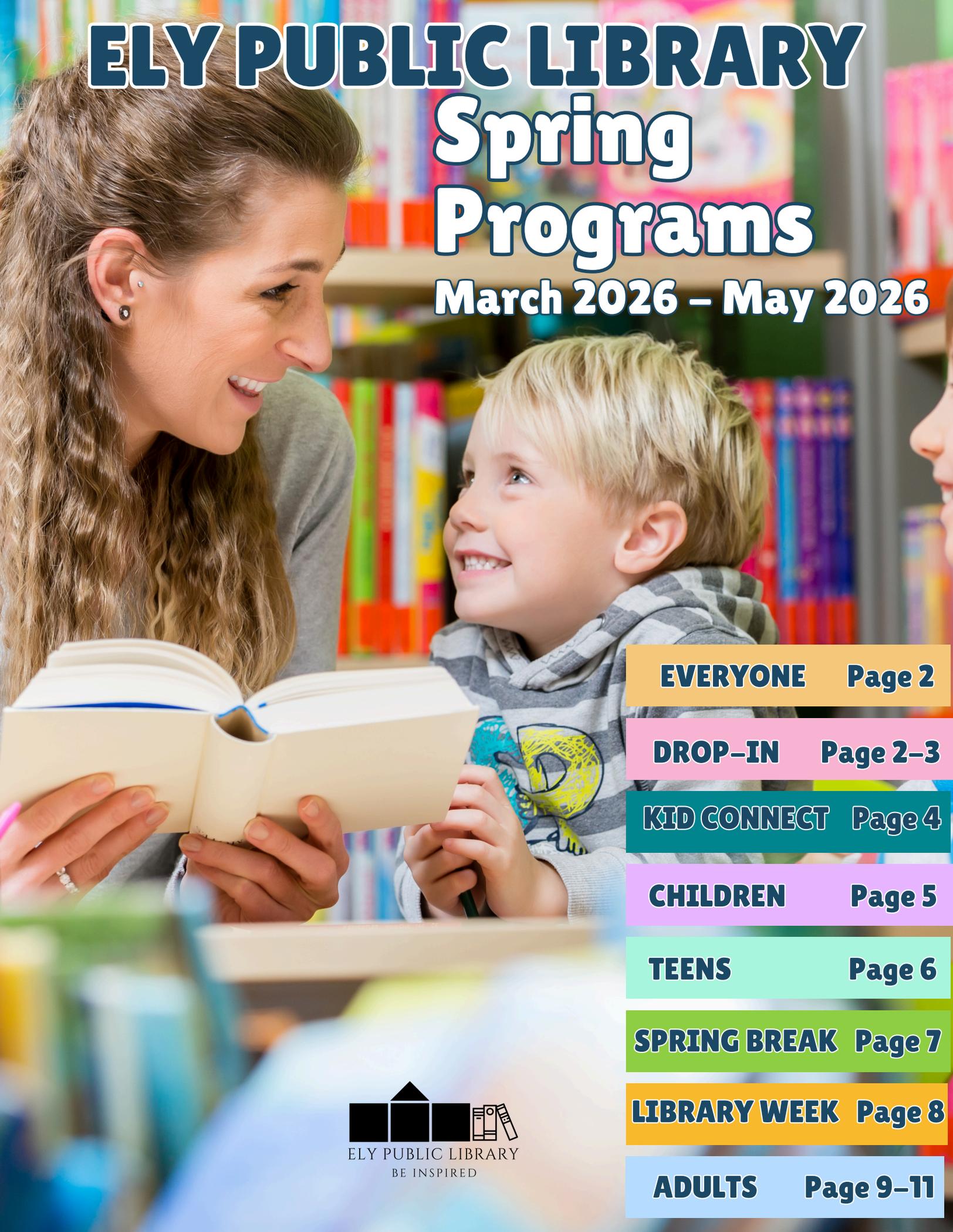


ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Spring Programs

March 2026 – May 2026



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ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BE INSPIRED

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

BINGO at the Ely Legion

Fridays @ 7pm March 13, April 10

You won't want to miss out on the fun! The Friends of the Ely Public Library will be hosting another BINGO fundraiser at the Ely Legion!



