

Iowa City moves forward when you send it back

Census forms will be delivered to U.S. residents in March



Mayor Matt Hayek, left, and Library Director Susan Craig, right.

What's that on the Library doors? It's a reminder to complete and return your 2010 Census form. The Library and the City of Iowa City received a grant to install the promotional window cling. It was unveiled by Mayor Matt Hayek on January 19. Completion of the 2010 Census is extremely important for the City of Iowa City. For every person counted, the federal government allocates \$1,200 per year. For every 100 residents who are not counted, over \$1 million is lost for the people of Iowa City over the next decade, so it's important to complete your census form.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

For more information, visit www.icgov.org/default/?id=2006

The Census count is used to determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives; and to implement programs and services in education, transportation, healthcare, social services, and public safety.

In order to make it as simple as possible, the Census form now has only 10 questions, the shortest Census form ever. The Library is also serving as a location for recruitment of Census enumerators and may be a site where the public can come for assistance from Census staff in completing their forms.

Watch for new self-check stations coming in May

The Library will offer patrons updated self-check stations with a variety of new services this spring. Patrons will be able to view their Library account information to check for holds or view due dates of checked out items. Checked out items may be renewed and fines can be paid with a credit card at the new self-check stations.

"The original self-checks and RFID materials handling system were installed when the expanded building opened in 2004, and the six-year-old heavily-used self-checks are overdue for replacement," said Circulation Coordinator Heidi Lauritzen. "The new self-checks will offer the public more features at one easy-to-use station."

RFID is "radio frequency identification" which allows library

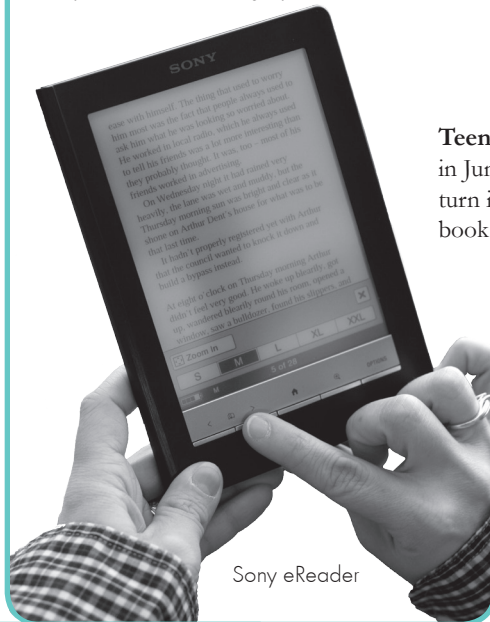
materials to be circulated quickly and ergonomically at staff workstations and self-checks. The new materials handling hardware and RFID technology come from EnvisionWare, Inc. The self-checks will be incorporated into a suite of products from Innovative Interfaces, Inc., the library automation vendor ICPL has worked with since 1999. Checkpoint, the company that originally installed the hardware and software, no longer serves the library market.

"The change in hardware will require some special installation and electrical work, and we anticipate needing to close for a short period of time -- probably one or two days -- when the switch-over occurs," said Lauritzen. "Stay tuned for more announcements in late April or early May about this exciting change."

Summer reading is right around the corner!

Kids can "Make a Splash @ Iowa City Public Library"

this summer starting on June 6 at Children's Day of the Iowa Arts Festival. Besides great books, special events and prizes, this year's reading program offers special visits by Dan Wardell of Iowa Public Television and children's author John Coy, plus plenty of family fun at the Iowa City Book Festival in July.



Teens and Adults: "Go Green @ ICPL" in June & July. Complete five books this summer and turn in your list by the end of July for a paperback book prize and a chance to win an eBook reader!

Holiday Hours

April 4	Easter	Open 12-5
May 31	Memorial Day	CLOSED
July 4	Independence Day	CLOSED
July 5	City Holiday for July 4	Open 10-6
Sept. 6	Labor Day	CLOSED



A Garden Grows Here
Iowa City Children's Discovery Garden

iowa city public library

spring/summer 2010

window

icpl.org



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Trustworthy advice. Valuable information. Expert sources.

