



April 2026

NEWSLETTER

& Annual Meeting Invitation

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Springtime has arrived!

Isn't it great to look outside and see green instead of the brown of winter? Perhaps you are thinking of doing some gardening. As usual, due to the generosity of our Coralville patrons, there will be plenty of books on almost any subject that can assist you with that interest or any other springtime fancy. We hope you make it a point to attend our next sale the first weekend in May.

After our last sale the inventory was quite slim. We have a wonderful partner with Shelter House; we were able to select over 80 boxes of books after their sale. What a blessing to have friends like that adding to our inventory. Many thanks to the crew who transported the books back to the Coralville Library. If you have a large quantity of books to donate, we can arrange for pickup.

Because of your amazing generosity books have also been distributed to Little Libraries, the Iowa Medical and Classification Center, Northwest Middle School, Kirkwood and Coralville Central Elementary Schools, and the Food Pantry.

Another event to put on the calendar is the Friend's Annual Meeting. We will meet in **Meeting Room A on Thursday, April 23 at 6 p.m.** This gathering offers us the opportunity to thank a myriad of people starting with volunteers, which includes the Teen Advisory Board (TAB). One of the teens will be awarded the **Teen Service Award**, recognizing outstanding contributions in time and energy to the library.

The Foundation will present the **T. Patricia Dee Award** to an outstanding adult volunteer. The Friends will also honor adult volunteers for hours of service. There will be an election of officers and reports from the library staff. You will see the formal presentation of the latest infograph, which represents the Friends 2025 accomplishments made possible through your generosity. Yes, there will be refreshments.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

Bill Benson



Officers & Board Members

President
BILL BENSON

Vice President
LEE ANN LOGAN

Secretary & Community Outreach
MARGARET MELLECKER

Treasurer
PAT DARLING

Archivist
HANNAH SHELTON HAUCK

Book Sales
DEB GILL

Library Liaison
SARA JANE PITCHER

Members at Large
SHIRLEY ALTENHOFEN
DEVAN KADUCE
HANNAH SHELTON HAUCK

Newsletter
SANDIE HERWIG

Publicity
WENDY GRASBY
KRISTINE ROGGENTIEN
MARIE WAKEMAN

Friends of the Library

Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 6 to 7 p.m.
Coralville Public Library
Meeting Room A&B



All are welcome! Come see what we're all about.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring is upon us, and planning for Summer Reading Programs at the Library is well under way! Last year, about half of the Wishlist funding provided to us by the Friends of the Coralville Public Library was for the support of our **Summer Reading Challenges** for all ages and associated programming. Those extra funds the Friends provide stretch our budget and help elevate our programming and activities. June 1 will mark the beginning of our 2026 Summer Reading Challenges. We anticipate over 2,500 people will participate in reading programs at the Library this summer! Thank you for your ongoing generosity. It benefits so many people in our community!

Over the years, we have occasionally approached the Friends to support a new program or initiative, to help us get it off the ground and eventually roll it into our regular budget. Last year, we requested funds to jumpstart a new collection—memory

kits. Memory kits help people with dementia or other cognitive impairments reminisce and prompt discussions with loved ones and caregivers. The funds from the Friends allowed us to assemble 11 kits for our starter collection of **Stay Sharp Kits**, which include a variety of hands-on activities, stimulating the senses to help promote mental and emotional responses. The kit topics run the gamut, from the great outdoors to exploring the world of art. You can check one out that focuses on dogs or on cats, or one that has a variety of games for game night. Thank you for helping us establish this new collection—we are hoping to further expand the number and variety of Stay Sharp Kits in the coming year.

Lastly, I just want to underscore how grateful we are for the work the Friends do in their book sale operations. The Library would not have the staff numbers or resources to process the gifted books. The work the Friends

volunteers do in accepting, evaluating, sorting and selling donated books is such a tremendous service, not only to the Library but for the community! The book sale crowds and the sales data confirm the level of appreciation the community has for the Friends book sales, and the generosity that the Friends show in their funding support for the Library reflects that community appreciation!

Thanks again for all that you do!
I look forward to seeing you at the Library!

Alison Ames Galstad



FRIENDS HIGHLIGHT *Devan Kaduce*



My name is **Devan Kaduce** and I have been a member of the Friends of the Coralville Library for two years. I have always had a passion for reading starting from a young age. My father was an active-duty Marine in the Marine Corps for the first 15 years of my life. My family moved frequently and reading was a consistent source of joy and escape

while I adapted to new towns and made new friends.

When I was 15 my dad retired from the Marine Corps and we moved to Iowa to be closer to extended family. I attended the University of Iowa and worked at the Iowa City Public Library during my undergraduate years. I graduated with a degree in English and English education with an emphasis in reading in 2008.

While at the university I met my husband and we married after graduation and then decided to teach overseas. We lived for a year in Wuhan, China teaching English to

elementary age students. After our year overseas we came back to the Iowa City area to establish ourselves in our careers and in 2015 welcomed our wonderful son into our family.

I became a member of the Friends of the Coralville Library because I was looking to get involved with promoting the freedom to read in our community. I saw news that school libraries were being pressured to restrict what students were allowed to check out and I wanted to support my public library since their role would be more important for those stu-

dents. I especially love being a part of the book sales since I'm able to combine my love of literature with my desire that literature to be available to anyone in our community.

I look forward to my continued involvement with this group and hope to see more excited bibliophiles at our next sale!



