough generation available. What was interesting about NERC's assessment was that two-thirds of the U.S. is in the same grouping. It doesn't mean it's going to happen. There's just potential for it.

Q. How do this summer's assessments compare with last year's, when MISO was at a "high risk" of energy emergencies?

A. Across MISO's footprint, we are a little bit better off than we were back in 2022. Specifically in MISO's north-central region — where Iowa sits — there is a significant shift between last summer and this summer with available generation.

We've had about 3,200 megawatts of new generation. We also saw less retirements than we were anticipating — we only had about 1,200

► ENERGY, PAGE 5D

Coralville hard at work preparing for RAGBRAI

More than 900 volunteers needed as city set to host overnight stop for sixth time

By Izabela Zaluska, The Gazette

CORALVILLE — Nicknamed the "hub of hospitality," Coralville is eagerly preparing to welcome thousands of cyclists from all over the world when the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa spends the night in town in July.

This year's RAGBRAI route — which begins July 22 in Sioux City — weaves through Coralville on July 28 before wrapping up in Davenport. This will be Coralville's sixth time as an overnight host.

Coralville is gearing up for a double celebration as RAGBRAI's 50th year coincides with the city's own 150th anniversary. The official theme of Coralville's overnight stop is "Cheers to the years."

Coralville is well-suited to be an overnight stop for RAGBRAI with hospitality being part of the city's heritage, along with various options for entertainment, retail and restaurants, Mayor Meghann Foster said.

"Coralville knows how to throw a good party," Foster said. "... We always look forward to showing everyone what our community has to offer."

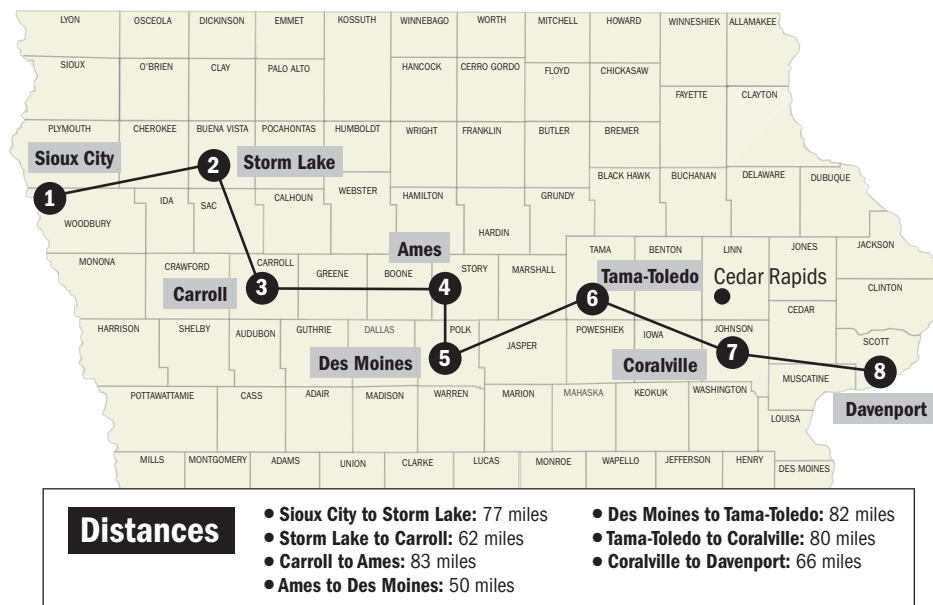
More than 20,000 cyclists will go on the seven-day ride across Iowa, and cities along the route have been hard at work recruiting vendors, planning entertainment, coordinating logistics and finalizing details. Volunteers also will be needed in each town to ensure a smooth event, with Coralville needing more than 900 volunteers.

Think Iowa City is estimating

► RAGBRAI, PAGE 4D

2023 RAGBRAI overnight towns

The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa is marking its 50th anniversary with a 500-mile route July 22-29 that includes Coralville as one of its overnight stops. Coralville this year is celebrating a milestone of its own, its 150th anniversary. Portions of the ride will closely follow the original 1973 route.



Source: Ragbrai.com

Gazette graphic



ABOVE: Coralville's logo for this year's RAGBRAI stop. (Think Iowa City) LEFT: S.T. Morrison Park will be the main campground for RAGBRAI in Coralville. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

NEWSTRACK | CATCHING UP ON AN EARLIER STORY

Greene Square ambassador program starting again for summer

Goal is to maintain safety, decrease police calls

By Marissa Payne, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — The program that employs people who've experienced homelessness to patrol Greene Square and key downtown areas is starting again for the summer months.

From May to October, these workers — employed by Willis Dady Homeless Services — pick up trash, work to

keep the peace in the downtown area, remind park visitors of the rules, refer people to social service agencies and call emergency services if needed as a last resort.

BACKGROUND

Cedar Rapids spent almost \$2 million to renovate Greene Square in 2016 as a focal point for activities in the urban core such as farmers markets, concerts and festivals.

But this facility and nearby areas faced problems including increased police calls,

conflicts, sleeping in and around the park, drug and alcohol use, vandalism and litter, Todd Simonson, the library's public services manager, recently told the Cedar Rapids City Council. Other affected areas include the surrounding trails, library and Ground Transportation Center.

Simonson said those problems are caused by substance use, mental health, homelessness and at-risk teenagers.

► GREENE SQUARE, PAGE 4D



Greene Square as seen in May 2018 from the roof of the downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library in Cedar Rapids. (The Gazette)

RAGBRAI/Looking for volunteer help

► FROM PAGE 1D

\$6.5 million to \$7 million in overall economic impact to the area when RAGBRAI stops in Coralville, said Nick Pfeiffer, vice president of public affairs at Think Iowa City. The economic impact for the area estimated in 2018 when Iowa City hosted an overnight stop was about \$4 million.

“That’s the incentive because it shows off our community, it allows our businesses to take advantage of new people to the area that may need their services and products,” Pfeiffer said. “But it also shows off what the city can do for these travelers to come back and want to spend a whole weekend here and explore more.”

PLANNING PROCESS

Coralville’s planning began in January when the city was announced as an overnight stop, City Administrator Kelly Hayworth said. A total of 20 committees were formed, each responsible for a different aspect of planning.

The planning isn’t all that different from previous years since Coralville has been an overnight stop before. But more riders are anticipated this time, Hayworth said.

“That’s been a big part of this is just how to deal with those numbers,” Hayworth said, adding that this also includes more RVs.

RAGBRAI provides a handbook for overnight towns that’s more than 200 pages, Hayworth said. The handbook breaks down everything the towns need to know and ideas showing what other cities have done in past years.

MEETING IN MARENGO

Cyclists will need to ride 82 miles after overnights in Tama-Toledo before arriving in Coralville, passing through Chelsea, Belle Plaine, Amana and Oxford. The meeting town for the day is Marengo.

RAGBRAI’s stop in Marengo could do a lot of good for the city, said Corienne Dally, Marengo’s community development director. It will be an opportunity for thousands of people to appreciate the city, its people and its businesses, Dally added.

“We’re just hoping that people can see Marengo — we have a beautiful park, we have a lot of things to offer and basically, it’s someplace that they want to come back to,” she said.

Dally said she has been planning for RAGBRAI since early March,



RAGBRAI riders head toward the Old Capitol on the University of Iowa campus in July 2015. Coralville and Hiawatha hosted overnight stops in 2015. (The Gazette)



Laurie Goe of Waukee packs up her tent July 25, 2015, during cleanup after RAGBRAI spent the night in the Iowa River Landing area in Coralville. (The Gazette)

when Marengo was officially slated to be a meeting town. With paperwork, logistics, social media and vendors to hammer out, Dally said the preparations have been thorough.

Riders are expected to come in on Highway 212. Participants will then be directed down Court Avenue, with vendors in what Dally called the “eye of the storm.” With 40 vendors lined up for riders to choose from, RAGBRAI will be an opportunity to highlight local businesses, Dally said.

Out of the 40 vendors, Dally said there is a great variety of food offerings. From pie and iced coffee to burritos and jerk chicken, the offerings provide a multitude of options for riders. Along with food, Dally said there are going to be a handful of apparel vendors, including Iowa River Apparel located in Marengo.

“We’re having some

growth. We’re getting a lot of new businesses,” Dally said. “We’re hoping that with the riders coming in, that they’ll see things that they’ll want to come back for.”

Along with the vendors, Marengo is planning on having a DJ and the Herky the Hawk mascot with spirit squad members for riders to take photos with.

CAMPING AT PARK

The setup for RAGBRAI’s overnight stop in Coralville will be in and around S.T. Morrison Park, Kirkwood Elementary and Northwest Junior High.

The entertainment stage will be set up similarly to how it is during the city’s 4thFest celebration, Foster said. Rock band Bush will be the headliner, with opening band Push, an all-female rock group.

There also will be magicians, jugglers and local music acts through-

out the day, said Pfeiffer, who is chair of the sponsorship committee and the publicity committee.

“It’s not just the big headliners up at night — there’s entertainment going on throughout the day,” Pfeiffer said.

