Check out our children and teen branch program calendars available at each library!

To find out about children and teen programs at our other locations, please check our website: dmpl.org.

The Celestial Event of the Century: A Preview

Tuesday, August 15, 6:30 PM, Franklin Avenue Library

Great American Eclipse Viewing Party

Monday, August 21, 12:00 PM, Franklin Avenue Library

Get prepared for an incredible cosmological event – one of which America hasn’t seen in almost 40 years. On Monday, August 21, a total solar eclipse will cut from coast to coast, including in a small portion of Iowa. Des Moines itself will see a large partial eclipse, with 95% of the sun blocked by the moon.

Come to the Franklin Avenue Library on Tuesday, August 15, as Dave Lynch, a member of the Des Moines Astronomical Society, shares his eclipse stories. Lynch has chased eclipses for forty years, traveling to ten countries and two oceans. He’ll talk about the thrill he gets from these momentous occasions and show photos of the fifteen eclipses that he’s seen.

Then on Monday, August 21, join us at Franklin Avenue Library for an eclipse viewing party! We’ll start at noon with a mandatory eclipse viewing lesson. These instructions will help you view the eclipse safely. The partial eclipse will continue through the 12:00 PM hour and peak at about 1:08 PM. There won’t be a sight quite like this for the rest of the 21st century. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Great American Solar Eclipse!

The dog days of summer are upon us, and fall is just around the corner. Whether you’re the parent of a kid in school, a college student, or an adult working on that grad degree, the Des Moines Public Library offers great resources to help you succeed in school. Check it out!

LearningExpress Library – The LearningExpress library features nearly 1,000 online tutorials, practice tests, and e-books to help people of all ages. It’s great for elementary school students that needs additional math help, high schoolers that are looking for ACT/SAT prep courses, or college students looking to brush-up on some skills and get ready for grad school admissions exams. It’s free and easy to use – all you need is your library card!

Books! – It’s proven that reading for pleasure has a positive impact on academic success! No matter your age, reading for pleasure helps increase vocabulary, sparks creativity, and improves health and well-being. No matter what genre you enjoy and what subjects interest you, you will find something in our stacks! If what you’re looking for is located at a different branch, let a librarian know – we’ll have that book sent to your branch right away! You can also find great e-books at dmpl.org. Find your new book (you can ask a librarian for help selecting one) and carve out a few minutes a day to read!

Study Rooms – Sometimes you just need a quiet spot to work through the challenges that school is presenting you. Booking one of our study rooms is the perfect solution. Whether you’re an individual studying for a big exam or a group that needs some isolation to finish a big project, consider reserving one of the study rooms at our libraries! Talk to a librarian at your local branch or go to dmpl.org to learn more.

A librarian! – Librarians don’t know all the answers, but they know how to find them! If you need help getting started on a project, or if you’re stuck in a rut while writing a paper, talk to one of our librarians! Librarians are professionally trained researchers; they know how to find accurate information from multiple sources. Don’t be afraid to ask for help; talk with a librarian to get ahead in school! You can also ask questions online by emailing reference@dmpl.org.

Please note: Construction on Locust Street is happening through September for a water main project. During the rest of July, Locust St. will have just one lane of traffic and one lane of parking in front of the library. In August, the street will be completely closed. Please park on Grand Ave., on 9th St., on 12th St., and in our parking garage off of Grand Ave!
Blank Park Zoo Presents: World for Wildlife

Tuesday, August 1, 6:30 PM, Central Library

Make the world a better place for all critters, great and small! A guest from the Blank Park Zoo will talk about what we can do to make a difference in nature. They will bring four animals to the library so we can learn about their different habitats and how humans impact those habitats every day. We’ll discover how small adjustments in the way we live can make a positive change in the environment for our critter friends!

Easter Lake Watershed Project

Wednesday, August 2, 6:30 PM, South Side Library

Join us at the South Side Library to learn about the recent efforts that have been made to increase water quality at Easter Lake. A massive project is underway to clean one of central Iowa’s most popular recreational destinations. Located in southeastern Des Moines, Easter Lake Park attracts more than 400,000 visitors a year. Julie Perreault, Outreach Coordinator for the Easter Lake Watershed Project, will show us the improvements that have been made in the 6,380-acre watershed as development in the area has increased. She’ll also talk about steps that are being taken to preserve this natural landmark in central Iowa.

