

ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fall Programs

Sept. 2026 – Nov. 2026



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PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

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



Saturday, September 5: International Dot Day

Help us celebrate International Dot Day on Saturday, September 5, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. Inspired by Peter H. Reynolds' award-winning book *The Dot*, this celebration encourages creativity, self-expression, and the power of making your mark. Drop in to create dot-inspired artwork and discover how a single dot can spark big ideas!



BINGO at the Ely Legion

Fridays @ 7pm October 9 & November 13

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!



Saturday, October 17: Painting Fun @ 10am!

We have a fun activity for older kids and adults! Join us on Saturday, October 10, at 10:00 a.m. to paint unique Halloween and autumn-themed wooden pictures. These unfinished wood pieces feature laser-etched designs, making them perfect for people who enjoy painting but don't always like drawing.



This program is open to ages 10 and up, and RSVPs are required. To reserve your spot call 319-848-7616 or email tracy@elyiowa.com. Space is limited to the first 30 participants who RSVP.

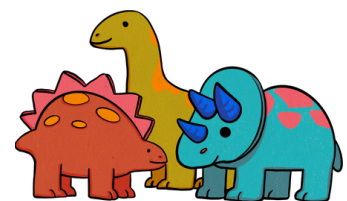
TRUNK OR TREAT - October 28th from 5PM-7PM

Get your costumes ready and join the fun in downtown Ely for Trunk or Treat! Families are invited to stroll through the decorated trunks to collect treats in a safe and festive environment. This event will be held on Dows Street, with the road closed between Main and Walker. Many of the downtown businesses will be participating in their stores! If you would like to host a Trunk or Treat spot, please fill out the online application or give us a call!



Saturday, November 14: Dinosaur Rock Painting

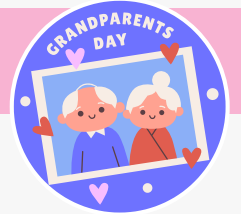
Drop in for some dino-mite creativity! Join us for an open house on Saturday, November 14, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. Paint a rock to look like your favorite dinosaur and take home your prehistoric creation. The library will provide all the supplies—just bring your imagination!



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.

SEPTEMBER DROP-INS



September 2: Listen to Classical Music

September 8: Memory Game

September 9: Recognize International Literacy Day by sharing your favorite books

September 11: Make a card for Grandparent's Day

September 15: Make a chicken craft in honor of National Chicken Month

September 18: It's Apple Month! Drop in for a fun craft

September 22: Talk like a pirate and earn a gold coin

September 23: Celebrate Voter Registration Week

September 25: Make a sea otter craft in honor of Sea Otter Awareness week



OCTOBER DROP-INS

October 5: Make a Fall or Halloween Craft

October 6: Celebrate Sharktober and play the card game "shark snap"

October 7: World Space Week Quiz

October 9: Create a shark sun catcher for Sharktober

October 13: Try out these Sharktober word puzzles

October 14: Draw and color with us for Inktober

October 16: Make a ferocious shark puppet

October 19: Drop in for a fun Halloween Craft

October 20: Help us put together an ocean puzzle

October 21: Ursula K Le Guin Bday Quiz

October 23: Create a shark attack craft

October 27: Play shark trivia and get a shark tattoo

October 29: National Cat Day – do you know these famous cats?



NOVEMBER DROP-INS

November 2: Celebrate Día de los Muertos

November 8: Dinovember - Drop in to adopt your own dino egg

November 9: Epilepsy Awareness Month Quiz

November 10: What dinosaur are you? and other silly questions

November 13: Make your own dino-feet

November 17: Build a happy dinosaur

November 20: Make a dinosaur bones craft

November 24: Ispy Dinosaurs game



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!



Music & Movement - Wednesdays @ 10am

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



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!



Introducing Kanopy Kids!

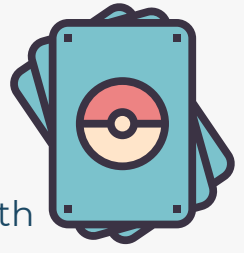


This service is provided for children of Ely and Rural Linn County for **FREE** with your library card! It is a dedicated streaming platform on Kanopy, which is designed specifically for children ages 2 to 8. Kanopy Kids offers an ad-free collection of educational and entertaining videos, animated storybooks, and TV series. **Starting in November, Kanopy Kids will not count against your monthly borrows!** Stop by the library to get started!

STANDALONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

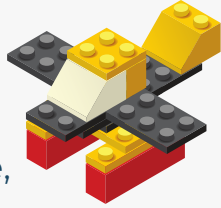
Monday, September 21: Pokémon Card Trading Day and Crafts

No school? Spend the afternoon at the library! Join us on Monday, September 21, at 2:00 p.m. for Pokémon Card Trading Day. Bring your Pokémon cards to trade, share, and talk with other fans. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just getting started, it's a great chance to connect with fellow Pokémon enthusiasts and grow your collection.