Having the main site be close to the schools and the Coralville Recreation Center will allow riders to use the showers and pool to cool off, Foster said.

The area also is walkable and will have “larger than life” photo murals celebrating Coralville’s 150th anniversary, as well as a mural for RAGBRAI. All the wheat-pasted murals are being done by artist Isaac Campbell.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Coralville will need the help of more than 900 volunteers, and there are various ways to get involved, Foster said. Volunteers will be needed the day of the overnight stop, in addition to the day before and the day after.

Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up online at CoralvilleRAGBRAI.com. Individuals can sign up, but so can groups, businesses and other organizations that would like to volunteer together.

The planning committee is taking names of anyone interested in helping and is working on the jobs and responsibilities volunteers will have, Hayworth

said. Volunteers will be needed for the beverage garden, information booths, maintaining the campground area and more.

One of the biggest needs right now, Foster said, is volunteers to help house riders. People interested can volunteer to have riders camp in their yard or stay in their home.

“With Coralville hosting this several times now, there’s people that come back over and over again, and so people that have volunteered their house back in 1995 are still housing the same people that come back,” Pfeiffer said. “They’ve made lifelong relationships just by volunteering to house a rider.”

SETTING A BUDGET

Hayworth said the budget committee began working instantly on the process and how much will be needed to cover expenses. Coralville’s RAGBRAI budget is \$179,000.

The RAGBRAI organization provides \$15,000 upfront to help with costs, Hayworth said. The Iowa City Area Sports Commission also has given the Coralville RAGBRAI committee a grant to assist with expenses.

The sponsorship committee has been out asking businesses to sponsor different aspects of the RAGBRAI visit. For example, Hills Bank is the movie sponsor and Iowa City Area Association of

Realtors is the housing sponsor.

Something different this year, Hayworth said, is the RAGBRAI organization is providing the main entertainment and covering the expenses that go with that, such as the stage and sound equipment.

“That is a really big deal because that’s been a huge expense in the past that can either make or break the budget, quite frankly,” Hayworth said.

Marengo is collaborating with Ed Twedt, a longtime RAGBRAI supporter who helps ensure that vendors can make money from the event. Dally said Twedt helps towns with the planning process and uses his experience to advise vendors for how much stock should be purchased in preparation.

Dally said that over the past several years, there have been complaints that there hasn’t been a great deal of profit coming out of RAGBRAI. Collaborating with Twedt and his organization helps mitigate that risk, according to Dally.

“The whole reason for being here is to promote our local businesses,” Dally said. “We would not have gotten involved if it wasn’t an opportunity to really boost our local businesses and give them an opportunity to make some extra profits for the year.”

Jami Martin-Trainor of The Gazette contributed to this report.

Comments: (319) 339-3155; izabela.zaluska@thegazette.com

Greene Square/Ambassadors have ‘established connections’

► FROM PAGE 1D

After a man was killed during a fight in the park in 2018, the city explored how to keep the area safe, working with representatives from the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, the Cedar Rapids Police Department, Willis Dady and the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

Immediate changes made based on their collaboration included upping the police presence, adding security cameras and signs to the park and prohibiting smoking and alcohol use, except as approved for special events.

The city also boosted structured programs and events at the park, and these entities have worked to increase mental health services, employment opportunities and inter-

vention for at-risk youth.

This partnership also led to the creation of the ambassador program. The Willis Dady employees are supervised by Ruben Ginger, the library’s support service navigator.

“(The ambassadors) already have some established connections and it’s really an intervention so that we don’t need to result in calling police and going to that route,” Simonson said.

In 2020 and 2021, the program was affected by COVID-19 and the 2020 derecho, so 2022 was spent building up the program while facing staffing challenges.

WHAT’S HAPPENED SINCE?

Four ambassadors will work this season for 15 hours a week each from Monday through Saturday, for a total

of 60 hours a week. Two ambassadors will work a five-hour shift each day. Simonson said the goal is to ramp up to seven days a week.

The ambassadors patrol the area spanning from First Street to Seventh Street SE and Second Avenue to Seventh Avenue SE. They will focus particularly on three high-traffic areas: Greene Square, the Ground Transportation Center and trail near the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art.

The library itself saw an increased need with issues during summer and winter, so the program grew to include two full-time navigator positions.

“We’ve seen significant success in our behavior issues being addressed and really a decline in the overall number of behavior issues, police calls we’re making at the library,”

Simonson said.

The Economic Alliance also has partnered with Willis Dady to dedicate a position to trash pickup in the area.

Ginger said many of the people he interacts with are homeless people from the community, but he said there is an influx of people from outside of Cedar Rapids in Greene Square.

“We build on the relationships that we have. We count on those relationships,” Ginger said. “They like the interactions, they like to be able to come there and get resources.”

In 2017, Simonson said there were 216 incidents reported including disturbances, harassment, attempted suicides, weapons, among other types of incidents. In 2022, there were 241.

The statistics have re-

mained relatively stagnant, Simonson said, but part of that may be attributed to an increase in people coming to the area. In July 2020, the count of unsheltered homeless people was 33, which tripled to 107 in July 2022. Willis Dady estimates the actual number should be doubled or tripled.

Council member Dale Todd, who represents District 3 which includes downtown, said all the stakeholders adjacent to Greene Square are now talking constantly and relying less on the police. This program has been a step toward addressing homelessness, he said.

“This is not meant to solve the issue,” said Todd, chair of the council’s Public Safety and Youth Services Committee. “This is one component of it.”

Comments: (319) 398-8494; marissa.payne@thegazette.com

COMMUNITY



THINGS TO DO TODAY

POWERED BY HOOPLA:
WWW.HOOPLANOW.COM

COMMUNITY

Caregiver 101: Medicaid Elderly Waiver

Learn about the Medicaid Elderly Waiver application process, program requirements and types of care provided from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

Attend in person or via Zoom at HeritageAAA.org.
• When: 10 to 11:30 a.m.
• Where: Iowa City Senior Center, 28 S. Linn St., Iowa City
• Cost: Free

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Mobile Technology Lab

The Cedar Rapids Public Library's Mobile Technology Lab will be at Jacolyn Park. Story time at noon.

• When: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

• Where: Jacolyn Park, Jacolyn Drive NW and Gordon Avenue NW, Cedar Rapids

• Cost: Free

COMMUNITY

Bridge to Opportunities for Older Adults: Craft Day

Make a mandala rock painting with Doni Gould. River rocks will be provided.

• When: 1 to 3:30 p.m.

• Where: Life Enrichment Center, 2100 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids

• Cost: Free

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Hiawatha Fire Department Visits the Library

Fire Chief Matt and his crew will read a story and talk about fire safety. Afterward, explore the firetruck and EMT vehicle.

• When: 3 to 3:45 p.m.

• Where: Hiawatha Public Library, 150 W. Willman St., Hiawatha

• Cost: Free

MUSIC

Mike Anderson: The Dulcimer Guy

Mike Anderson is a musician, singer, mountain dulcimer player and storyteller. Two free performances:

• 3 to 4 p.m., Ladd Library, 3750 Williams Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids

• 6 to 7 p.m., Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids

HOBBY

Watercolor Waterscapes with David Stauffer

Leave the class with a beautiful finished piece. Students 13 and older are welcome with an adult. Register at (319) 350-1805.

• When: 6 to 8 p.m.

• Where: Eastern Iowa Arts Academy Music and Arts Studio

• Cost: \$25



Cedar Rapids Public Library staff demonstrate and instruct residents on the 3D printer in the library's Maker Room in April 2022. (Cedar Rapids Public Library)

Cedar Rapids Library revamps maker room

Space creates equitable access to new and emerging technology for residents

By Liam Halawith, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Cedar Rapids residents can enjoy access to new and emerging workforce technology through the Maker Room at the Cedar Rapids Public Library this summer.

After expanding its space and equipment at the downtown branch, the library is set to reopen the Maker Room today.

The new expanded space will host a laser cutter, 3D printer, Cricut Maker (a vinyl design cutter), a photo scanner, and access to the Adobe Creative Suite to bolster access to new technology and skills being implemented in the workforce.

Cedar Rapids Public Library Programming Manager Kevin Delecki said the program is focused on making

cutting-edge technology accessible for all Cedar Rapids residents.

“Now with these emerging technologies that are starting to become more and more integrated into schools, workplaces and job skills for the next generation — those skills are starting to become an expectation,” Delecki said. “But the equipment to learn those skills isn’t widely available, it isn’t affordable, and it does not have equitable access.”

Delecki added that libraries are meant to bring knowledge and skills to their community — just like the books that libraries started with. Technology has become the new bastion of information, and increasing accessibility of that technology is the library’s goal with the program.

“The library can really be that centralized place to provide access and ensure that the entire community can use it: It doesn’t matter your income, it doesn’t matter your age, it doesn’t matter your

HOW TO USE THE C.R. LIBRARY'S MAKER ROOM

Visit crlibrary.org/maker-room to book an appointment and learn more about available equipment.

ability level, it doesn’t matter where in town you live. It’s open for the whole community to come in and use.”

