Arthur Read, the star of Marc Brown’s popular picture books and TV show, says it best: Having fun isn’t hard, when you’ve got a Library Card!

Actually, he and his friends sing it in the aptly named “Library Card” song, but the sentiment rings true. There’s so much you can do with a Library Card, especially at the Iowa City Public Library! Our cards can be used to:

- Check out books, movies, TV shows, video games and music.
- Explore our digital collection from the comfort of your home, including books, movies, audiobooks, digital magazines, and *The New York Times.*
- Access our collection of databases.
- Get connected to the Library’s on-site public computer stations.
- Borrow laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots.

There were 1.4 billion in-person visits to public libraries across the country in 2016; that’s the equivalent of about 4 million visits per day! In Iowa City, we saw 676,237 visitors last year, an average of 200 visitors per hour.

Source: American Library Association and Iowa City Public Library

For John Bakas, who’s had an ICPL library card for 60 years, the Library is a home away from home. The Iowa City resident grew up in his family’s downtown restaurant, The Mars Café.

“It was located on what is now ICPL property,” Bakas recalls. “It was on Dubuque Street where the library exit doors are now – in the northwest section of the Merge space.”

The Bakas family lived in a small apartment above a seed store, located where The Bread Garden stands today.

Air conditioning was rare back then, so when summer temperatures were high, Bakas sought refuge in the air-conditioned Library, then located in the Carnegie building on Linn Street. He was allowed to go alone, calling it a "parent-approved escape."

“The great thing about ICPL in those days, as far as I was concerned, was Hazel Westgate,” he says. “She was in charge of the Children’s Department. She read stories to kids every day. It was an interesting way to escape the heat and be entertained and perhaps learn something, so I had a reason to go there most afternoons in those summers when I was not yet 10 years old. Miss Westgate was a lot like a teacher to me.”

Bakas signed up for his first ICPL Library Card when he was seven years old.

“What I most appreciate about libraries is the facilitation of access to information needed for the management of important matters in life,” Bakas says. “Of course, having a Library Card is fundamental to that access.”

Celebrate your access to information by applying for a Library Card today! Find more information at icpl.org/about/cards.
We want to thank our patrons for their patience during the Pedestrian Mall Improvement Project.

The project is part of the larger Downtown and Pedestrian Mall Streetscape Plan, improving accessibility, infrastructure and the overall aesthetic of the area. While the Library, and all downtown businesses, remained open during construction, we know it wasn’t always easy to navigate the changes. Thank you for your understanding.

Happily, the second and final phase of the project, located on College Street, from Clinton to Linn streets, is on track to be finished in late October/early November of 2019. The first phase of the project, which focused on Dubuque Street from College to Washington streets, was completed in the fall of 2018.

To stay updated during construction, subscribe to the Ped Mall Improvements Project email list at www.icgov.org/e-subscriptions or follow the City of Iowa City on Facebook and Twitter using #PedProject.

To learn more about the project, visit icgov.org/downtownstreetscape. There’s also an information bulletin board inside the Library.

You have more to read and experience through ICPL thanks to your financial contributions! If we each give $25, the Library can add more for everyone!

**Giving is easy**

**Online** - Visit our secure site at [www.icpl.org/about/donate](http://www.icpl.org/about/donate) to use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express.

**Payroll deduction** - Give through Iowa Shares if you work for the City of Iowa City, Johnson County, University of Iowa, Iowa City Community School District, and other local public and private employers.

**Check or Credit Card** - Use the form below. Mail to ICPL Development Office, 123 S. Linn St., Iowa City, IA 52240.

**Questions?** Contact Patty McCarthy, Development Director, at (319) 356-5249 or patty-mccarthy@icpl.org

[ ] I am proud to support the Iowa City Public Library with a contribution to the Friends Foundation at the following level:

- Literary Circle $2,500 and more
- Publisher’s Circle $1,000-$2,499
- Editor’s Circle $500-$999
- Author’s Circle $250-$499
- Reader’s Circle $100-$249
- Book Lovers $50-$99
- Bookplate $1-$49

Enclosed is my/our contribution of $ ____________________

Payment Type:
- Check made payable to the ICPL Friends Foundation
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  - Visa
  - MasterCard
  - Discover
  - American Express

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What does a librarian do after she retires? She serves on a Library Board!

