

ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

319-848-7616


WWW.ELY.LIB.IA.US


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**A SPECIAL GRANT
OPPORTUNITY
FOR SMALL AND
RURAL LIBRARIES**

ALA American Library Association

ala.org/LTCAccess


EPL Receives Natl. Grant

EPL received a competitive \$10,000 grant from the American Library Association. The funds were used to install a new sound system and upgrade automatic doors, making the library more accessible and functional for the community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **Weekly Early Literacy**
Toddler Time - Mondays @ 10 am
Story Time - Thursdays @ 10 am
- * **Weekly Adult Programs**
Exercise Classes (Geri-fit and more)
Mon., Wed., & Fri. @ 8 am & 1 pm
Tai Chi Tuesdays @ 8am
Chatty Crafters Tuesdays @ 5pm
Thursday Morning Stretch @ 8am
- * **Master Gardener Classes**
Tuesdays in October at 6:30 pm
10/7 To Prune or Not To Prune
10/14 Small Garden Big Yield
10/21 Closing up for Fall
10/28 Growing & Using Microgreens
- * **BINGO - Friends Fundraisers**
At Ely Legion. Doors open at 6:30 pm.
Starting October 10!
Save the following dates: October 10,
November 14, December 12, January 9,
February 13, March 13 and April 10!
- * **Winterfest**
Saturday, December 13 9am-4pm



Library Success Story Highlights Need for More Space

The Ely Public Library has long been a vital hub for the community, but its growing popularity is highlighting a significant, ongoing challenge: a critical lack of space.

Library Director Sarah Sellon explains, "We have faced this issue for many years. Our designated event space is rated to hold approximately 40 people in chairs, but our programs often draw much larger crowds, with some events reaching over 200 attendees."

This isn't just a summer phenomenon; it's a year-round issue. Whether it's a winter holiday event, a visiting author, or a popular story time, the library's programs are consistently a victim of their own success. Children's Librarian Tracy Clair states, "Some of our events are so popular, we've had to turn people away, and it's a difficult situation for everyone involved."

Despite the limited space, staff are committed to meeting the needs of a growing audience by offering more frequent programming. However, the consistent demand for more event space is putting a strain on the library's ability to serve everyone who wants to participate.

The library's success story is a testament to the community's demand for a central gathering place, and it highlights a clear need for a larger venue to continue accommodating its rapidly growing number of patrons.

A Message from the Board President

The numbers don't lie: record attendance at summer events, requests for additional programming, and an overwhelming show of support from community surveys all indicate that the space available does not meet the needs of a growing library and community. This summer it was glaringly obvious at most events where patrons and families were either turned away, made to wait for an impromptu second program, or simply left of their own volition, seeing the number of people waiting. (As experienced by my family). If it seems like you've heard this before, it is because this is a reality the library has been facing for over a decade.

The library board remains committed to supporting staff and programs that benefit the community, and in order to do so the board is currently exploring ways to increase capacity - for programs, collection, and community. We are grateful to all who participated in the latest library survey and look forward to keeping you updated as EPL works with the city administration to continue to find a way to provide the excellent services that have become the way of life here in Ely.

Erika Uthe, Board President of EPL

Survey Shows Strong Support for Larger Library Space

A recent community survey has revealed overwhelming support for a larger library building to accommodate the town's current and future needs. 90% of respondents expressed a desire for an expanded space. The top requested features include:



A large, accessible community room with a full kitchen.



An outdoor learning space.



Dedicated children's space.



Meeting and study rooms.

Other insights gleaned from the survey include:

- People still see libraries as their go-to for information and entertainment, with 78% of respondents stating that borrowing materials is one of the ways they use the library.
- When asked what they value most for the library's future, 69% of survey respondents said a community meeting area that can be used by everyone. This reflects a strong desire for a shared space where people can come together, connect, and collaborate.
- One in three respondents use the library play area, which tells us that the space is a significant resource for the community. This highlights the play area's value and confirms that it is meeting a real need for families with young children.
- We're a social space, too! A notable 25% of those surveyed, or one in four respondents, use the library to meet with friends and colleagues. This demonstrates the library's evolving role as a community gathering point.

We invite you to attend upcoming Board Meetings to be an active participant in the exciting future of the library!

Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month @ 7pm at the library.

More information can be found @ www.ely.lib.ia.us.

"We as a community have long recognized the value of our library to provide a safe and nurturing environment to enrich our minds. As our community continues to grow, so does the need for additional space to continue this mission."

—Dan Whitaker, City Council

Explore EPL's Free Digital Resources

Available to residents of Ely and Rural Linn County.

BRIDGES/LIBBY: Check out magazines, audiobooks, e-books, and movies. (Available to residents of Ely and Rural Linn County).

HOOPLA: Instantly borrow up to five movies, TV shows, music albums, e-audiobooks, e-books, and graphic novels each month. (Available to residents of Ely and Rural Linn County).

Kanopy: Stream a wide selection of films and documentaries.

Mometrix: Get free access to online test prep.

Get Involved! Join the Friends of the Library!



The Friends of the Library works to improve and support the library for our entire community. It's a great way to meet new people and help your community.

We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. We can't wait to hear your ideas!

Hours and Holiday Closings:

Monday 9-7	Tuesday 9-7	Wednesday 9-7
Thursday 9-7	Friday 9-5	Saturday 9-4
Closed Sundays		

We will be closed the following dates: November 11, 27 & 28; December 24, 25, 31 & January 1

Build Your Child's Home Library for Free!

Thanks to a partnership with the Friends of the Public Library, you can enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The program mails a new, age-appropriate book to children from birth to age five. This is available for children within the 52227 zip code. Stop by the library to sign up.



Banned Book Club

We meet once a month from 7-8 pm at the library or join us via Zoom! We read a banned and/or challenged book and hold a peaceful discussion. Join us at 7pm on the following dates: October 23 (The Red Badge of Courage), November 20 (The Reader) and December 18 (The Vanishing Half).