The library not only offers access to this equipment, but also offers assistance and instruction with the available equipment, Delecki said.

He added that the program is looking to bring even more technology to the Maker Room but to ensure the staff can assist residents, it doesn’t want to expand too rapidly.

“We’re looking at a few other ways that we can slowly increase accessible equipment,” Delecki said. “My entire team is trained on all of the different pieces of equipment that we have so that we can offer one on one appointments to

help people learn them. And I want to make sure that everyone remains experts on those things so that they continue to help. I don’t want to outpace our ability to teach.”

In addition to the space dedicated in the downtown branch of the library, Delecki plans on bringing the portable equipment to other branches and other outreach events that the library hosts throughout the summer.

The Maker Room began in 2022 when the library was looking to repurpose an unused space in the downtown library. Now the Maker Room is taking over another unused space — an old computer lab that doesn’t get the use it once did, Delecki said.

Funding for the Maker Room is provided by the Giacoletto Foundation, a nonprofit aimed at promoting lifelong learning based on the wishes of the Giacoletto brothers.

Comments: 319-368-8877; liam.halawith@thegazette.com

EASTERN IOWA BRIEFS

CEDAR RAPIDS

Join library's Summer Dare reading program, earn prizes

The Cedar Rapids Public Library's Summer Dare program has started. Register for Summer Dare on Beanstack or by picking up a game card at the Ladd or downtown libraries.

Track your reading minutes, complete dares and earn prizes.

Pick up a library bag when you register and free book when you complete the challenge.

Complete five squares on your game card in a row — up and down, sideways or diagonal — to complete the challenge. If you block out the whole game card, you earn a special commemorative lapel pin.

The Summer Dare program runs through July 29.

CEDAR RAPIDS

Library's Mobile Technology Lab is on the move this summer

The Cedar Rapids Public Library is partnering with Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation's Rollin' Recmobile to bring activities for all ages to the community again this summer. Find the mobile lab at parks around the city today to Aug. 4 with books, games, fun and a few surprises, too.

Each stop will feature story time 30 minutes after the visit begins (9:30 a.m.

at Redmond Park, noon at Jacolyn Park, etc). The lab schedule is:

• Mondays: 9 to 11 a.m., Redmond Park, 1545 Third Ave. SE

• Mondays: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Jacolyn Park, 198 Jacolyn Dr. NW

• Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Hayes Park, 1924 D St. SW (No visit July 4.)

• Alternating Wednesdays: June 7 and 21, July 5 and 19, and Aug. 2, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Cleveland Park, 1600 Eighth Ave. SW

• Alternating Wednesdays: June 14 and 28 and July 12 and 26, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Jacolyn Park, 198 Jacolyn Dr. NW

• Thursdays: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Hughes Park, 2100 Wilson Ave. SW

• Fridays: 9 to 11 a.m., Bever Park, 2700 Bever Ave. SE

NORTH ENGLISH

Author to discuss Iowa's role in the Civil War on June 25

Author Ken Lyftogt will talk about his “Iowa and the Civil War” books at 2 p.m. June 25 at English Valleys History Center, 108 N. Main St. in North English.

“Iowa and the Civil War” is a trilogy of books that has been a finalist for the B.F. Shambaugh Award, the highest honor offered by the State Historical Society of Iowa, with Volumes I and II receiving second place honors. The final result for 2023 will be announced June 15.

The books offer details and insights into Iowa’s involvement in the Civil War.

PET OF THE WEEK



Duke is an adult male Great Dane available for adoption through Cedar Rapids Animal Care & Control. A gentle giant, Duke is playful, house-trained and crate-trained, and has shown to be good around other animals and kids. A meet-and-greet will help determine compatibility. Call (319) 286-5993 for more information. (Cedar Rapids Animal Care & Control)

Lyftogt taught history at the University of Northern Iowa for many years. During that time, he also traveled and researched Iowa’s role in the Civil War. He has served as an author and lecturer with the Iowa Humanities Board for more than 10 years.



kids gazette



Celebrate Pride month with these picture books

C.R. library suggests books that celebrate the lives and families of LGBTQ+ people

Cedar Rapids Public Library

CEDAR RAPIDS — To celebrate Pride month this June, Cedar Rapids Public Library librarian Renee Greenlee shared this list of picture books that celebrate the lives and families of LGBTQ+ people.

Pride month is dedicated to celebration and commemoration of LGBTQ+ people. LGBTQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer.

The word queer is used by people to identify with and celebrate people of all gender identities and all the ways people love each other. It can be used in celebration, but when used in a mean way, it can be hurtful, according to Welcoming Schools, a bullying prevention program with tools to embrace family diversity and create gender inclusive schools.

“As a story time presenter, I realize the importance of reading picture books that demonstrate posi-

tive LGBTQ+ themes, characters and family structures,” Greenlee said. “This allows children to see themselves and their own families reflected in books, as well as learn about other people they will encounter in their growing worlds.”

One of her favorites is Stonewall Book Award winner “Love, Violet” by Charlotte Sullivan Wild, a heartwarming story about the adventures, friendship and love Violet experiences with her classmate, Mira. Readers of all ages will cheer Violet on as she tries to express her feelings to her special friend on Valentine’s Day.

Another favorite, “Bathe the Cat” by Alice B. McGinty is a romping, rhyming story of two dads and their family who are trying to get the house in order for Grandma’s visit. However, the family cat doesn’t want a bath and has a “paw” in bringing chaos to the chores! Kids and their grown-ups will get a kick out of this.

Other books available at the

library to check out this month or any time of the year:

- “Granddad’s Camper” by Harry Woodgate
- “Pride Puppy!” by Robin Stevenson
- “When Aidan Became a Brother” by Kyle Lukoff
- “Prince & Knight” by Daniel Haack
- “Love Makes a Family” by Sophie Beer
- “This Day in June” by Gayle E. Pitman
- “Stonewall: A Building, An Uprising, A Revolution” by Rob Sanders
- “Strong” by Rob Kearney and Eric Rosswood
- “’Twas the Night Before Pride” by Joanna McClintock
- “Pride Colors” by Robin Stevenson
- “The Hips on the Drag Queen Go Swish, Swish, Swish” by Lil Miss Hot Mess

Comments: (319) 398-8411; grace.king@thegazette.com

Iowa Children’s Museum ready to kick off summer of playing in the park

Iowa Children’s Museum

CORALVILLE — The Iowa Children’s Museum is bringing play outdoors and creating fun in local parks all summer long with free, hands-on play opportunities.

Museum educators and PLAYologists will facilitate various hands-on activities for children to learn through play throughout June, July and August.

On Mondays from June 12 to Aug. 7, the Iowa Children’s Museum will be at Central Park, 501 Sixth St, Coralville, from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

From June 26 to Aug. 3, the Iowa Children’s Museum 2 Go (ICM2Go) will host events in Iowa City parks on select Tuesday nights and in Cedar Rapids parks on select Thursday afternoons.

Families can find the Iowa Children’s Museum at the following parks throughout the summer on these days from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Iowa City:

- June 27, at Fairmeadows Park, 2451 Miami Dr.
- July 11, at Mercer Park, 1317 Dover St.
- July 25, at Willow Creek Park, 1117 Teg Dr.
- Aug. 1, at Wetherby Park, 2400 Taylor Dr.

The Iowa Children’s Museum will be at the following parks on these days from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Cedar Rapids:

- June 22, at Jacolyn Park, 198 Jacolyn Dr. NW
- Aug. 3, at Cleveland Park, 1600 Ninth Ave. SW

These play dates in the park will make the entire family smile and inspire play all summer long! View the full schedule and learn more about ICM2Go by visiting the-icm.org/icm2go.

In addition to events hosted by The Iowa Children’s Museum, the museum participates in other festivals, farmers markets, and events throughout the summer. The team can be found:

- June 22, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the South District Diversity Market
- June 24, from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the downtown Iowa City Block Party
- June 25, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Iowa City Community Band at Upper City Park
- Aug. 19, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the South District Diversity Market.

The Iowa Children’s Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing children with hands-on, interactive learning experiences.

Located in Coralville, the museum offers exhibits, programs and events designed to spark imagination, curiosity and a love of learning.

The museum’s exhibits focus on a wide range of subjects, including science, technology, engineering, art and math, and are designed to be educational, engaging and fun.

IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer Reading Program

Join Now!

June 1 - August 5

Free events, win prizes, and read as a community!

icpl.org/srp

Thank you to our Sponsors!

SUMMER DARE

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Mikayla Oz
Family Magic Show
June 20

Amber Hansen
Songs for my Students
June 26 & 27

All performances are first-come, first-serve - wrist bands will be handed out one hour prior to each performance. Performance times vary - please visit CRLibrary.org/Summer-Dare for details and to register for the 2023 Summer Dare.