“Having worked in Iowa as a professional librarian and having lived in Iowa City for over 20 years, I had such respect and admiration for ICPL that serving on the board seemed like a great opportunity for me,” Carol Kirsch says.

Kirsch worked as a librarian for 35 years, including stints at the Cedar Rapids Public Library and the State Historical Society of Iowa. She and her husband are the parents of three adult children and have two grandchildren. They share their home with three dogs.

Growing up in Indiana, Kirsch remembers doing her homework in the West Lafayette Public Library. She enjoys seeing others use ICPL as their homework place when she’s in the building for a meeting or browsing the shelves.

“These is nothing not to like about ICPL but I particularly admire how hard the Library strives to be a special social space for the community,” she says. “My service on the Board has opened my eyes to this. I also love being surrounded by all those books I want to read.”

Derek Johnk became a father at 18. As such, money was tight for his family’s early years and they often relied on the Iowa City Public Library for entertainment.

“I think the Library is especially important for low/no income families, as it is a beautiful, comfortable, welcoming, safe place where people are allowed to exist without having to pay money,” the IT Service Management Consultant says. “This is the charge of the Library, in my opinion: to be a place for all.”

Visits are still a regular occurrence for the Johnk family – wife, two children with a third on the way – and he praises ICPL whenever he can.

“The Library is a cultural mainstay. It is dynamic, and is different things to different people,” Johnk says. “At the front of my head will always be: How can we reach more and more people with this Library? How can we grow? These are questions that will always be asking during my time as a trustee.”

An Iowa native, Johnk grew up in Sioux City and Cedar Rapids. He moved to the Twin Cities after graduating from the University of Iowa, but happily returned to his “favorite city in the world” in 2013.

Where Reasons End
by YiYun Li
“This is a beautifully written book on a difficult subject — a mother dealing with the suicide death of her teenage son. The book is a novel but reads like a memoir of sorts as the author presents imagined conversations with her son over the course of the book’s brief 192 pages.”

When Breath Becomes Air
by Paul Kalanithi
“I’m generally more of a fiction reader but this is one of the most beautiful books I’ve ever read. A young, promising doctor is diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer and explores his calling to medicine, and the purpose and meaning of his life.”

When Reasons End
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“Finding simple joys, leaning into nature, and loving and accepting yourself, exactly where you’re at right now, can be hard sometimes. Oliver’s poems have made this work easier for me. She’s a beacon.”

Devotions
by Mary Oliver

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Hannah Shultz may be a newcomer to the Board of Trustees, but not to Iowa City. Shultz grew up between Iowa City and Mount Vernon, and graduated from the University of Iowa. She moved away, returning in 2018. Married with two puppies, Shultz was eager to give back to the place she calls home. “We all have a role in building the communities we want to live in and strong, active libraries are a key part of the community I want to be a part of,” she says. Growing up, Shultz made regular visits to her childhood library. She’d always leave with an armful of books, but only after she spent significant time exploring the card catalog.

“I was very interested in how everything was organized,” Shultz says. The Communications and Outreach Coordinator has moved from card catalog love to Bookmobile infatuation, saying her colleagues tease her about how much she talks about the Bookmobile, even scheduling meetings around its stops. She’s also a fan the Overdrive/Libby app for audiobooks. “I spend a lot of time walking my dogs and other things, and frequently can get through two to three audiobooks a week,” Shultz says.

Kellee Forkenbrock applied to be a Library Board member because she is “a lifelong supporter of public libraries and am invested in doing my part in making ICPL a beacon of the community.” As a child, Forkenbrock’s grandmother accompanied her on weekend trips to the Chicago’s Carter G. Woodson Library, where she’d always leave with a stack of picture books – enough to last until her next visit.

If you need additional proof of the married mother of two’s library love, it’s on her resume. Not only is Forkenbrock a Library Assistant at the Coralville and North Liberty public libraries, she’s also an author, published under the name Eliza David (ElizaDavid.com). Two of her books – *Cougarette* and *Cougarette in the Country* – can be found in ICPL’s fiction collection.

