

WINTER '26

OFF THE SHELF

Montezuma Public Library's Official Newsletter



Year-Long Reading Challenge Kicks Off!

If you're looking for a fun challenge in 2026...look no further! Stop in the library to pick up the "Bookworms United!" reading list or simply email us & we'll send you a digital copy.

Email: montepl@montezumaiowa.org

The goal of this reading challenge is to read a total of 50 books, so one book (or audiobook) per category. This is open to ages 13 years & up. Participants must have a library card from MPL. Prizes will be awarded for reading 10 books, 30 books & completing the challenge at 50 books!



MONTEZUMA PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS
BOOKWORMS UNITED!

**Join us for the 2026 Bookworms United Reading Challenge!*

READ 50 BOOKS IN 50 CATEGORIES

JANUARY 2ND-DECEMBER 31ST, 2026

**PICK UP THE LIST OF CATEGORIES @ THE LIBRARY or request one by emailing us at: montepl@montezumaiowa.org*

* MUST BE A LIBRARY CARD HOLDER AT MONTEZUMA PUBLIC LIBRARY
* OPEN TO TEENS & ADULTS
* PRIZES AWARDED FOR COMPLETING CHALLENGE!

Friends' Winter

Book Sale

Helps Support Library

The Friends Of The Montezuma Public Library's Winter Book Sale helps us purchase things like new books, prizes, program supplies & bring in great programming to the library. We are thankful for this small but mighty group of volunteers who put together this book sale each year. Please stop in during regular library hours, starting Monday, January 26th to look through lots of books & DVDs. There is literally something for everyone...books for children, teens & adults. Hardcover, paperback, fiction, non-fiction...lots to look through!

Friends Of The Montezuma Public Library's

WINTER

BOOK SALE

BOOKS! DVD'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

JAN 26TH-FEB 7TH, 2026

Where: Community Room
During Library Hours

FREEWILL DONATION!
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LIBRARY!

PAYMENT METHODS:
CASH, CHECK OR

IN THIS ISSUE

Bookworms United!

Friends' Winter Book Sale

New Popcorn Machine

Year In Review

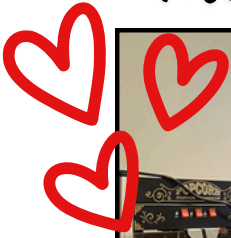
Library Adventure Pass

Ways To Support The Library

FIND US ON



Cuppa Book Club Purchases Popcorn Machine In Memory Of Julie Hartman



The kindest group of ladies around made a pretty big purchase in memory of book club member Julie Hartman, who passed away in 2025. According to Julie's husband, Ed, Julie enjoyed eating popcorn while reading books. This was the perfect gift for library programs and to honor Julie's memory. "Popcorn is an easy thing to make that everyone enjoys," said Library Director Christine Grimm. "We were so excited when the book club came to us with this idea and we embraced it." Thank you, ladies, for gifting the library with such a thoughtful gift.



DVDS & PUZZLES

We've been reorganizing things around the library! Our DVD collection is now located near the games & puzzles in the northwest corner of the library. Puzzles are now located in the same area on the former DVD rack.

GPCF GRANT BENEFITS LIBRARY

- Thanks to the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation, the library received two new HP desktop computers recently. These computers were part of a grant that Library Director Christine Grimm applied for in 2025. The total amount awarded to the library was \$6,500.



- The library has received over \$23,000 in grant funding from the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation



Granting Locally

Building Endowments

Convening Philanthropists

NEWLY ADDED!



West Des Moines

IOWA ADVENTURE PASS



*Plus you can still visit any of these great Iowa venues!





CLICK HERE 

Or Visit www.iowaadventurepass.org

*Enter your library card #
*Use "books" for the pin

YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE BEGINS AT MONTEZUMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

What is Iowa Adventure Pass (IAP)?

Iowa Adventure Pass allows library patrons to check out a pass to museums, parks, and other venues across Iowa.

How does it work?

Library patrons (ages 18+) use their library card to check out a pass to participating venues through the IAP website.

- Patrons may check out 1 pass for each venue per year.
- Reserve a pass up to 60 days in advance.
- The patron reserving tickets must reside in our service area: Barnes City, Deep River, Malcom, Montezuma, Searsboro & rural Poweshiek County ONLY.

How do I reserve a pass?

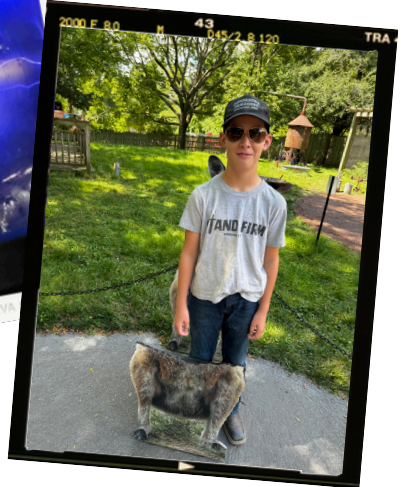
Go to iowaadventurepass.org and click on "Book a Pass." Select your home library from the drop down menu then follow the on screen prompts to select a date and venue and enter your MPL card number and use the word "books" for the PIN.

How do I use the pass to enter the venue?

After reserving online, print the confirmation page. Present a valid photo ID and the printed pass at the gates to be admitted to the venue. Name on the pass must match the photo ID.

How do I cancel or change a reservation?

Contact the library at least 1 day prior to your reserved day. If canceled in time, you may reserve a pass to that venue at a later date.




Your ticket to explore!