CRLibrary.org | (319) 261-7323

INSIGHT

The Gazette Editorial Board

Todd Dorman, Insight editor, columnist;
Zack Kucharski, executive editor;
Quinn Pettifer, manager of brand initiatives

Letters guidelines

Length limit: 250 words
Email: editorial@thegazette.com
Mail: 116 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
Questions?: (319) 398-8262



GUEST COLUMN | JERRY ELSEA

Librarians are such improbable targets

The Sioux City Public Library visitor, 17-year-old me, needed help. There I was with a self-selected school research subject, the Mau Mau rebellion in Britain's Kenya Colony, but with no idea how to find stuff for my paper.

Not to worry, said a librarian, eager to help. First (she advised) consult the Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature and note all articles on the still-smoldering uprising. Then request those magazines, which the library probably has. Take notes; better use 3-by-5 index cards to keep in a recipe box — subtopics listed methodically (a practice foreign to me). On she went, probably not knowing she sparked a lifelong admiration of librarians. If time allows, she said, read Robert Ruark's "Something of Value," a novel, yes, but packed with relevant factual information on Mau Mau.

"Wow!" I thought. "These people have research down to a science." Yes, library science, a discipline taking bachelor's degree holders through extra college years, qualifying them to organize and present age-appropriate services while keeping pace with rapidly growing technology and information needs of the marginalized. All of which puts librarians in the lowest-paid profession requiring advanced schooling.

Modestly paid but highly respected. But not by everyone. As censors who screen materials before making them available, librarians sometimes run up against critics who demand offensive materials be removed or stowed where kids can't reach them.

That makes it censor vs. censor. Because librarians and journalists are first cousins, sharing a passion for freedom of information, you can guess which side I'm on.

Suppression of information goes way back. I wouldn't be surprised to learn cave men kept cave kids from seeing risqué carvings on cave walls.

But book banning in the U.S. gained steadily in the 20th century's last half. It started low-key. In my decade as a

Cedar Rapids Public Library trustee (1975-85), just one demand for book removal reached the board. It was a local mom's worry that new author Judy Blume's popular coming-of-age novels were too sexually explicit for her daughter. (Request denied.) That meant expert materials selection staff were handling all other concerns.

But no one in those tranquil times could have imagined the tumult engulfing librarians and administrators — public and school — in today's red state culture wars.

Blame politicians, mainly Republican, who saw electoral gold in those book bans. In some campaign stops, they denounced certain book titles, lumping librarians in with other intellectuals — notably "pointy-headed" college professors (a George Wallace coinage) — while ironically giving the impression that because they're of common clay, they read very little.

By February 1983, alarm signs were vivid enough to cause the American Library Association and other sponsors to begin observing Banned Books Week. (So, happy 40th anniversary, First Amendment champions!)

Today, attempted book suppression is in overdrive, with Iowa catching some of the worst publicity. In Vinton last year, the public library closed temporarily following resignation of the entire staff. Cause: incessant resident complaints about display of LGBTQ books and too many books about Democratic politicians. And, oh yes, presence of LGBTQ people on library staff. All that followed the resignation of two directors and one interim director in two years.

In Des Moines, Florida-bred Moms for Liberty stalks legislators, demanding removal of materials "not age-appropriate" from school curriculum and library shelves. The real targets are books dealing with racism and LGBTQ issues. Moms for Liberty pressure has yielded results.

One law after another forbids "obscene" materials. The latest, effective July 1, requires policies allowing

someone to request removal of any classroom materials. Librarians await clarification, but the Department of Education says none is forthcoming.

At least no Iowa law (yet) allows fining or jailing non-compliant teachers, though several legislators have recommended that.

GOP-inspired laws cracking down on school libraries look remarkably similar — notably Iowa's and Indiana's. They follow Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' lead against "woke" librarians. But no Midwest state matches Missouri, where last April, the GOP-dominated House voted to strip from the state budget \$4.5 million slated for public libraries (legislation headed off by the Senate). All in retaliation to an American Library Association lawsuit over a draconian law banning books that discuss racial injustice and Holocaust history as well as LGBTQ issues. Librarians who fail to comply with the law could be fined \$2,000 and/or imprisoned for a year.

How refreshing, then, to see the Illinois Legislature's passage of a bill banning book bans. It seeks to protect public and school libraries from pressure to ban, remove or restrict access to books based on "partisan or doctrinal disapproval."

At the bill's signing June 19, Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker said, "The argument for banning books always begins with the claim that it's about protecting children ... But banning books from libraries isn't about that at all. Book bans are about marginalizing people, marginalizing ideas and facts. Regimes ban books, not democracies." Take that, red states!

Librarians are such improbable targets. My thoughts return to that librarian of yore who taught me how to research for my school paper. An adage says, "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime." That librarian taught me to fish.

Gazette retiree Jerry Elsea served 10 years on the Cedar Rapids Library Board, eight years as president.

GUEST COLUMN NORMAN SHERMAN

Which GOP? Ray or Trump?

Rumors of an earthquake near Des Moines are false. There were tremors recently, I believe, but they were simply the late Republican Gov. Bob Ray, spinning in his grave. I guess he had received a report, somehow, on Kim Reynolds.

Ray brought honor to himself, his Republican Party and our state by simply being a compassionate and creative Republican. He was elected to five terms.

He was a busy governor. He issued executive orders on civil rights, energy conservation, and created the Iowa Council on Children, and a Commission on the Status of Women.

The Des Moines Register summed up his career. "Gov. Bob Ray brought out our best, made us proud to be Iowans." Rare, but not alone, Gov. Ray has not been the only Republican to serve us with distinction, leaving us a legacy of inspiring accomplishments.

Jim Leach served for 30 years in the U.S. House. From the beginning to the end, he was a Republican, a creative force for a better America. When he left the Republican Party, papers reported, "He said the switch was prompted by a Republican Party that he described as lurching to the right by its support of Donald Trump, leading up to and after Jan. 6."

Two guys of remarkable character served country, our state and their party with more than just distinction. Unfortunately, the Republican Party of Jim Leach and Bob Ray was nowhere to be seen on a recent PBS show, reflecting today's Republican Party. Judy Woodruff interviewed eight Iowa Republicans about Donald Trump and the 2024 election.

One question was, "If Trump were charged and convicted for taking secret documents with him would you still support him and vote for him?" A unanimous vote: "Yes."

The one person who said he wished Trump would move on would nonetheless vote for him. Their other responses were not new, and not really responses. "What about Hunter Biden?" "The media is out to get him." "And so is the Justice Department." "He accomplished a lot." "How about Hillary?"

The chosen eight are Republicans who look OK, healthy, well groomed, able to sit upright, and whose noses aren't running. No one drools. It goes downhill, however, from there when they speak.

They aren't in the Leach and Ray tradition of responsible Republicans. They all raise their hands when asked if they would vote for Trump in 2024.

Reasonable Republicans, but none from Iowa as best I can tell, are beginning to talk truth. Mike Pence, Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton, and his former attorney general Bill Barr have spoken out about his narcissism and unfitness for being president. They see him as sowing chaos and doubt.

William Galston of the Brookings Institution sums up my fears. "If you have fundamental doubts raised about those institutions, then constitutional democracy as a whole is in trouble."

We know how Jim Leach will vote. If Bob Ray were here, I think we know how he would vote. They should be the guides for all Iowa Republicans, not just how they vote, but how they think.

Norman Sherman of Coralville has worked extensively in politics, including as Vice President Hubert Humphrey's press secretary.

COMMUNITY LETTERS

Don't make high school sports in Iowa pay-per-view

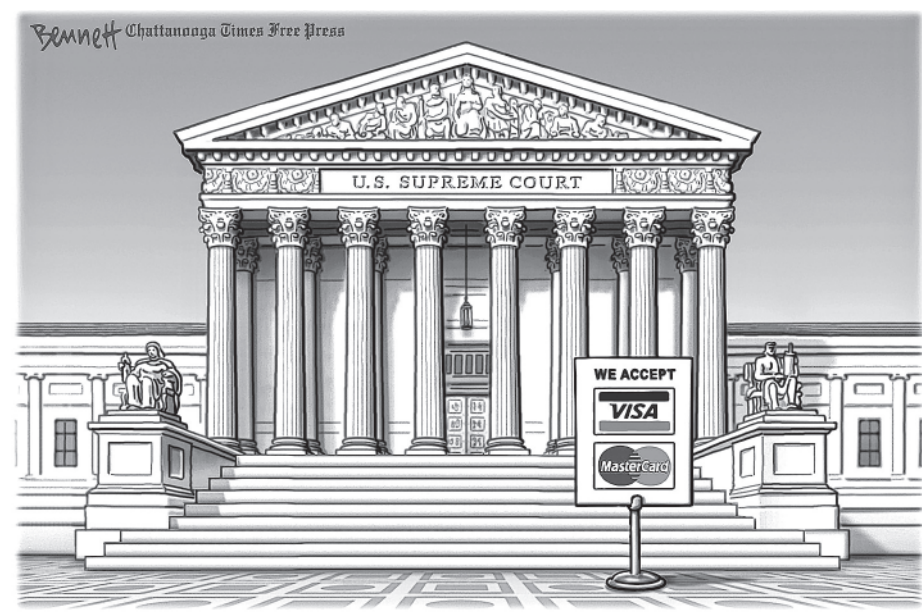
On Wednesday, the Iowa High School Athletic Association announced its media rights holder, Iowa High School Sports Network, will attempt to charge for internet viewing of this summer's state baseball tournament in Carroll and Iowa City after years of airing them for free on the internet and over-the-air TV.