Iowa’s Cinematic Heritage: 1918-2017

Tuesday, August 22, 6:30 PM, Franklin Avenue Library

The film industry has some deep roots in the Hawkeye state. Iowa has had films shot here, like Twister and Children of the Corn, and set here, like What’s Eating Gilbert Grape and Sleeping with the Enemy. Some famous films, such as Field of Dreams and Bridges of Madison County, even fit both categories! This program at the Franklin Avenue Library will take a look at the rich history of movies in Iowa.

Presenting will be Marty S. Knepper, co-author of The Book of Iowa Films. Knepper will trace a century of movie history in Iowa with clips, photos, and fun stories from the set. This promises to be an enjoyable and exciting night of entertainment – and you may learn a bit about Iowa history too!

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Monday, August 7, 11:00 AM, South Side Library

Monday, August 14, 10:30 AM, East Side Library

Improve your balance, feel good about your body, and meet your friends and neighbors! Join us for this one-hour class at the East Side and/or South Side Libraries! Instructor Paul Black will guide you through this beginner-friendly course that requires no experience. His techniques will specialize in arthritis and falls prevention, and it can be done sitting or standing.

It’s recommended that participants wear loose, comfortable clothing. It is not recommended to wear necklaces, bracelets, dangle earrings, or heavily scented deodorant or perfume. This has proven to be a popular program, with many participants returning each month! Get in on the fun—come do Tai Chi at the library!

Storm Chasing 101

Monday, August 14, 6:30 PM, East Side Library

Learn what it takes to track down tornados and tear after thunderstorms from the experts at the Iowa Storm Chasing Network! These meteorologists and thrill seekers do the storm chasing for KCCI and have been featured on the Discovery Channel and Red Bull TV. They’ll share photos and videos of some of their most electrifying moments chasing storms. They’ll also talk about the science behind severe weather and answer questions about what you should do when confronted by a dangerous storm. Join us for this gripping family-friendly event!

Beatrix Potter Tea Party

Tuesday, August 22, 12:00 PM, Central Library

Celebrate 150 years of English author Beatrix Potter during a tea party at the Central Library! Potter was an author and illustrator best known for creating The Tale of Peter Rabbit. Her children’s books, which she also illustrated, are very popular; more than two million Beatrix Potter books are sold across the world every year. Joyce Miller, a member of the Beatrix Potter Society, will share a presentation and recent publications from her private collection on Beatrix Potter. Please preregister for this adults-only event.
The Origins of the Iowa-China Relationship with Luca Berrone

Tuesday, August 29, 6:00 PM, North Side Library
It was a relationship that began with a simple meeting of two governors. It grew due to a mistranslation and was fostered by a low-level Chinese government official and an Italian immigrant.

Now, as former Iowa Governor Terry Branstad takes up his role as the United States Ambassador to China, the Iowa/China relationships has become one of the world’s most important diplomatic channels. How did this relationship become so central on the global stage?

Join us at the North Side Library for the first of a two-part series on the Iowa/China relationship. Luca Barrone, the aforementioned Italian immigrant, will share his experience meeting current Chinese President Xi Jinping in 1985. He’ll talk about the trips to farms and other ag sites that they took together that year. Space is limited for this event, so please preregister online at dmpl.org or by calling 515-283-4152.

Virtual Library Resources

Chilton Library
The most extensive auto repair and maintenance database is now available for all Des Moines Public Library users! Check out the Chilton Library on our Virtual Library! Chilton has a long history of providing information to consumers regarding auto labor and parts. They continuously and carefully craft information so that automotive enthusiasts, students, and service professionals know what to look for. Take simple repairs into your own hands – learn maintenance and repairs with help from Chilton Library on our Virtual Library!

August is Romance Awareness Month

There are plenty of ways to share the spirit of romance with loved ones – flowers, a date night, a picnic in the park. At the library, we’re encouraging you to pick out a romance novel! Romance fiction represents a billion dollar industry – these novels sell as much as sci-fi, mystery, and fantasy combined. Shed the stereotype and find a great book. Here are some of our most popular picks from our romance fans!