From late-night homework help to early morning health questions; icpl.org's Reference & Research section offers free 24/7 access to the answers you need. Explore your Library's online resources from the comfort of your home today by visiting www.icpl.org/resources.

Visit us on Flickr

ICPL has expanded its photo collections on Flickr.com, the popular photo-sharing site. Go to Flickr.com and search for "Iowa City Public Library." The photo url is www.flickr.com/photos/icpl. Check us out on Flickr, and see what's happening at your Library!

Up-to-date Library News

For the most current ICPL news, visit our Newsroom at <http://newsroom.icpl.org>. It's the go-to place for special event announcements and information on all the newest services your Library provides. You can also subscribe to the Newsroom RSS feed to receive regular updates.

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Begin with books to create life-long readers

Library committed to strengthening early literacy development with new initiative

Studies have shown over half of a child's total intellectual development occurs before he or she enters school. Research also confirms reading success starts from the time a child is born and preschoolers' earliest experiences with books are an important part of their development.

"Even as infants, children can learn how a book works," said Children's Services Coordinator Debb Green. "They learn how good a book looks, tastes and feels. Having a positive association with books is an important part of building a strong foundation for reading."

Given these facts, the Iowa City Public Library has made it a priority to increase public and staff awareness of early literacy skills and their importance for young children. This spring, the staff of the Children's Room is renewing its commitment to strengthening early literacy development in ICPL's storytimes, services, collections and facility.

"We encourage adults to engage their young children in active, participatory programs intended to stimulate reading and language development, such as Book Babies," said Children's Librarian Karen Gordon.

This spring, the Children's Room will redesign its play areas to include

manipulative toys and activities that children can interact with to help them learn the alphabet and word endings. The Iowa Children's Museum is also generously lending its alphabet photography display to the Children's Room. And last but not least, ICPL will unveil a special new addition to the Children's Room called the Book Nook. This Library playhouse is just the right size for young children to explore and was built out of hundreds of discarded children's books.

Library staff will include early literacy skills, concepts and activities in most storytimes for young children and encourage parents to use them at home. ICPL also hopes to expand the popular Book Babies programs held on selected Fridays. A circulating "Big Books" collection of large-format picture books will be added to help early childhood educators and care providers share stories with large groups of children. Early literacy skill brochures will also be available to parents, educators and caregivers.

"It's very important to talk, read, and sing to your child as early as possible," added Gordon. "These practices many parents do instinctively can help ensure healthy brain development in children and give them a solid basis for learning later."

What is early literacy and what helps it develop?

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they actually learn the process of how to read or write. Young children need a variety of skills to become successful readers. Reading experts have determined that six specific literacy skills become the building blocks for later reading and writing. Research indicates that children who enter school with more of these skills are better able to benefit from reading instruction they receive. They include:

Print Motivation - Developing a child's interest and enjoyment of books.

Print Awareness - Encouraging a child's awareness in noticing print, knowing how to handle a book, and understanding how to follow the words on a page.

Letter Knowledge - Helping a child learn to name letters, understand that they have sounds, and recognize that they are everywhere.

Phonological Awareness - Increasing a child's ability to hear and play with smaller sounds in words.

Narrative Skills - Encouraging a child's ability to describe things and events, plus how to tell stories.

Vocabulary - Helping a child know the names of things.

ECO Iowa City looks forward to 'Earth Month'

ECO Iowa City has been busy over the last nine months. The \$57,000 Innovation Grant from the International City and County Managers Association has allowed ECO Iowa City to partner with over 35 organizations and groups as well as city, county, and state departments and agencies. The grant was awarded to the Iowa City Public Library and Public Works Department in early 2009.