This is appalling. What the sports network is trying to do is turn Iowa boys' state tournament games into the equivalent of world championship boxing events, UFC fights and WWE premium live events.

A few years ago, IHSSN took the football, wrestling and boys' basketball tournaments from the statewide over-the-air TV network and gave it to NBC Sports Chicago, which wasn't available much past Highway 63. They then returned those events to Iowa television, but mostly on digital sub-channels. Now they want to make Iowans pay to watch their kids play for state titles.

I implore the IHSSN and the IHSAA's major sponsors, Fareway and the Iowa Farm Bureau, to persuade the TV network's executives to abandon their plans and let Iowans view state football, wrestling, basketball, swimming, track and field, soccer and baseball for free. If the IHSSN refuses, IHSAA should revoke those rights and grant them to Iowa PBS.

Eric Van Sickle
Cedar Falls



Clay Bennett is a syndicated cartoonist distributed Counterpoint Media. Comments: syndication@counterpoint.com.

Time to crack down on tinted windows, windshields on cars

I just got home from running errands not more than 10 blocks from my home in any direction. I almost got T-boned by a driver who ended up mere feet from an accident.

Too many people are doing rolling stops through two-way and four-way stop-signed intersections.

As if that wasn't bad enough, this individual had not only excessively tinted side windows, but the windshield as well!

Even I know dark-tinting these

windows and windshields is illegal. And you don't need meters to know it.

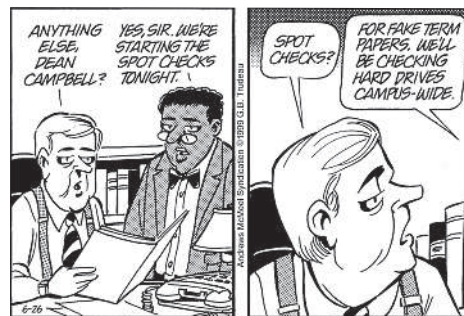
If you cannot see the driver through the front-side windows and especially the windshield, they should be ticketed and fined accordingly.

And if picked up a second, third or fourth time, they should be fined more each and every time!

This is a very dangerous situation. This is a big safety issue that Cedar Rapids seems to ignore.

Curtis Goodrow
Cedar Rapids

DOONESBURY | GARRY TRUDEAU



MALLARD FILLMORE | BRUCE TINSLEY



To: Monica Challenger, Finance Committee Chair
From: Dara Schmidt
Date: 6/19/2023
Subject: **May 2023** Financial Report

May Monthly Analysis:

Library Operations 151XXX: When reviewing budget to actual, we assume:

- At least 1/12 of revenue will be received per month (91.7% thru May). Actual revenues are expected to meet or exceed budgeted amounts.
- No more than 1/12 of discretionary, fleet, facilities, fuel budget is spent per month (remember due to processing times, expenses have a 1 month lag so 83.3% thru May).
- For all other expenses, no more than 1/12 of budget are spent per month (91.7% thru May).
- Regardless of funds/cash available, total actual expenses, excluding transfer out, may not exceed total budgeted expenses.
- Here are concerns and highlights that you should be aware of, or that need addressed:
 - **Total actual revenue (less transfer in) is 91% or \$735K of adjusted budget \$810K. On Target with budget**
 - **Total actual expenditures are 89% or \$6.6M of \$7.4M budgeted. Right on track with budget.**
 - Personal Services is tracking at **89%** or **\$4.9M** of **\$5.55M** budget.
 - Accrual for FY 2023 will have entire paycheck accrued back this FY (June will have 3 paychecks actually posted). Estimated to have \$113K remaining budget at 6/30 that can cover for the following overages:
 - Discretionary is over spent thru May. Total incurred is \$831K of \$810K budget or 103%.
 - Rent of Land & Buildings has incurred 12 months of Lease & CAM \$16,387.67 July thru December and \$17,600.17 Jan thru June (including CAM reconciliation for 2021) for Ladd library or \$214K.
 - Electricity & Natural gas is spending greater than budget available thru May. Anticipated to be overspent for both of these.

Special Revenue & CIP Funds:

- Fund 7010 – Special Revenue
 - Thru May, total expenditures are 33% or \$163K of \$500K budget.
- Fund 7020 – Special Revenue
 - Total expenses equal budget and no longer active. Will be removed in July
- Fund 316 – CIP
 - Thru May, total expenditures are 74% or \$662K of adjusted \$900K budget.

City of Cedar Rapids
 151 General Fund - Library
 2023-05-31

Account Name	Account	Prior Fiscal Year 2022 YTD Actuals	Current Fiscal Year 2023 Adjusted Budget	Current Fiscal Year 2023 YTD Actuals	Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance	Percent of Budget Received Spent	Current Month 2023 Actuals
Revenue							
Taxes							
Total Taxes		-	-	-	-	0%	-
Intergovernmental Revenue							
Federal Operating	421001	16,330.00	10,800.86	10,800.86	-	100%	-
State Operating	422001	112,069.27	115,000.00	101,964.62	(13,035.38)	89%	-
Local Govt Grants and Reimb	423000	113,859.45	325,000.00	306,625.73	(18,374.27)	94%	-
Total Intergovernmental Revenue		242,258.72	450,800.86	419,391.21	(31,409.65)	93%	-
Other Revenue							
Printing & Duplicating of Form	431006	4,780.10	25,000.00	13,647.85	(11,352.15)	55%	2,394.00
Dept Charges-External to City	431012	328,332.94	209,792.00	190,986.93	(18,805.07)	91%	19,765.78
Library User Fees - Not Fines	431201	9,491.77	5,600.00	9,549.08	3,949.08	171%	796.28
Vending Sales	431301	62.49	-	33.29	33.29	0%	-
Building Rental	461001	32,915.20	43,455.00	33,760.90	(9,694.10)	78%	3,568.20
Contributions & Donations	471002	31,175.00	70,000.00	65,945.22	(4,054.78)	94%	250.00
Sale of Inventory	471003	1,403.20	2,000.00	809.10	(1,190.90)	40%	13.00
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	471005	0.01	3,500.00	1,100.00	(2,400.00)	31%	-
Cash Over (Under)	471007	-	-	(3.17)	(3.17)	0%	(4.23)
Total Other Revenue		408,160.71	359,347.00	315,829.20	(43,517.80)	88%	26,783.03
Proceeds of Long Term Liabilities							
Total Proceeds of Long Term Liabilities		-	-	-	-	0%	-
Transfers In							
Operating Transfer In - Inter	483001	14,000.00	36,000.00	11,000.00	(25,000.00)	31%	-
Total Transfers In		14,000.00	36,000.00	11,000.00	(25,000.00)	31%	-
Total Revenue		664,419.43	846,147.86	746,220.41	(99,927.45)	88.2%	26,783.03
Expenditures							
Personal Services							
Regular Employees	511100	3,411,583.30	3,986,814.00	3,561,125.67	425,688.33	89%	337,682.71
Temporary/Seasonal Employees	511200	-	34,694.40	4,350.00	30,344.40	13%	297.00
Overtime	511300	74,531.82	114,773.40	63,814.66	50,958.74	56%	8,383.33
Other Special Pays	511400	41,281.54	20,180.00	34,468.02	(14,288.02)	171%	-
Group Insurance	512100	414,370.42	513,159.00	513,206.85	(47.85)	100%	53,369.30
Social Security Contributions	512200	261,516.81	326,956.00	272,194.05	54,761.95	83%	23,143.60
Retirement Contribution	512300	329,450.73	404,672.00	343,089.59	61,582.41	85%	29,489.78
Unemployment Compensation	512400	-	-	13,246.61	(13,246.61)	-100%	762.61
Workers' Compensation	512500	121,706.65	145,893.00	127,564.07	18,328.93	87%	10,789.73
Other Employee Benefits	512600	7,584.98	7,315.08	6,110.73	1,204.35	84%	586.40
Total Personal Services		4,662,026.25	5,554,456.88	4,939,170.25	615,286.63	89%	464,504.46
Discretionary Expenses							
Advertising & Marketing	521100	23,101.55	5,000.00	9,956.13	(4,956.13)	199%	320.34
Consulting & Technical Service	521104	53,124.93	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	0%	-
External Contracted Labor	521105	82,261.73	105,466.00	119,572.35	(14,106.35)	113%	4,333.97
Health Services	521106	345.15	-	415.95	(415.95)	-100%	50.15
Other Professional Services	521108	3,063.00	10,523.63	9,461.77	1,061.86	90%	871.00
External Banking/Financial Fee	521109	11,718.96	15,700.00	17,739.00	(2,039.00)	113%	1,270.86
Security Services	521110	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	0%	-
Computer Hardware	522100	40,142.34	35,000.00	68,120.63	(33,120.63)	195%	326.86
Computer Software Maintenance	522101	198,999.58	222,220.00	178,112.83	44,107.17	80%	4,535.94
IT Services - External	522102	65,716.77	75,500.00	53,490.12	22,009.88	71%	3,660.32
Building & Grounds Services	522104	3,937.11	15,000.00	29,265.20	(14,265.20)	195%	19,870.00
Equip/Furniture/Fixtures Serv	522105	-	9,000.00	-	9,000.00	0%	-
Vehicles & Rolling Equip Serv	522106	-	-	29.95	(29.95)	-100%	-
Phone Services	523107	27,837.15	26,500.00	27,545.82	(1,045.82)	104%	2,543.82
Rental of Equip & Vehicles	524101	-	500.00	10,182.42	(9,682.42)	2036%	-
Printing, Binding, & Duplicate	525102	9,129.74	15,950.00	13,454.54	2,495.46	84%	1,705.76
Awards & Recognition	531102	2.35	250.00	8.50	241.50	3%	-
Books & Subscriptions	531103	110,546.67	109,171.80	152,125.34	(42,953.54)	139%	9,644.00
Cleaning & Janitorial Supplies	531105	457.89	1,250.00	-	1,250.00	0%	-
Computer Supplies	531106	6,523.03	5,000.00	2,726.88	2,273.12	55%	1,152.38
Equipment/Furniture/Fixtures	531109	48,583.07	11,500.00	15,679.60	(4,179.60)	136%	3,666.07
Photography Supplies	531110	-	300.00	-	300.00	0%	-
Miscellaneous Supplies	531114	685.09	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	0%	-
Office Supplies	531116	19,387.94	15,320.00	11,072.48	4,247.52	72%	1,683.15
Paint Supplies	531117	106.56	-	-	-	0%	-
Program Supplies	531118	28,970.80	37,000.00	27,897.62	9,102.38	75%	4,250.88
Shop Supplies	531119	78.84	250.00	-	250.00	0%	-
Sign & Signal Supplies	531120	235.13	-	1,984.91	(1,984.91)	-100%	-
Uniforms	531123	931.00	694.00	1,196.98	(502.98)	172%	-
Personal Protective Gear	531124	6,240.61	-	1,969.15	(1,969.15)	-100%	-
Building & Grounds Supplies	533100	10,974.42	21,748.15	13,932.01	7,816.14	64%	285.87