With Every Breath, by Maya Banks
The Girl from Summer Hill, by Jude Deveraux
Shadow Rider, by Christine Feehan
Fifty Shades of Grey, by E.L. James
Marrying Winterborne, by Lisa Kleypas
Make Me Love You, by Johanna Lindsey
A Scot in the Dark, by Sarah MacLean
If Not for You, by Debbie Macomber
Always a Cowboy, by Linda Lael Miller
First Star I See Tonight, by Susan Elizabeth Phillips

Ongoing Programs

Book Club Discussions

Check out our website – dmpl.org – or talk to a librarian to find out which book is being discussed this month!

• Thursday, August 3, 1:00 PM, South Side Library
• Monday, August 7, 1:00 PM, Franklin Avenue Library
• Tuesday, August 8, 6:30 PM, Franklin Avenue Library
• Tuesday, August 15, 2:00 PM, North Side Library
• Monday, August 21, 2:00 PM, East Side Library
• Monday, August 21, 7:00 PM, Forest Avenue Library

Conversations and Coffee:
Tuesday, August 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 12:30 PM, Forest Avenue Library
Practice your conversational English skills, or help those learning the language! There are light refreshments, and activities are provided to prompt and encourage conversation.

Writers’ Workshop

• Monday, August 7, 5:00 PM, Central Library
• Friday, August 11, 4:00 PM, South Side Library

Basic Computer Skills

Wednesday, August 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 11:00 AM, North Side Library

Computer Basics for Seniors

Friday, August 4, 2:30–3:30 PM, North Side Library
New Releases: August 2017:
I'll Have What She's Having, by Erin Carlson
Charlatans, by Robin Cook
The Address, by Fiona Davis
Y Is for Yesterday, by Sue Grafton
Truth Doesn't Have a Side, by Bennet Omalu
Dark Net, by Benjamin Percy
Mrs. Fletcher, by Tom Perrotta
Bedlam Stacks, by Natasha Pulley
Exposed, by Lisa Scottoline
Barely Legal, by Stuart Woods

Baby Rhyme Time | ages 0 – 18 months
Social storytimes for babies and their caregivers featuring rhymes, songs, bounces, and a story.
- Tuesdays, 10:15 AM | Franklin Avenue Library
- Wednesdays, 10:15 AM | Central Library

Toddler Storytime | ages 18 months – 3 years
Introduce children to reading with engaging activities.
- Wednesdays, 10:00 AM | South Side Library
- Wednesdays, 10:15 AM and 10:50 AM | Franklin Avenue Library
- Thursdays, 10:00 AM | North Side Library
- Thursdays, 10:15 AM | Central Library
- Thursdays, 10:30 AM | East Side Library

Preschool Storytime | ages 3 – 6 years
Children will learn valuable skills for school while listening to stories and participating in songs, rhymes, and activities.
- Mondays, 10:15 AM | Franklin Avenue Library
- Wednesdays, 10:15 AM | Forest Avenue Library
- Thursdays, 10:00 AM | South Side Library
- Thursdays, 10:15 AM | Central Library
- Thursdays, 10:30 AM | East Side Library

Evening Family Storytime | entire family
Bring the entire family for stories and activities.
- Mondays, 6:30 PM | South Side Library
- Tuesdays, 6:15 PM | Franklin Avenue Library
- Tuesdays, 6:30 PM | Central Library
- Wednesdays, 6:30 PM | North Side Library

Saturday Storytime
A variety of storytimes with various themes and age groups.
- 1st Saturday of the month, 11:00 AM | North Side Library
  Music & Movement | Ages 2 – 6
- 2nd Saturday of the month, 10:30 AM | Franklin Avenue Library
  Family Storytime | Entire family
- 3rd Saturday of the month, 10:30 AM | East Side Library
  Mother Goose on the Loose | Ages 0 – 3
- 3rd Saturday of the month, 2:00 PM | Forest Avenue Library
  STEM Saturdays | Ages 3 – 10
- 4th Saturday of the month, 10:00 AM | South Side Library
  STEM Storytime | Ages 3 – 8

Bilingual Storytime | Cuentos y Canciones
entire family/toda la familia
Come and enjoy stories, rhymes, songs, and storytelling in English and Spanish.
Vengan y disfruten cuentos, rimas, y canciones en inglés y español.
East Side Library:
- Tuesdays, 6:30 PM
- Martes, a las 6:30
Forest Avenue Library:
- Thursdays, 6:30 PM & Saturdays, 10:15 AM
- Jueves, a las 6:30 & Sábado, a las 10:15

Subject to change.
Check dmpl.org/storytimes for current information.