Many more activities are currently in the planning stage. The 40th anniversary of Earth Day is April 22, and ECO Iowa City wants to celebrate that date, "however one day isn't enough," said ICPL's Information Services Coordinator Maev Clark and Public Works Division's Recycling Coordinator Jennifer Jordan. "We have renamed April 2010 as 'Earth Month' so we will have enough dates for all the events in the hopper."

An especially exciting project planned for this spring is the children's discovery garden on the north side of the Robert A. Lee Recreation Center.

"Staff at the Parks and Recreation Department are very much looking forward to creating new opportunities for children and the public by developing a new garden concept on the north side of the recreation center building," said Iowa City Parks and Recreation Director Mike Moran. "This new creation will be an ongoing labor of love and will show positive results to the public plus



From left: Jennifer Jordan, Fred Meyer, Mike Moran, Maev Clark and Joyce Carroll.

enhance children's ideas of gardening." Fred Meyer, Executive Director of Backyard Abundance, another partner in the development of the discovery garden, added, "ECO Iowa City understands close collaboration among all environmental groups is the only way we will ever improve the health of our local environment. Their efforts magnify all of our efforts and Backyard Abundance is working to emulate their excellent example."

The focus of ECO Iowa City is to promote environmental sustainability in four areas: urban composting and local food, energy conservation, urban stormwater management, and smart waste disposal. To date, ECO Iowa City has reached about 6,300 Iowa

City area residents through events and presentations. Programs have varied from an expired pharmaceutical collection and e-waste disposal event to providing information on composting and recycling at nine Iowa City Farmers Markets and the Johnson County Fair. ECO Iowa City also co-sponsored programs on local foods and energy conservation as well as a film festival and book discussion related to local foods. Other programs promoted home composting and vermicomposting and included the option to purchase a compost bin or a worm composting bin at a reduced price.

To see ECO Iowa City's upcoming activities, please visit www.icpl.org/eco-iowa-city

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City of Literature Director named



The Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature Board has named Jeanette Pilak of Santa Cruz, California, as the first Executive Director of the organization. Pilak has more than 15 years of non-profit management experience, with both national and international programs. She was most recently director of Arts & Lectures at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The office of Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature is located in the Library on the second floor. The nonprofit corporation was established in 2009 following the UNESCO designation in 2008. The City of Literature hopes to work locally and statewide, as well as nationally and internationally to promote Iowa City as an acclaimed center for writing and reading.

For more information, visit <http://www.iowacityofliterature.org>

Survey results help guide strategic plan

“The strategic plan is an important tool that determines priorities and guides the design and delivery of Library services.”

— Library Director Susan Craig

Every five years or so the Library updates its strategic plan. The Library Board is currently in the midst of a planning process that began with a community survey in the fall, followed by a survey of Library and Library Web site users. In December, a planning facilitator met with the Library Board and staff. The Board has determined one goal to be maintaining an innovative and flexible organization that provides good service.

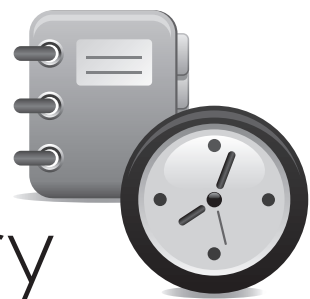
“Lifelong learning and literacy are core values and everyone should have good access and know what the Library has to offer,” said Craig.

The survey results were very positive. Nearly three-fourths of residents in Iowa City and ICPL contract areas (University Heights, Hills, and rural Johnson County) have visited the Library in the past year, and 83% of the respondents rate the Library as good or excellent. They also consider the Library an essential City service.

It was no surprise that parking reimbursement (which had been dropped July 1 and has since been reinstated) was the number one thing people wanted. They were also interested in electronic books, longer Library hours, more locations to return materials, receiving Library news via e-mail, and a small branch away from the downtown area.

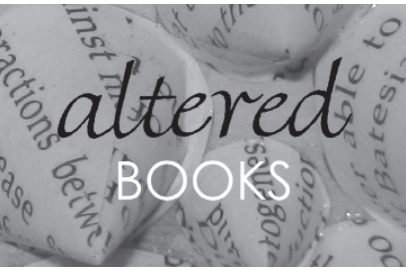
The Library Board continues to discuss the strategic plan, and a final version is expected to be adopted in June.