City of Cedar Rapids
 151 General Fund - Library
 2023-05-31

Account Name	Account	Prior Fiscal Year 2022 YTD Actuals	Current Fiscal Year 2023 Adjusted Budget	Current Fiscal Year 2023 YTD Actuals	Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance	Percent of Budget Received Spent	Current Month 2023 Actuals
Equip/Furniture/Fixtures Parts	533101	488.77	-	570.00	(570.00)	-100%	-
Conferences, Training, Travel	542102	22,553.85	23,200.00	42,931.29	(19,731.29)	185%	135.00
Dues & Memberships	542103	8,692.55	10,000.00	11,740.50	(1,740.50)	117%	-
Licensing Fees	542106	30.00	-	60.00	(60.00)	-100%	-
Postage & Freight	542108	6,484.10	17,500.00	8,735.14	8,764.86	50%	582.60
Mileage Reimbursement	542111	379.48	3,000.00	1,207.19	1,792.81	40%	63.29
Admin Charges - Inter Departments	521114	-	-	225.00	(225.00)	-100%	-
Chemical Supplies - Non-Snow & Ice	531104	-	-	-	-	0%	-
Facility Services - Non-routine	522107	-	-	-	-	0%	-
Fleet Services - Abnormal Maintenance	522108	-	-	-	-	0%	-
Fleet Services - Non-Safety Modifications	522108	-	-	-	-	0%	-
Fleet Services - Accidents	522108	-	-	-	-	0%	-
Total Discretionary Expenses		791,730.16	809,543.58	831,409.30	(21,865.72)	103%	60,952.26
Other Expenses							
City Accounting Services	521113	68,750.00	77,500.00	71,041.63	6,458.37	92%	6,458.33
City Information Tech Services	522109	8,472.42	5,878.33	5,388.46	489.87	92%	489.86
Electricity	523100	162,478.83	213,800.00	188,091.82	25,708.18	88%	16,643.61
Natural Gas	523103	6,289.75	4,500.00	4,395.02	104.98	98%	199.92
Rental of Land & Buildings	524100	230,947.03	245,000.00	246,725.14	(1,725.14)	101%	2,909.25
Liability Insurance	525104	30,890.83	42,148.00	40,443.15	1,704.85	96%	3,512.33
Property Insurance	525107	81,419.25	100,110.00	91,767.50	8,342.50	92%	8,342.50
Vehicle Insurance	525108	1,600.50	1,200.00	1,100.00	100.00	92%	100.00
Gasoline Fuel	532101	93.81	498.58	88.31	410.27	18%	-
City Inter Department Charges	521114	-	-	-	-	0%	-
Chemical Supplies - Snow & Ice	531104	-	-	-	-	0%	-
Facility Services (Routine)	522107	223,889.16	313,107.55	195,463.87	117,643.68	62%	26,321.61
Fleet Services (Routine)	522108	309.60	1,400.00	456.69	943.31	33%	-
Total Other Expenses		815,141.18	1,005,142.46	844,961.59	160,180.87	84%	64,977.41
Capital Outlay							
Vehicles, Equipment, Software	554000	30,013.66	50,000.00	2,946.99	47,053.01	6%	-
Total Capital Outlay		30,013.66	50,000.00	2,946.99	47,053.01	6%	-
Debt Service							
Total Debt Service		-	-	-	-	0%	-
Transfers Out							
Total Transfers Out		-	-	-	-	0%	-
Total Expenditures		6,298,911.25	7,419,142.92	6,618,488.13	800,654.79	89%	590,434.13
Net Revenues over/(under) Expenditures		(5,634,491.82)	(6,572,995.06)	(5,872,267.72)	700,727.34		(563,651.10)

Right to Protest, Petition, and Assemble

At the Cedar Rapids Public Library (“Library”), we value civic engagement and free expression of ideas. People have the right to protest, petition, and assemble on public property. The Library has the right to place reasonable and viewpoint-neutral restrictions on such activities.

The purpose of a library is to provide a place for reading, writing, and quiet contemplation. People may not engage in disruptive behavior within the Library or interfere with library patrons’ quiet use and enjoyment of the Library. Accordingly, people may not protest, solicit signatures, petition, or assemble in large groups with the purpose of protesting or petitioning within the Library, unless they are in meeting space reserved by a member of the group for that purpose. People are welcome to attend public programs at the Library, subject to occupancy restrictions, but are required to follow all Library policies.

People may petition, protest, and gather in groups on public sidewalks or areas on Library property that are designated by the Library in its sole discretion from time to time for the purpose of public discourse. People may not protest or gather in a way that interferes with patrons’ ability to enter and exit the Library safely and without obstruction. Those intending to gather for purposes of protesting or petitioning are asked to contact the Library twenty-four hours in advance to identify the currently designated areas.

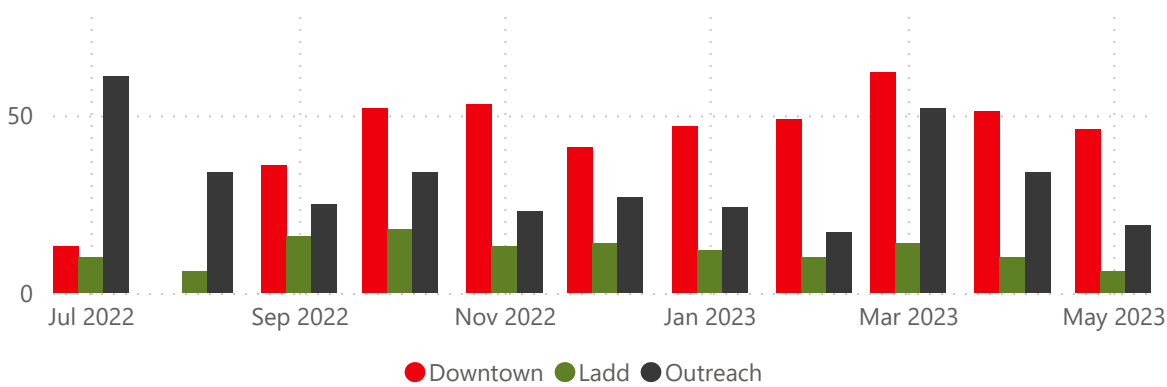
Gatherings shall not impede motor vehicle or pedestrian traffic or disrupt any regularly conducted Library activities or programs.

People participating in assembling, protesting, or petitioning at the Library or within a Library meeting space shall be subject to and abide by the Library’s policies, including the behavior policy. People gathering inside the Library are subject to Library’s operating hours and may not be in the Library outside of those hours. The presence of protesters or petitioners on or near Library property in no way constitutes an endorsement by the Library of the viewpoints expressed by such protesters or petitioners.