Silent Book Club Thursdays @ 6pm

Do you want to spend a peaceful hour with a book?

Then bring a book or borrow one of ours and enjoy a hot cocoa on us while you relax and read.



Spring Break activities @ 2pm

March 16 - Giant games

March 17 - St Patrick's Day movie (Disney's The Luck of the Irish, rated G, 86 minutes, 2001)

Popcorn and snacks provided!

March 18 - Penny Hunt Game

March 19 - Line Dance Lessons - Dance instructor visit

March 20 - Reptiles and Snakes - Cold Blooded Redhead



DIY Depot - Be sure to check out the DIY Depot in the library! The Depot is filled with take home activities and crafting for all ages and is replenished weekly.

DROP-IN PROGRAMS

Drop-in activities are designed to welcome everyone to the library with quick activities that appeal to all different ages and interests. One day there may be information on health and wellness, another day there may be a craft, game or puzzle. All ages are always welcome to attend and the day's activity will be shared on our Facebook page, website, and in our newsletters and calendars. Feel free to call 319-848-7616 for more information.

MARCH DROP-INS

March 2 - Dr. Suess' Birthday - Truffula Tree craft

March 3 - National Pig Day (March 1) - muddy pig craft-make and take

March 4 - Women's History Month - Take a quiz how much do you know?

March 6 - National Oreo Day - Play Oreo Cookie-themed Tic-Tac-Toe

March 9 - Barbie Day - make paper dress up dolls

March 10 - Harriet Tubman Day - explore little-known facts about her life

March 12 - Make a wreath for St. Patrick's Day

March 13 - Potato chip Wars- taste test four different brands and see which is your favorite!

March 16 - 20 - Daily spring crafts

March 16-18 - March Madness - NCAA Tournament brackets competition

March 16-20 - Sticker mural for all ages

March 23 - National Puppy Day - make and take craft

March 24 - Diabetes Information - Take a quiz - what do you know?

March 26 - National Scribble Day - come and scribble on our paper-covered wall



APRIL DROP-INS

April 1 - April Fool's Day - make an April Fool's trick to take home

April 2 - National Picture Book Day - Drop in and pick out a free picture book to keep

April 3 - Jazz Appreciation Day - Drop in and listen to some jazz music

April 7 - World Health Day - Make a card to thank a health care professional

April 9 - National Unicorn Day - Make a unicorn themed craft

April 13 - National Scrabble Day - Two or more players are invited to play Scrabble

April 14 - ASL Day - Learn your name in American Sign Language

April 15 - World Art Day - Take a quiz to learn more about the art we see every day

April 16 - National Elephant Day - Sculpt an animal with air-dry clay

April 17 - National Poetry Month - Make your own poetry with library materials

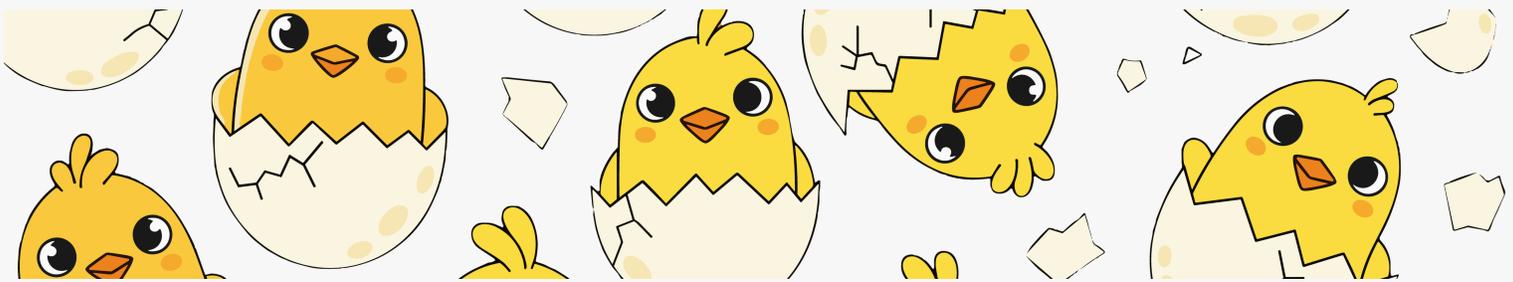
April 21 - Earth Day - Make a craft to celebrate Earth Day

April 24 - Arbor Day - Test your tree identification skills!