“Public libraries are the heartbeat of our nation,” Forkenbrock says. “It warms my heart with gratitude to serve on the Board and participate in the growth of libraries as both a patron and as a professional.”

Meet the Iowa City Public Library Board of Trustees.
These nine community volunteers govern ICPL. They were appointed by the City Council through an application process. The Library Board is empowered by state law and city ordinance to set policy, determine goals and objectives, direct the use of monies appropriated or gifted to the Library, and to employ staff.

Iowa City native John Beasley has a bit of an advantage over other Library Board members: the Iowa City Public Library was his childhood library – just not the current location. Beasley grew up visiting ICPL’s Carnegie Library, located at 212 South Linn St. That, he says, is where he learned how to use a card catalog.

Beasley attended the University of Iowa, where he received both his bachelor’s and law degrees. Married with two daughters, Beasley is an attorney with Phelan Tucker Law LLP in Iowa City. Beasley was named to the Board of Trustees in 2015. He gives his time to the Library because he wants to help the community. Also, he’s a fan of everything the Library offers. “I love the information and stories within ICPL,” he says.
Growing up in Chicago, Monique Washington was a regular at her neighborhood library, even serving as president of the Library Club. Club members recommended books to their peers and encouraged others to visit the library.

During a trip home, Washington visited her neighborhood library for a stroll down memory lane and found a scrapbook with photos of that time. "That meant a lot, to see those moments preserved," she says.

Not that she’s surprised. An avid library fan, Washington says she encounters wonderful people at every library she visits.

Washington moved to Iowa City to attend the University of Iowa. She and her husband, who has since passed away, fell in love with the community and decided to stay and raise their family – three sons and two daughters – here post-graduation.

“We were at ICPL so much, all the librarians knew my kids by name,” says Washington, who works as a victim advocate at Horizons.

When the Board of Trustees announced volunteers were needed, Washington leapt at the prospect.

“I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to be part of the decision-making process for the Library because I love it so much,” she says.

A California native, Rocklin grew up visiting the Pacific Palisades branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. He remembers participating in the Summer Reading Program and being upset that he could only check out 10 books per visit.

The father of three grown sons, Rocklin values libraries – as a parent, as an educator, and as a patron.

“Libraries like ICPL are engines of informed citizenship, available to the entire community,” he says. “They help expand our visions of what the world is and what it can be.”

As a board member, Rocklin wants to help the director and staff of the ICPL continue the Library’s excellence and support innovation that makes Iowa City even more special.
When Robin Paetzold was a child, Friday night was library night. She and her siblings were dropped off at the public library in Binghamton, NY, while their father went grocery shopping down the street.

“I remember the excitement when I realized that I wasn't limited to the Children’s Room but could borrow any book in the building,” she says.

It’s a practice she continues today, always leaving ICPL with more books than she planned to borrow.

Paetzold recently started her second term on the Board of Trustees. The former board president has given nine years of leadership to ICPL in addition to other volunteer duties.

“I believe that the ICPL is the heart of this community,” she says. “It is the intersection of all of our different neighborhoods – the community living room where all are welcome.”

Paetzold moved to Iowa City in 1987 when her husband accepted a position with the University of Iowa. She’s the Global Health Programs Director at the UI Carver College of Medicine. Work may have brought them here, but that isn’t why they stayed. “Iowa City is a special place and quickly became our home. We chose to raise our sons here and we are very committed to this community.”

Iowa native Wesley Beary moved to Iowa City eight years ago and has been a regular at ICPL ever since, first as a volunteer on the board of ICPL Friends Foundation and now the ICPL Board of Trustees President.

Beary joined the board in September of 2018, fulfilling the term of a member who moved away.

“Libraries have been an important part of my life and I want to do what I can to provide that impact to others as well,” Beary says.

He fondly recalls weekly visits to his local library, where he’d trade batches of children’s books for a new pile, always with the goal of learning more about different topics. It’s a practice the Salesforce.com Software Architect continues with his wife and their daughter.

“Libraries are critical community centers that engage and connect patrons to learning, creativity, and one another,” Beary says.
Donations now being accepted.

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