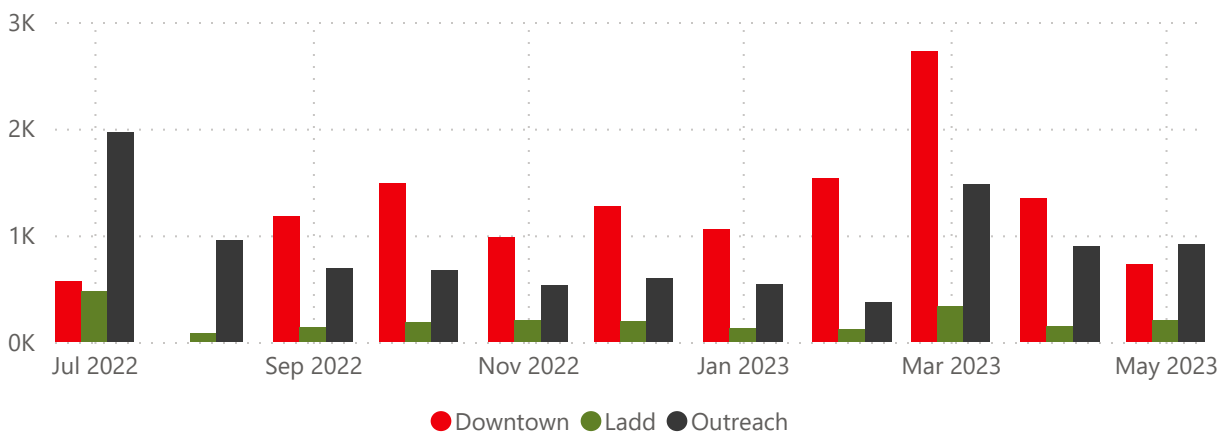
Failure to follow Library policies may result in removal from Library property and/or official action.

Adopted: 07/06/2023

Programs



929
of Programs



24,650
of Attendees

The Programming Department has been busy making the first month of the Summer Dare a success. Nearly 2,000 patrons have registered for the program, and nearly a half-million minutes have already been read! Almost 8,000 patrons have attended programs as well in June, already exceeding all of Summer 2022. Our special performances have been drawing in hundreds of kids and families, our park visits are reaching people in their neighborhoods and communities, and our presence at festivals and parades have introduced the library to entirely new audiences.

I came to the Downtown Library to participate with the IowaWORKS Career Fair and support Meredith with the Job Lab if needed. As soon as the event started with employers at 11 am, we had a mom come with four teenagers in tow and she was looking for any help with getting them connected and informed on career development support that is available for them. She explained that the day before she had taken them to the Iowa Workforce Development office for some guidance and left with some printed information on where she could start and was still feeling lost but on her way out the door she happened to spot a flyer for the DT Career Fair and picked it up.

You could tell they had no idea what they were in for when they got there, but Meredith was quick to get them set up on laptops, and I talked to them about resumes and gave them lots of ideas and feedback on how they can not only build a resume without job experience but how they can plan for developing their resume moving forward. They showed up quietly and reserved, and all of them left feeling confident in themselves and their skills. Mom was so appreciative. We planned for them to come to the Opportunity Center later so I could get them connected with the Four Oaks TotalChild program and PATHS workshops.

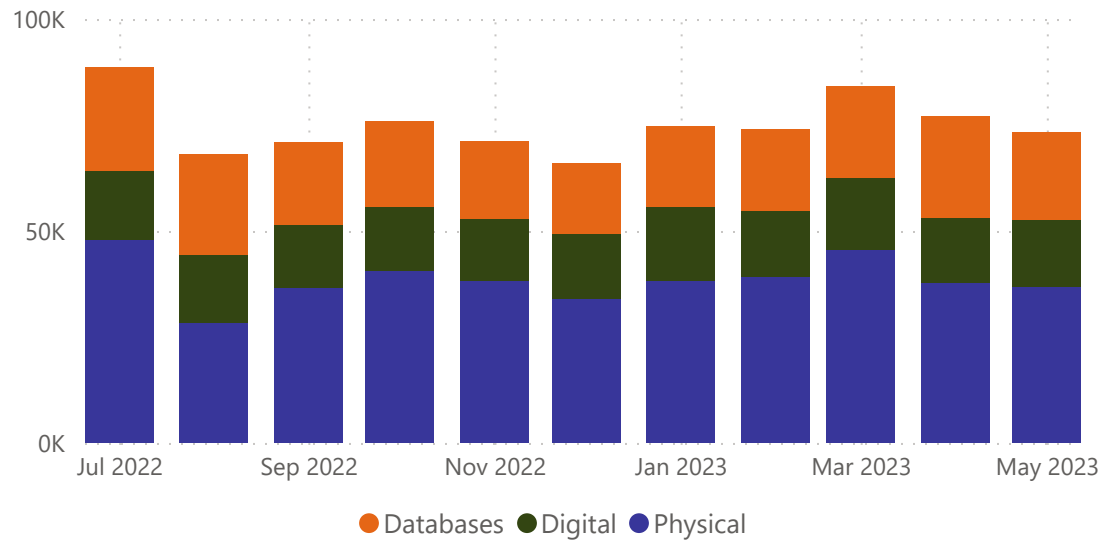
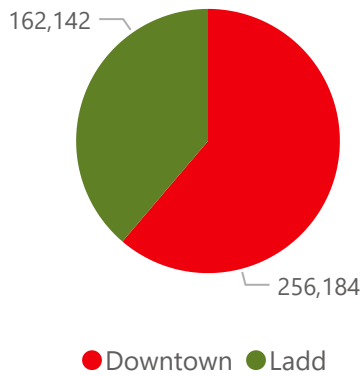
They all visited the employers on Wednesday, and THIS MORNING they all came in to the Opportunity Center. The oldest son had an interview this morning with one of the employers that was at the career fair yesterday and he was hired! He starts very soon and was so excited. – Erin Maeder, Opportunity Center Program Coordinator

At Bever Park on Friday, it wasn't very busy around our tent, but there were lots of families over at the play equipment. It was time for story time, so I put on my voice amplifier and walked down to the play area. I announced who I was and that story time was starting soon (I have no shame!) A few minutes later, about 40 kids and caregivers came to story time. They sat on our 20-foot parachute, enjoyed stories about ice cream, and delighted in parachute play at the end. One parent excitedly asked if there was a story time there every Friday, and I was happy to say yes! Following story time, there was a mass of families who went to our tent for summer reading fun. I love the fact that just by inviting people over, we made so many connections! – Renee Greenlee, Programming Librarian

Borrowing & Collections

226,900 Databases 174,119 Digital 418,326 Physical 4,699 Technology 727,004 Total

Physical Circulation, by Location



The Materials Department is wrapping up spending for FY23 and preparing for the rest of the summer. The strategic planning committee's completed work on suggestions for moving library collections has moved to the department to plan shifting. Because the shifting is significant, there will be some disruption but we're hoping to minimize that through the planning process and moving collections during quieter times. Erin Horst applied for a historic preservation grant through Linn County and was awarded close to \$5,000 to have historical board minutes and other library and county documents digitized. This work will take place over the fall and winter to preserve delicate historical documents that aren't duplicated anywhere else. We're excited to share more as this project develops.

I received an email from a patron asking for help using Libby/Overdrive. She had been referred to me by another staff member. I set up a time to meet and asked her to bring in every device that she could possibly want to read on! She brought in four devices: a laptop, a Kindle Fire, a Kindle Paperwhite, and a smartphone. She had already managed to get the Libby App on her Fire and smartphone, but really wanted to use her laptop and Paperwhite too. I helped her set up Libby as an app on her laptop (something I had just learned how to do on Windows) and showed her how to send a Libby eBook to her Kindle/Amazon account. Then, we practiced!

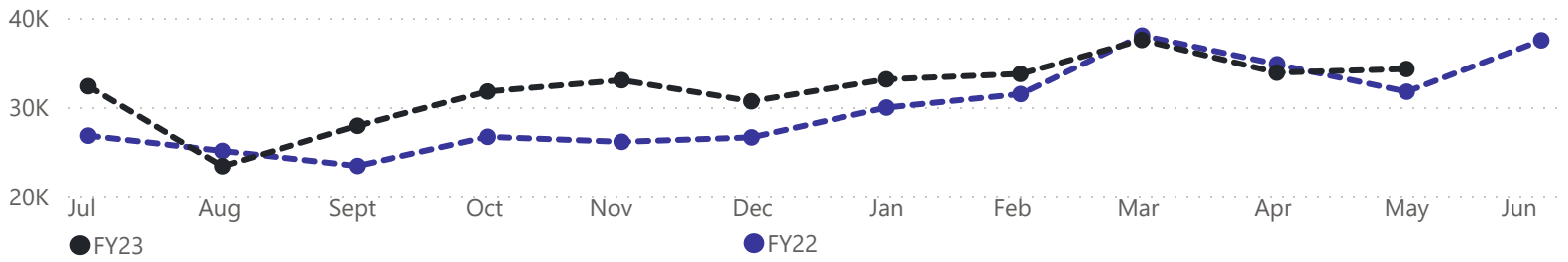
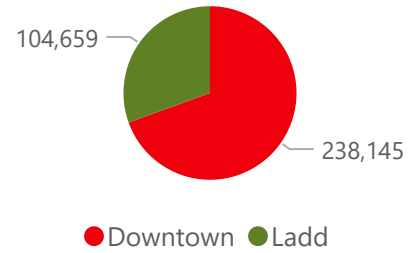
As I helped her, she shared that she has been dealing with a concussion and vertigo for over two years. Being able to use Libby on multiple devices was a lifesaver. If it was a good day, she could read on her Fire. If she needed the biggest text, she could use her laptop. If she needed to read without bluescreen, she could read on her Paperwhite. And when she wanted to listen to an audiobook, she could listen to it at a slow enough speed for her to comprehend it.