April 28 - National Superhero Day - Vote for your favorite superhero, and create your own!



With so much excitement last year, we are excited to announce the hatching of chicks again sometime in April! Be on the look out for announcements!



MAY DROP-INS

May 1 - Make a May Day Basket

May 4-8 - National Wildflower Week - stop by and pick up your free wildflower seeds!

May 4 - May the 4th Be With You - Star Wars trivia, activities

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo - Make 5-minute maracas

May 6 - Anti-bullying - Learn some facts you may not know about bullying.

May 7 - How much do you really know about mental health? - Take our quiz

May 8 - Teacher Appreciation Day - make a card for a special teacher

May 11 - Celebrate Ely's small businesses and citizens' side jobs

May 13 - Tulip Day - Make and take a tulip inspired craft

May 15 - National Chocolate Chip Day - Come in for a free cookie while they last

May 19 - Pet Rock - make yourself a pet rock

May 20 - Mary Pope Osbourne's Birthday - Celebrate *The Magic Treehouse* books with trivia and drawing for a free book!





Family Learning Connection

Kid Connect



**COME JOIN THIS FUN
PLAYGROUP SERIES
DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES
WITH YOUNG CHILDREN!**



Admission
FREE

**Ely Public Library
1595 Dows St, Ely**

Saturdays, Apr 4 - May 23 -- 9:30-11:00 AM

No Cost, but registering is required.

Register at www.hacap.org/FLC or use the QR



More Information 319-739-0022 familylearning@hacap.org

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

Toddler Story Time

Mondays @ 10am

Toddler Story Time features stories, rhymes, songs, and interactive activities designed to get babies and toddlers acclimated to loving the library.

Big siblings are welcome!



Preschool Story Time

Thursdays @ 10am

Come listen to stories, sing songs and make a craft! Preschool Story Time is intended for ages 3-5, but younger siblings are welcome to join the fun!



Music & Movement

First Wednesdays of the month @ 10am

March 4, April 1, May 6

This time together combines music with physical movement. This includes singing, dancing, playing instruments, and moving to the beat.



Kid Connect Session with Family Learning Connection

Saturdays @ 9:30am

April 4 - May 23 (8 weeks)

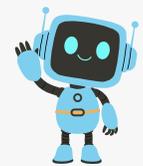
A family playgroup with a purpose! Parents and caregivers will learn how young children learn best and ways to extend learning at home. Children will learn concepts through meaningful play and build skills that can help with school success. **Registration is required!**

STANDALONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Dr. Seuss Story Time and Oobleck Craft

Monday, March 2 @ 6pm

Celebrate National Read Across America Day and the birthday of Dr. Seuss with an extra story time this week in the evening! Join Miss Lauren as she reads a Dr. Seuss story and makes an oobleck slime craft. This story time is intended for ages 3-5, but older siblings are welcome to join the fun!



Prairie Robotics Teams Visit

Saturday, March 7th, from 10-11am

Prairie Robotics is made up of teams across different levels of experience, with programs geared towards intermediate, middle school, and high school students. Its emphasis is on peer-to-peer mentoring, where students gain leadership and career-ready skills.

Drop by if you're interested in testing out your robot driving skills and learning more about this program!

LEGO Build

Saturday, March 21 @ 10am-1pm

Bring your creativity and engineering skills to design and build whatever your imagination inspires. This event is perfect for Lego enthusiasts of all ages.



Easter Bunny Visit

Saturday, April 4 @ 9am

Meet the Easter Bunny at the Ely Community Center following the Easter Egg Hunt!