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Thank you for helping make Dolly Parton's Imagination Library available to children in Coralville and rural Johnson County. Since our program started four years ago, more than 20,000 books have been mailed directly to children's homes. (At right: samples of distributed titles)

Currently, 524 children under 5 years old are registered and 331 have graduated. Research shows that greater access to books and more opportunities to enjoy reading with caregivers help advance early literacy skills. Thank you for giving the gift of literacy to young children in our community!

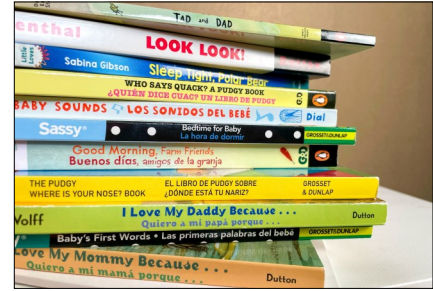
Thanks to the Friends' ongoing support, we can offer fantastic rewards to encourage participation in Summer Reading challenges and exciting events that create lasting memories for children and families.

This year's theme is **Plant a Seed, Read** and the fun begins June 1. We are thrilled to offer several programs with special guests this year, including two featuring pollinators. On June 10, elementary children will have a chance to meet some **Incredible Bats**. On June 24, patrons of all ages are invited to a **Butterfly Encounter** with Absolute Science. We first offered this event four years ago and more than 200 people attended!

More special events will include a mobile petting zoo, a magic show, and a comic book workshop.

Thank you so much for all that you do for Children's Services, the Library as a whole, and the wider community.

*Sara Glenn and Erika Binegar
Children's Services Staff*



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TEEN SERVICES

On behalf of the teens at the Coralville Public Library, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of this group. Thanks to your generosity, the Library has been able to offer a wide variety of programming, summer guests, and weekly Teen Hangouts in the teen area with snacks and activities for teens.

You have helped support our Teen Summer Reading programs in so many ways! We are thrilled that you will be funding a part-time teen

internship again this summer to help reach more teens and assist with programming. We are currently planning the 2026 Teen Summer Reading Challenge, **Plant a Seed, Read!** and have another exciting, fun-filled summer planned with our teens.

The Friends have also been great in acknowledging our wonderful teen volunteers and Teen Advisory Board members. This year marks the sixteenth annual \$ 1,000 Teen Service Award, given to one

of our most deserving high school senior volunteers. The Friends will be presenting this award at their Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 23.

We would also like to thank the Friends for allowing the teens to again help with the annual holiday book giveaway. The teens had a great time choosing children's books, wrapping them, and handing them out at the December Free Community Meal. It is always a wonderful experience!

We greatly appreciate the Friends' generosi-

ty, support, and all you do for our teens and the Coralville Public Library. Without you, many of these services and experiences would not be available to our youth. Investing in our youth is a worthy and solid use of your funding, as they are one of our community's most valuable assets.

Thank you!
Karen Stierler
 Teen Services Librarian



TEEN HAPPENINGS



Fruit Rockets



Adult Services Department

Thank you Friends for supporting **Blind Date with a Cookbook!** Because of you we were able to give away 323 brown paper wrapped cookbooks in January.

Community members were challenged to make a recipe from their surprise cookbook. Twenty submitted a video of the challenge. It was a wonderful activity for a cold winter day that we couldn't offer without you. Watch videos from the last 5 years of Blind Date with a Cookbook on the Library's YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCypZ3MPAhHhtOa7bjm-vpsg>

February was **Winter Adult Reading Month (WARM)** at the Coralville Public Library. We had an amazing 84% completion rate with 339 of our registered readers finishing three books to receive a free book and be entered into a prize drawing. Because of the Friend's support we gave away 287 books; the other 52 chose not to get a free book, but we had books for them too. Friends' money also

provided eight gift cards to local bookstores and 23 gift cards to a local coffee shop for our prize drawings. It's not often we get to award people for doing something they enjoy—reading! Your support allows us to do just that during our reading challenges. Thank you!

Sara Jane Pitcher



DUES

Friends' dues follow the calendar year.

New members are welcome and appreciated any time but memberships come due with the new year.

The Friends of the Coralville Library newsletter is published twice a year usually in April and October.

And is distributed primarily via email.
(FriendsOfCoralvillePL@gmail.com)

The newsletter can also be viewed on our web site:
coralvillepubliclibrary.org/friends.

BOOK SALES

Remaining 2026 Book Sales

April 30-May 2

August 6-8

November 5-7

Friday hours: 10 am - 5:30 pm

Saturday hours: 10 am - 3 pm

Please Note

Current Friends members

receive early entrance

5-6:30 pm

the Thursday before book sales

Update your membership online!

Visit

<https://coralvillepubliclibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library/>

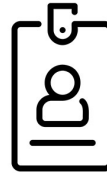


Gave \$26,481 in 2025



Teen Service Award \$1,000

Given to a local senior who volunteered 50+ hours



Teen Services Internship \$3,000

Given for internship at the library



Local Schools \$6,000

Given for books and literary activities



Stay Sharp Kits \$1,500

For 11 memory activity kits available for check-out



Kids Book Giveaways \$1,000

Given to purchase new books for kids during the holidays



Library Program Prizes and Activities \$7,981

At the Coralville Public Library



Dolly Parton Imagination Library \$6,000

Mailed 6,028 books to Coralville children under 5



Books Given 8,054

To local school classrooms, local events, prisons, and Little Free Libraries

Membership



184 members

1,176 volunteer hours

Funds Raised



\$4,313 from membership

\$25,611 from four book sales