Today @ Your Library



For a full calendar of events and displays, visit the ICPL Event Calendar online at <http://calendar.icpl.org/>.

Call for altered books artists



Entries are welcome for the Fourth Annual Altered Books Show and Sale, sponsored by the Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation as a fundraiser for the Iowa City Public Library. Interested artists may pick up an entry form at the Library, or online at icpl.org/support.

Altered Books Show and Sale will be held in early June in conjunction with the Iowa ArtsFestival. For additional information, e-mail development@icpl.org or call Patty McCarthy, Library Development Director, 319-356-5249.

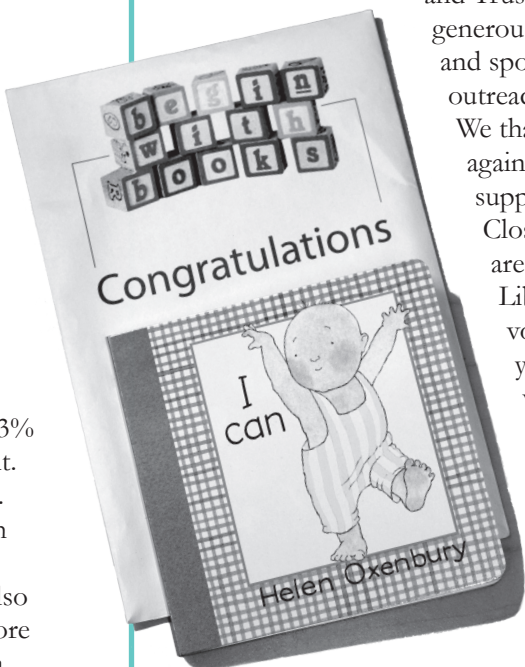


Geisha altered book by Kathy Mitchell

Begin With Books Hospital Service

For more than 20 years, the Iowa City Public Library and Hills Bank and Trust Company have provided a baby book gift service to parents of newborns born at Mercy Hospital and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Called “Begin with Books,” the gift kit includes a new board book for the baby, plus information about public libraries and children’s books that are too good to miss. Since it began, Hills Bank and Trust Company has generously funded and sponsored this outreach service.

We thank them for again renewing their support in 2010. Close to 2,500 kits are compiled by Library youth volunteers year-round, which are then delivered monthly by longtime volunteer Maggie Hogan.



Poetry Workshop for 3rd-6th Graders

2-4 p.m. April 10, Meeting Room A
Help celebrate National Poetry Month and creativity at this fun event. Children’s Librarian Katherine Habley will lead the workshop and participants will be given poetry prompts to get them started while poetic styles are discussed. Kids can read their poetry aloud if they choose and workshop materials plus refreshments will be provided. Registration is limited. To register, call 356-5200, opt. 6, or stop by the Children’s Desk.



Spring Break: Teen Tech Zone

1-4 p.m. March 15-19, Computer Lab
Come hang out on MySpace, Facebook and YouTube! Learn how to make your own podcasts, blogs and movies. Teen Tech Zone is an interactive space for teens in 7th-12th grade. Come use the Internet, work on school activities, make multi-media projects and be creative.

Check Out Our New Book Nook

As a symbol of the Library’s focus on early literacy skills, ICPL is adding a new interactive feature to the Children’s Room. Called the “Book Nook,” this Library playhouse is just the right size for young children to explore. It was built out of hundreds of discarded children’s books by Nathan Nissen, a University of Iowa Civil Engineering graduate student. The Nook was finished and painted by Iowa City artist Deanne Wortman and her woodworker son, Eric Wortman. We know families will enjoy the Nook for years to come. The Book Nook will debut on April 1.



The Book Nook will make its debut in the Children’s Room on April 1.