STORY TIME

At **Montezuma Public Library**

Jan 27th, Feb 10th, Feb 24th, Mar 10th,
Mar 24th, Apr 7th, Apr 21st,
May 5th, May 19th

10AM

Resources

The digital library is **always open.**



OPEN 24 HOURS

Libby.
The library reading app

AEA Delivers The Goods!

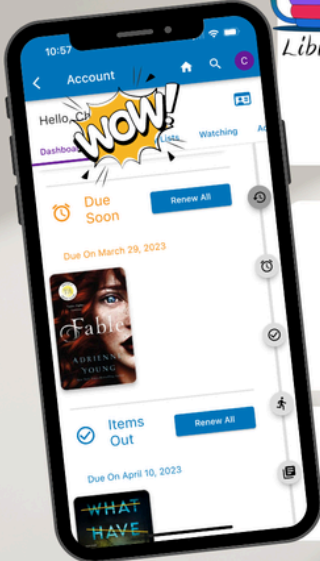


WE'RE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT IF WE DON'T HAVE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...THEN WE CAN PROBABLY GET IT FOR YOU ELSEWHERE!

OUR INTERLIBRARY LOAN PROGRAM IS ABSOLUTELY FREE! AND THE WONDERFUL AEA DELIVERS BOOKS TO US ON A WEEKLY BASIS. LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A CERTAIN BOOK REQUEST!

*We borrowed 592 items from other libraries last year!

DID YOU KNOW? WE HAVE AN APP FOR OUR CATALOG!



- 1. DOWNLOAD THE APP**
Get instantly connected to the library by visiting Google Play or the App Store.
- 2. CHOOSE "MONTEZUMA PUBLIC LIBRARY"**
Sign in with your library card # & use temporary password "books" if you haven't already set one.
- 3. START SEARCHING**
Check your account, reserve books & search for books in our online catalog!

Montezuma Public Library

Borrow ebooks & audiobooks



Libby.
The reading app from our library, built by OverDrive.



Montezuma Public Library
500 E Main Street

MONDAY...9:30-5PM
TUESDAY...9:30-5PM
WEDNESDAY...9:30-5PM
THURSDAY...9:30-6PM
FRIDAY...9:30-4PM
SATURDAY...9:30-12PM



***OPEN SATURDAYS**
FROM 9:30AM-NOON!

FRIENDS

*By donating to the Friends, you are actually helping the library with purchasing books, supplies for programs & more!

Pay safely & easily by scanning either of the QR Codes below!

Or Use:

[paypal.me/FriendsoftheMPL](https://www.paypal.me/FriendsoftheMPL)



venmo



Scan. Pay. Go.



WAYS TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY

The library is an important part of our community and patrons want to ensure it continues to be so for generations to come. For anyone wishing to support the library, here are valuable ways to do so:

Friends of the Montezuma Public Library:

FOTMPL is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization directed by a volunteer board and supported by the community through fundraisers and sales of donated books. FOTMPL supports costs that might fall outside of the annual budget of the library such as programming and community outreach.

Book Donations: The library accepts book donations anytime throughout the year. We can accept your good, used children's books, young adult and adult books. They may be paperback or hardcover. We also accept games, puzzles and DVDs. Cookbooks are good also. Just ask us for a donation receipt if you need one.

What We Don't Accept: VHS tapes, old encyclopedias, college textbooks

Volunteer: Sometimes it's nice to have extra hands on deck during some of our different programs. If you're interested in helping out--call the library at 623-3417 or email Christine at: montepl@montezumaiowa.org for more information on volunteering.

Amazon Wish List: The library has a wish list on Amazon where anyone can choose to make a purchase and then it'll ship directly to the library. This is a great way to help support the library.

WE ACCEPT DONATIONS...

- Hardcover & paperback books (both new & gently used)
- DVDs
- Puzzles
- Games
- Toys & Stuffed Animals

WE DO NOT TAKE...

- Old Encyclopedias
- VHS Tapes
- College Textbooks



Buy a t-shirt...

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY!



REFLECTIONS

Here we are in 2026 leaving the past behind us. I'm surprised at how fast 2025 went but at the same time am very relieved that it's over. It was another busy year. Lots of programs, new books & even new faces at the library. I look forward to the line-up of summer programming & relish the challenges of setting up new programs for our community. I wanted to share what was going on in my personal life last fall. In mid-October, my husband woke me up one night telling me he was having chest pains. Shortly after arriving at the Marengo hospital, it was determined he was having a massive heart attack. Okay, mic drop. What? Not what we were expecting. Thankfully, things were set into motion & everyone acted quickly and he was soon whisked away in an ambulance to Iowa City. We were told that he was within half an hour of not making it. Sigh. It's been a roller coaster ride ever since that happened & we're very blessed that he's on the mend. Although his recovery journey is far from over, we're thankful for each day.



***I ASKED CHATGPT TO TURN PHOTOS OF OUR PET RACCOON & TURTLE INTO A LISA FRANK DRAWING...**

- I've seen where a lot of people choose a "word of the year." I wasn't sure I was going to do this but have felt compelled to do so. According to Google, doing this brings "clarity and focus to who we want to become and what we want to accomplish in life." So the word I have landed on is "unstoppable." I chose this word for many reasons. Do you want to hear why? I'm so glad you asked! I like this word because there is a very catchy song by the artist Sia titled, you guessed it, "Unstoppable." It is fantastic. The word also represents for me being strong, not giving up and following God my creator and not following my heart. I can also apply the word to my job here at the library. As I am working on almost wrapping up my seventh year as library director, I still feel there is a lot to do! Oh, if only we had an unlimited amount of funding & could get every book that every patron asked for! And hold all of the programs! In a world that is ever changing, we hope you will look to the library for resources. We're here to help. Even if you just need a place to rest for awhile. And no worries...we won't expect you to purchase anything.