She left happy to have everything set up and ready to read! – Rebecca Vernon, Librarian

Community Relations continues to work on promoting all the great Summer Dare programming. We're utilizing social media ads as well as print ads with our partners at *The Gazette*. We are also working on some fun ways to support and encourage staff to both participate in the program and share with patrons. We are pivoting our focus to fall and the opportunities that brings, including National Library Card Sign Up Month and Banned Books Week. We're exploring new ways to engage with the public this year, so look for more information to come. The library is currently making connections within HACAP to get Dolly Parton Imagination Library registration cards available at all 32 Cedar Rapids community food pantries. The first week of Summer Dare Everywhere park programming allowed the library to provide 114 free books for children and youth.

Visits

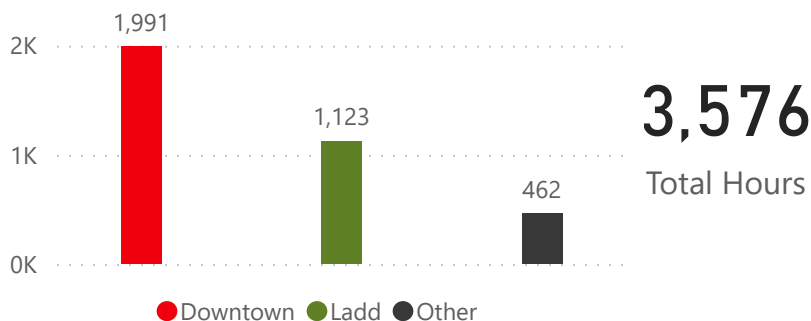
342,804
Physical Visits



Staff have shown great support for the Summer Dare program. They have been actively working to sign up patrons visiting the library and have shown great enthusiasm for the program. We have seen an increase in visitors to the library with all the great programs, and staff have been using this opportunity to re-establish and make new connections with patrons to showcase the services we offer. Additionally, we were thrilled to welcome a new Service Navigator to our team. This is in collaboration with our partner, Willis Dady. Our new navigator, Angela, has been busy establishing connections with many of our patrons.

Volunteers

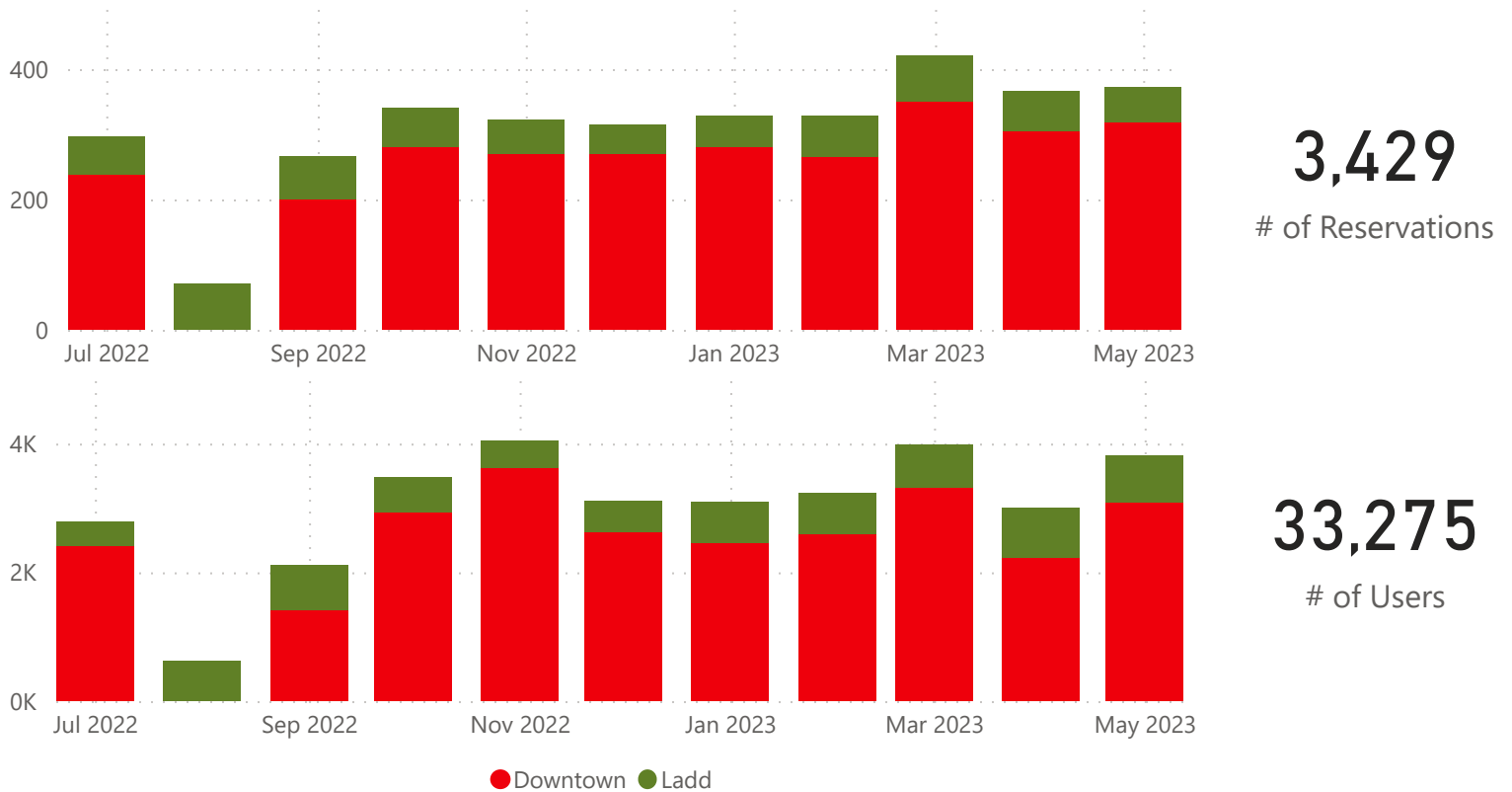
Volunteer Hours



This June we were thrilled to add to our Library team two Summer VISTA AmeriCorps members: Andres Gallardo and Nathan Peterson. The Summer VISTA program provides the Library with grant funded positions focused on summer literacy. They will serve a 10-week term this June and July. Their efforts will focus on preventing summer learning loss, and center around the Summer Dare and the Summer Dare Everywhere. They are teaming up with our Programming staff to assist at outreach programs at centers, parks, and partner agencies all summer long. Volunteer Hours in May 2023: 367 hours

Recently we welcomed a new mother/son volunteer duo to our team. As part of their onboarding, I ask new volunteers where in the Library they'd like to have their picture taken for our records. The boy excitedly announced, "I know right where I want mine taken!" and skipped off in the direction of the O entrance to the Children's Library. "I always have my picture taken here each time we come to the Library," he proudly proclaimed as he climbed in and beamed for the camera. His mom informed me that was indeed his favorite spot for photos since he was just a toddling one year old. Now at the ripe age of ten, he was eager to help keep his favorite fiction books organized in his new Adopt-A-Shelf volunteer role. Seeing young volunteers like him excited to share their time and talents with us affirms for me that we are not only creating lifelong readers, we're fostering lifelong library advocates. I am so proud to work for an organization that values and actively encourages the contributions of even our youngest supporters. – Jessica Link, Volunteer Coordinator

Meeting Room Use



Over the month, there were 324 reservations, serving over 3,800 people. The month of May proved to be a busy month for meeting spaces as the school year came to an end. There were graduation parties as well as school concerts and recitals that added to the usual gatherings for showers and birthdays at the library. Additionally, patrons gathered for a celebration of life for a loved one lost as well as to dance the night away, celebrating the renewal of wedding vows thirty years after saying "I do," the first time. There were special events such as Literary Vines, the spring Book Sale as well as a free Dental Clinic that brought 100 patrons to the library for health care resources. The Opportunity Center Classroom served patrons for partner programs and workshops for workforce development programs. The Library continues to serve patrons as a place for having job interview and meeting prospective candidates to hire; tutoring sessions and homeschool gatherings; having professional development seminars, training and board meetings; and office hours for state senators. Many thanks to Jessica Link, she coordinated Day of Caring Volunteers on-site to give our event spaces a well-needed spring cleaning.

Technology Access