Every day is Earth Day

Kids can catch the ECO Iowa City bug at the Library in April. A display will include “Worm Wrangling” and demonstrate how kids can make “garden gold” from kitchen scraps. On Earth Day (April 22), preschoolers can join a giant Garbage Monster puppet and Iowa City’s Recycling Coordinator Jennifer Jordan, for a fun recycling relay. On April 24, families can help Mother Earth and wrangle worms with Roxanne Mitten, create a pizza garden, and munch on worm dirt cake. On April 30, 35 school-age kids can take part in a “Pizza Garden” workshop with New Pioneer’s Scott Koepke. They’ll get down and dirty and plant their own colorful garden that’s good enough to eat! Pre-registration for this event starts April 9.

Fathers & Sons: “Choose Your Own Adventure” Special

10:30 a.m.-Noon May 1, Meeting Room A
“Research shows that boys are having trouble reading, and that boys are getting worse at reading. No one is quite sure why. Some of the reasons are biological. Some of the reasons are sociological. But the good news is that research also shows that boys will read — if they are given reading that interests them.”
— Jon Scieszka, creator of “Guys Read”, a Web-based literacy site and program for boys

Inspired by Jon Scieszka’s words and the works of John Coy (ICPL’s author-in-residence this summer), the Children’s Department will host a special father and son event based on the popular “Choose Your Own Adventure” series. The event is designed to appeal to the needs and interests of school-age boys, including their penchant for action, hands on exploration, competition, and a “touch of danger” in what they do. The event will include plenty of physical activities for fathers and sons to do together that will also encourage them to discover the joy of reading and using books.



John Coy is ICPL’s Author-in-Residence this summer.

Author Visit: Peter Hedges

7 p.m. April 15, Room A
Author Peter Hedges (“What’s Eating Gilbert Grape,” “An Ocean In Iowa”) will read from his new book, “The Heights.” Co-sponsored by Prairie Lights Bookstore.

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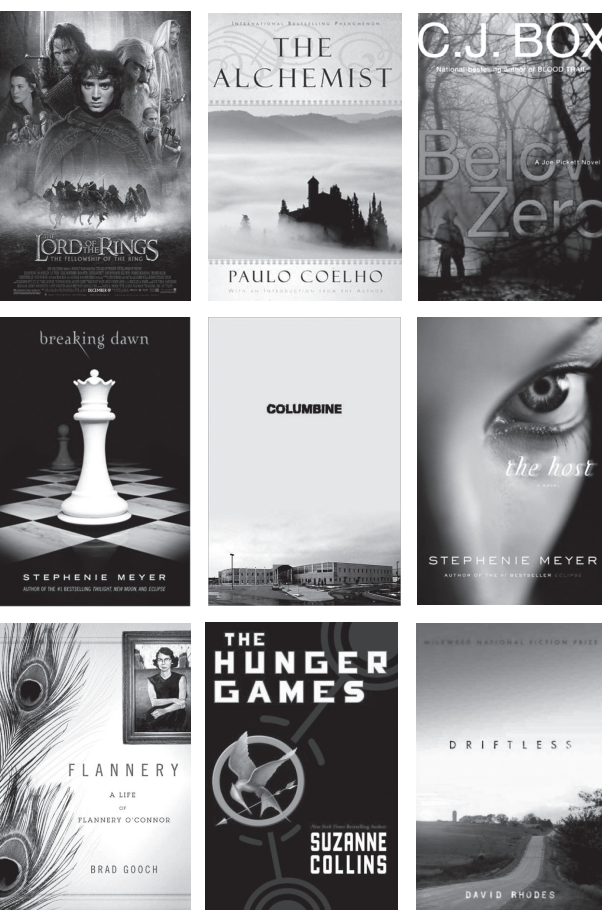
Full access to this service is available to Library cardholders who live in Iowa City, Hills, University Heights, or rural Johnson County. Residents of Coralville may access the OverDrive service using their valid Coralville Public Library card.

For more information, visit www.icpl.org/emedial

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