Monday, October 5: LEGO® Free Building

No school? Come build with us! Join us on Monday, October 5, at 2:00 p.m. for LEGO® Free Building. Put your imagination to work as you design, create, and explore with our collection of LEGO bricks. Whether you have a grand building plan or just want to see where your creativity takes you, all builders are welcome.



Monday, October 19: Pokemon Card Trading Day and Crafts

No school? Spend the afternoon at the library! Join us on Monday, October 19, at 2:00 p.m. for Pokémon Card Trading Day. Bring your Pokémon cards to trade, share, and talk with other fans. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just getting started, it's a great chance to connect with fellow Pokémon enthusiasts and grow your collection.



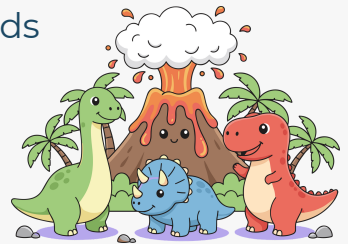
Thursday, October 29: Halloween Storytime

Put on your favorite costume and join us for a spooktacular Halloween Storytime on Thursday, October 29, from 10:00–11:00 a.m.! Enjoy festive stories, fun games, and a Halloween-themed craft. It's a not-too-scary celebration filled with books, creativity, and plenty of Halloween fun for young children and their families.



Monday, November 9: Movie & Craft – The Land Before Time

Join us at 2 pm for a prehistoric adventure! We'll watch the beloved animated classic *The Land Before Time* (G), which follows Littlefoot, a young dinosaur who sets out on a journey to find the Great Valley and meets a group of dinosaur friends along the way. Make a fun dinosaur-themed craft while the movie plays! The movie is approximately 69 minutes long.



Wednesday, November 25: Dinosaur Bingo

Get ready for some dino-mite fun! Join us Wednesday, November 25, at 2:00 p.m. for Dinosaur Bingo. Match the dinosaurs, play to win, and enjoy chocolate prizes along the way. It's a roaring good time for dinosaur fans of all ages!

TWEEN PROGRAMMING (GRADES 5-8)

Everyone in grades 5-8 is invited to join our new tween program, created especially for older kids who are ready for bigger challenges, creative projects, and exciting experiences!

We'll meet twice each month from 4:30–5:00 p.m. The first Wednesday of the month will feature a hands-on creative activity, while the last Monday will bring an interactive adventure, challenge, or special experience.

There are eight programs scheduled between now and the end of the year, and every one offers something different. Attend at least five programs, and you'll earn a special reward: the chance to choose a book for the library's collection! The book will include a personalized bookplate recognizing your contribution, so future readers will know you helped bring it to the library. Bring your curiosity, creativity, and sense of adventure—we can't wait to see you there! Mark your calendars: September 9 & 28, October 7 & 26, November 4 & 30, December 2 & 28



PARENTS: If you would like to receive reminder text messages about events the day before they happen, let Tracy know at 319-848-7616 or tracy@elyiowa.com.

TEEN PROGRAMMING (GRADES 9-12)

September 16 @ 5:30PM: DIY Rubber Duckies - Using Sharpies, color and decorate your own rubber ducky. Will your duck have a job? Be relaxing at the beach? Not even be a duck at all? Make the rubber ducky of your dreams while supplies last!



October 15 @ 6PM: Horror Movie at the Library - Teens will pick from a short list of PG-13 horror movies and enjoy a snack while watching. (*A Quiet Place*; *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*; *Edward Scissorhands*; *Escape Room*; *FNAF 1 OR 2*; *M3GAN 2.0*)

November 13 @ 4PM: Create your own Major Arcanum Card (DIY Tarot)
Take a blank tarot card and make it your own. Take inspiration from existing tarot cards and give it your own spin, or, if you're feeling particularly inspired, make a brand new Major Arcana! A quick read tells us we'll see you there and that it will be a relaxed and creative space!



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

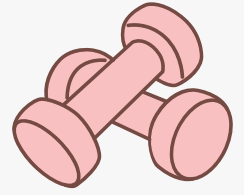


ADULT PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

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!

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.



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 Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18

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.

- 9/24 - *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- 10/22 - *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess
- 11/19 - *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo



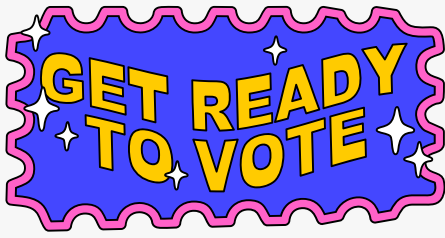
FRIDAYS:

Low-Impact Exercise Classes @ 8am & 1pm

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



STANDALONE ADULT PROGRAMS



National Voter Registration Day - September 15 @ 6pm:

Join the library and the Linn County Election Services for a conversation about election procedure, changes to the voting process, and make sure you are registered to vote and your information is up to date before November 3rd!