Meet the Voyager Princess (a.k.a. Moana)

Saturday, May 9 @ 1pm

This is more than a meet and greet. She will read stories and sing songs as well!



TWEEN PROGRAMMING (GRADES 5-8)

Tween Advisory Board & Activities

Our next activity planning meeting will be Monday, March 9 at 4:30 pm. Everyone's invited to join us then, or reach out with questions to Tracy: 319-848-7616; tracy@elyiowa.com.

Our new Tween Advisory Board is a space where kids in grades 5–8 can share ideas, make friends, and help shape the fun happening at the library!

One Monday each month, tweens will meet as a group to brainstorm and plan an activity they'd love to see at the library. Their ideas come to life just a few weeks later, when we host the event they've designed—usually also on a Monday.

Activities will vary based on the group's creativity and interests. Think themed parties, special craft projects, games, and other library-sponsored events chosen by tweens, for tweens.

In February, the group hosted a Sports-Themed Party featuring a sports movie, decorations, games, and snacks to enjoy during the show.

At our next activity planning meeting, we will also introduce our fun new activity - Breakout Bags! This is a challenging and fun activity where we solve a series of puzzles in order to find a combination to a lock and win the prizes contained within the bag. Everyone will love it!



TEEN PROGRAMMING (GRADES 9-12)

TEEN SPRING BREAK @ 5pm:

Monday, March 16 - VR Headsets - Try out the games and apps on our VR Headsets!

Tuesday, March 17 - Mini Button Making - Make your own mini buttons to keep or share

Wednesday, March 18 - STEAM vehicle - Make your own STEAM vehicle with supplied kits

Thursday, March 19 - No Sew Blankets - Create a cozy no-sew blankets to donate to our local animal shelter, helping keep rescue pets warm and comforted while they wait for their forever homes.



Artistic Egg Dyeing Techniques

Thursday, April 2 @ 5pm

Artistic egg dyeing transforms simple eggs into intricate works of individual expression!

Fairy Lanterns

Thursday, May 14 @ 5pm

A whimsical craft that transforms simple materials—like mason jars, tissue paper, and LED lights—into a glowing decorative accent.

Volunteer Opportunities! Need hours for your volunteer cords? Reach out to us as we always have plenty of opportunities available.

SPRING BREAK - MARCH 16-21

March Madness at the Library! Between March 16- 18, stop in at the library to fill out an NCAA tournament bracket—we'll keep you updated and make you a copy so you can track your picks and see how you're doing throughout the games. The participant with the most points at the end will win a prize from the library!



Sticker Mural Art - a collaborative art activity at the library over Spring Break! We'll be hanging up a sticker painting mural for patrons to help complete whenever they stop in. Simply place the stickers in the matching spaces to watch the colorful picture come to life.

MONDAY:

All day - Coloring sheets and/or bookmarks

10am - Toddler Time - Featuring stories, rhymes, songs, and interactive activities to get babies and toddlers acclimated to loving the library.

2pm - Giant Game Day - Go big or go home! Join us for a larger-than-life afternoon featuring giant versions of your favorite classics like Uno, Dominoes, and Sorry. It's the same games you love, just on a massive scale.



TUESDAY:

All day - Mini Art

2pm - Lucky Movie Magic - Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a special screening of Disney's *The Luck of the Irish* on a big screen. Enjoy green treats while you follow the adventures of a teenager discovering his family's leprechaun secrets. This G-rated flick is the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit.



WEDNESDAY:

All day - Sun Catchers

2pm - The Great Penny Hunt - Put your searching skills to the test in our high-stakes Penny Hunt! Scour the area for hidden coins to trade them in for delicious candy rewards. How much treasure can you find?



THURSDAY:

All day - Spring Origami

10am - Preschool Story Time - Come listen to stories, sing songs and make a craft!

2pm - Junior Line Dancing Lesson - Dust off your boots and get ready to groove with dance lover Jaymeson Westphal! You'll learn the steps to fun, energetic line dances in this high-energy workshop. No experience is needed—all ages bring your rhythm and your best moves.