Master Gardeners Tuesdays in October @ 6:30pm

October 6 - Winter Sowing: Discover an easy, affordable way to start strong, healthy seedlings - even in the middle of winter. In this class, you'll learn how to repurpose milk jugs and other containers into mini greenhouses for winter sowing. This sustainable method uses natural cold stratification and sunlight to give your seeds a head start without expensive equipment. Perfect for gardeners of all levels and looking to grow hardy plants while enjoying a bit of gardening during the off-season.



October 20 - Fall Garden Prep: Fall is in the air and it is time to think about winding up the outdoor garden season and to think ahead and begin to plan for next spring. It will come around quicker than you might think. Join MG Beula Dvorak for tips on these timely fall garden tasks.

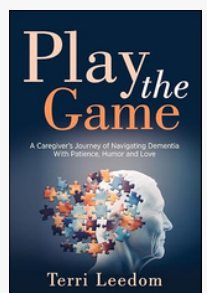
October 27 - Native Iowan Plants: There are over 250 different native plants found in Iowa. Do your native plants grow too tall, flop over, or try to take over? This class will go over the top ten things about native plants you need to know to start growing them along with techniques to use to be successful.



Meet the Architect Open House — October 12 | 6–8 PM: Stop by and meet Brad Lang of Solum Lang Architects, LLC! Brad was the original visionary who transformed our former fire station into the library we know and love today. Now, he's bringing his talent and vision to our next chapter—the Library Expansion! Come learn more about the vision for our library's future, meet Brad, and be part of this exciting next step for our community. We hope to see you October 12 from 6–8 PM!

October 8 - Author Visit with Melinda Wichmann @ 6 PM: Join local author Melinda Wichmann as she discusses her books *How to Live with a Ghost* and *Exercise Finished*. Melinda is also a contributor to *Iowa Weird* Vol. 2. Copies will be available for purchase at the event.

October 13 - Author Visit with Terri Leedom @ 6pm: Writer and speaker Terri Leedom shares her story navigating dementia as a caregiver. Terri will be speaking about her experiences and writing process, followed by a Q&A and book signing. Copies will be available for purchase at the event.



October 28 - Donate Blood 3-6 PM: Call Sarah at 319-848-7616 to sign up for your donation time!



A Message from the EPL Board President

The end of summer didn't so much as sneak up as it pounced! Soon the heat and humidity will be behind us, and fall will have us reaching for a cozy blanket and a good book.

This change in seasons offers a unique shift in library programming. From reptiles and bubbles to candidates and crafts, the rhythm of library life never seems to slow. In a world where so much revolves around specific age groups, the Ely Public Library staff and Friends continually work to make our library a space for everyone.

As the November election nears, we hope you will make a plan to exercise your right to vote. State, local, and federal elections impact all of us, and this year Ely citizens will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed library expansion project. In addition to our invitations to all political candidates on the ballot to speak at the library, there will be several opportunities to learn more about the proposed expansion and ask questions at upcoming open houses and pop-up tables.

Whatever else is on your docket for the fall, we hope you can make time to learn more, enjoy a literary escape, and, most of all, find community here.

On behalf of the Ely Public Library Board,



Erika Uthe

Ely Public Library Board President



Library Expansion Important Dates:

Date	Place	Time
Sept. 1, 15, 29 & Oct. 6 (Tuesdays)	City Hall - Farmer's Markets	4:30-6:30 PM
September 17, 2026 (Thursday)	Ely Library - Open House	6:00-8:00 PM
September 20, 2026 (Sunday)	City Park - Fall Fest 5K	9:00-11:00 AM
September 26, 2026 (Saturday)	Craft Fair - Fall Fest	9:00AM-3:00 PM
October 9, 2026 (Friday)	Ely Legion - BINGO	7:00-9:00 PM
October 12, 2026 (Monday)	Ely Library - Meet the Architect	6:00-8:00 PM
October 21, 2026 (Wednesday)	Ely Library - Open House	6:00-8:00 PM
October 28, 2026 (Wednesday)	Ely Library - Trunk or Treat	5:00-7:00 PM
November 3, 2026 (Tuesday)	St. John Church - Vote	7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

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:

- **September 2, 2026**
- **October 7, 2026**
- **November 4, 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:

- **September 9, 2026**
- **October 14, 2026**
- **November 18, 2026**



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



Library Closures:

September 7 - Labor Day

October 12 - Indigenous People's Day

November 11 - Veteran's Day

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

November 26 - Thanksgiving

November 27 - Black Friday