FRIDAY:

All day - 3D Butterflies

2pm - Cold-Blooded Redhead Reptile Encounter - Get up close and personal with some amazing scales and tails! The Cold-Blooded Redhead is visiting with a fascinating collection of live reptiles for an educational and hands-on experience. It's a wild way to wrap up your spring break.



SATURDAY:

10am - 2pm - Lego Building Event - Bring your creativity and engineering skills to design and build whatever your imagination inspires. This event is perfect for Lego enthusiasts of all ages.



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK APRIL 19-25



Find Your Library Joy! Make your voice heard!



We're gathering stories from our community about what the library means to you. Whether it's a special memory, a meaningful program, or simply a place you love to visit, we'd be honored to hear it. Please consider sharing a short note or stopping by to record a short message to help us celebrate the impact our library has made in your life.

Estimation jar - All week long, take a guess at the number of miniature books in the jar! Closest guess wins a prize!

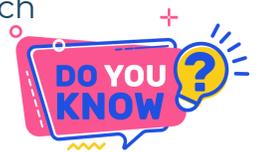


Monday - National Right to Read Day - A day for readers, advocates, and library lovers to take action to protect, defend, and celebrate the right to read. Join us for a silent Read-In all day at the library. Participants receive a mini-button and snacks will be provided!

Tuesday - National Library Workers Day - A day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers. Celebrate by making gratitude notes for your favorite librarians.

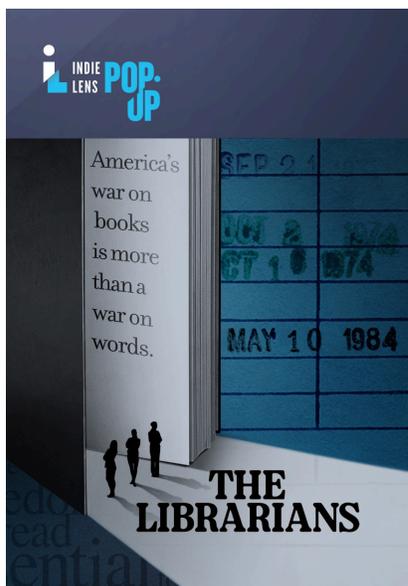


Wednesday - National Library Outreach Day - A day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are. Test your knowledge by partaking in our All Things Library Trivia!



Thursday - Take Action for Libraries Day - A day to rally advocates to support libraries. Write library support letters to your local and state officials.

Friday - The Librarians Screening - Join us for a light meal and the Indie Lens Pop-Up Screening of *The Librarians* on Friday, April 24 @ 6pm



When Texas lawmakers seek to review a list of books, librarians find themselves on the frontlines of a national battle. Across the U.S., librarians face the impact of uniting against library collection standards that include restrictions on race-related and LGBTQIA+ content. Drawing on historical context, *The Librarians* explores the broader implications for education and public life.

Following the screening will be a Q&A with a panel of local Librarians.



Thanks to a grant we received from iTVS and Indie Lens Pop-Up, we will be providing a FREE light meal prior to viewing the screening of *The Librarians*.

ADULT PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

MONDAYS:

Low-Impact Exercise Classes @ 8am & 1pm

Attendees select between an assortment of low-impact DVD guided classes, including Geri-fit.

Cuppa & Conversations @ 9am

Bring your favorite morning beverage and join the conversations!

Lunch with the Librarians

Second Monday @ 12pm March 9, April 13, May 11

A light lunch will be provided, but feel free to bring a side to share! Join your librarians in conversations.



TUESDAYS:

Tai Chi @ 8am

Come gather with Tom for a relaxing morning session of Tai Chi! Available in-person and via Zoom. The link for Zoom can be found on www.ely.lib.ia.us.

Tuesday Tech Help with Lauren from 2-6pm

Lauren will provide one-on-one tech help during March and April on Tuesdays from 2-6pm.

Chatty Crafters @ 5-7pm

Crafters are invited to bring their own crafts and socialize.



WEDNESDAYS:

Low-Impact Exercise Classes @ 8am & 1pm

Attendees select between an assortment of low-impact DVD guided classes, including Geri-fit.

Cuppa & Conversations @ 9am

Bring your favorite morning beverage and join the conversations!

Books on Tap Book Club

Third Wednesdays @ 6pm March 18, April 15, May 20

House Divided Brewery

Join us at House Divided as we chat about what we've been reading each month! Enjoy some beverages and company in this low-key book club.



THURSDAYS:

Morning Stretch @ 8am

Join Paula as she incorporates elements of yoga for all mobility levels.

Banned Book Club

Typically the fourth Thursdays @ 7pm

Join us as we peacefully discuss a challenged and/or banned book each month. We meet In person and via Zoom. Visit www.ely.lib.ia.us for Zoom link.

- 3/26 - *The Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo* by Paula Huntley
- 4/23 - *Tallgrass* by Sandra Dallas
- 5/28 - *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds



FRIDAYS:

Low-Impact Exercise Classes @ 8am & 1pm

Attendees select between an assortment of low-impact DVD guided classes, including Geri-fit. 9

STANDALONE ADULT PROGRAMS

Master Gardeners Tuesdays in March @ 6:30pm

March 3 - How to Grow and Harvest Iowa's Native Plants

Have you wondered how you can begin or incorporate more native plants into your yard? This presentation will cover what Iowa native plants are and their importance. You will also learn the benefits of using native plants and how to effectively use them in your landscape.



March 10 - Building Great Garden Soil

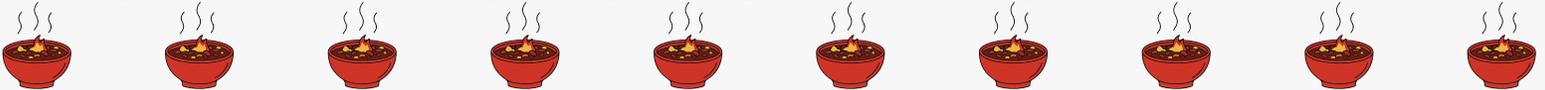
Great gardens start with rich, fertile, healthy soil. In this presentation, Linn County Master Gardener, Phil Pfister, will discuss best practices for building and maintaining healthy soils. Topics will include, composting, cover crops, mulching, soil amendments, till vs no-till, watering practices, and more.

March 17 - The Secrets of Companion Planting

Companion planting is often used to help vegetables grow better. There is a lot more to it than that. Together we will explore smart ways to maximize space, plants that thrive when grown together, plants that simply don't get along, clever decoys that lure harmful insects away from your crops, attracting beneficial bugs, and boosting soil health.

March 24 - Stunning Container Pots

Learn the art of designing stunning container pots that burst with color and charm. In this class, you'll discover plant combinations, layering techniques, and design secrets that transform ordinary pots into eye-catching displays to brighten up your neighborhood.



Chili Cook-Off for Fundraiser for the Friends of the Ely Library At House Divided

Wednesday, March 18 from 6-8pm

Join us on March 18 for a Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser during the excitement of March Madness! Sample a variety of homemade chilis and vote for your favorite by donating money—every dollar counts as a vote. Enjoy great food, thrilling basketball, and friendly competition while supporting a great cause.



Think your chili is the best? Then join the competition! Register with Sarah by calling 319-848-7616 or emailing sarah@elyiowa.com for your entry spot. Winner gets bragging rights and a prize!



Game Nights

Thursday, March 25 at 6pm to play Azul, the beautiful and strategic tile-laying game inspired by Portuguese mosaics. Whether you're new to the game or already a fan, we'll teach you how to play and provide everything you need for a fun evening of gaming.

Tuesday, April 14 at 6pm for a friendly game of Mexican Train Dominoes. Whether you're a seasoned player or brand new to the game, we'll show you how to play and provide everything you need for a fun evening.

Tuesday, May 12 at 6 pm for a friendly evening of Euchre. Bring a partner or come on your own—we'll help match players and make sure everyone has a great time.



STANDALONE ADULT PROGRAMS

Indie Lens Pop-Up Screening & Light Meal

The Tallest Dwarf

Friday, March 27 @ 6pm

Thanks to a grant we received from iTVS and Indie Lens Pop-Up, we will be providing a FREE light meal prior to viewing the screening of *The Tallest Dwarf*.

The Tallest Dwarf follows filmmaker Julie Forrest Wyman as she searches for her place in the little people community and unpacks rumors of dwarfism in her own family. Through intimate stories, creative collaborations, and archival history, the film delves into identity and medicine, asking whether society should change people or the structures that limit them. Community discussion to follow.



Bookbinding Craft - Tuesday, April 7th @ 6pm

Learn about some forms of bookbinding and be able to create your own simple Japanese style bookbinding project. Materials are provided. Teens and adults are welcome to attend! **Please RSVP by April 3rd by calling 319-848-7616.**



Romeo & Juliet - Thursday, April 23 @ 5pm

Celebrate William Shakespeare's birthday by joining us to watch a modern-day interpretation of Romeo + Juliet on a movie-sized screen. (1996, 2 hrs., PG-13)

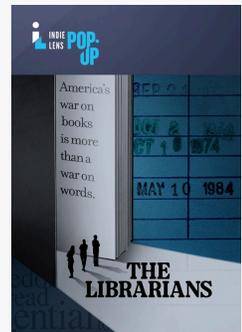
Indie Lens Pop-Up Screening & Light Meal

The Librarian's

Friday, April 24 @ 6pm

Thanks to a grant we received from iTVS and Indie Lens Pop-Up, we will be providing a FREE light meal prior to viewing the screening of *The Librarian's*.

When Texas lawmakers seek to review a list of books, librarians find themselves on the frontlines of a national battle. Across the U.S., librarians face the impact of uniting against library collection standards that include restrictions on race-related and LGBTQIA+ content. Drawing on historical context, *The Librarians* explores the broader implications for education and public life. **Following the screening we will have a community discussion with a panel of local librarians.**



Indie Lens Pop-Up Screening & Light Meal

The Grocery List Show

Friday, May 22 @ 6pm

Thanks to a grant we received from iTVS and Indie Lens Pop-Up, we will be providing a FREE light meal prior to viewing the screening.

Hosted by Top Chef contender Chrissy Camba, *The Grocery List Show* is a trip to five bustling international grocery stores in America and the communities they serve. Special guests and food enthusiasts join Chrissy to shop for ingredients and cook a favorite family recipe, as they celebrate global food traditions over a shared meal.



Following we will have a presentation from ISU Extension Office on Good Nutrition on a Budget. Learn strategies to save money on food expenses and incorporate new ideas into menu planning and food shopping.

BE INVOLVED

Be a Part of the Discussion

The Library Board and Friends of the Library are actively looking at how best to serve our community with our town's growth and the library space needs. Please consider this invitation to be part of this discussion! The Library Board Meetings and Friends of the Library meetings are open to the public. We hope to see you there!

Library Board Meetings

First Wednesday of the month @ 7pm

Library Board Meetings are open to the public. Join us in person or get a link for zoom at www.ely.lib.ia.us. Our next scheduled meetings are:

- **March 4, 2026**
- **April 1, 2026**
- **May 6, 2026**

Friends of the Ely Public Library Meetings

Second Wednesday of the month @ 7pm

We are looking for some good friends to help us plan some fun upcoming programs, and to advocate for the library! Join us and learn how you can be involved! Our next scheduled meetings are:

- **March 11, 2026**
- **April 8, 2026**
- **May 13, 2026**



Avoid **FOMO!** Stay Informed by following us on our socials @elylibrary and sign up for our e-newsletter by scanning the QR code!



Ely Public Library

1595 Dows St.

Ely, IA 52227

319-848-7616

www.ely.lib.ia.us

Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9am-7pm

Friday: 9am-5pm

Saturday: 9am-4pm

Sunday: Closed

Library Closures:

April 6 - Corridor Staff Training

May 25 - Memorial Day