

MUSSER PUBLIC

# LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026



## Celebrating Summer While Navigating Change

Summer is here at Musser Public Library, and we are excited to kick off this year's summer reading program, Unearth A Story! Readers of all ages can track their reading, earn prizes, and join us for a summer full of programs and activities.

At the same time, the library is preparing for several operational changes beginning July 1 due to reductions in city and county funding. These changes will include adjusted building hours as well as reductions to some programs and services. Our staff remains committed to providing meaningful services, programs, and spaces for our community.

You can find more information about both our summer offerings and upcoming changes throughout this newsletter.

## UNEARTH A STORY™ 2026 SUMMER READING

Kids | Teens | Adults

Log reading June 1 - July 31

Redeem prizes starting June 8th

Summer Reading Programs/Events

June 1 - July 17

[musserpubliclibrary.beanstack.com](http://musserpubliclibrary.beanstack.com)



**WHO: Everyone!**

Families and community members of all ages are welcome! **IT'S FREE!**

**What: Life-Sized Dinos!**

Come see life size animatronic dinosaurs and a brachiosaurus replica.

**Where: Musco Sports Center (Dome)**

500 S Houser St, Muscatine, IA

**When: June 3, 2026 | 4:30-6:30**

**Why: Summer Reading Program Kick-off Event!**



[www.musserpubliclibrary.org](http://www.musserpubliclibrary.org)



[refmus@muscatineiowa.gov](mailto:refmus@muscatineiowa.gov)



563-263-3065

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## What's Changing at the Library?



Significant funding reductions from the city and county for the fiscal year starting July 1 have resulted in a few changes here at Musser Public Library.

Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>:

- The library will be closed on Sunday.
- The library will be closing at 8pm Monday - Thursday.
- Adult Trivia Night will be discontinued.
- Pages for All Ages intergenerational book club will be discontinued.
- Attendees at the Arts Council Summer Concert Series will no longer have access to the building.
- Community outreach & classroom visits will be reduced.
- Freegal (music streaming) will no longer be available.
- Heritage Quest (genealogy database) will no longer be available.
- Morningstar (investment research) will no longer be available.

Our core mission here at Musser Public Library remains the same! We are still open, staffed, and committed to connecting you with the resources, programs, and community you count on! Our summer programming is off to a BIG start, so come on in for a great book, a meet-up with friends, a program or craft activity, or to use the many library resources available to you for free! We are here for you, and **YOU BELONG HERE!**

WANT TO HELP?

YOU can help keep Musser Public Library a thriving part of our community!

Your voice matters!

If you love the library, please share your library story with us and your elected officials--state legislators, city council members, and county supervisors.

You can also **support us through the Friends of Musser Public Library**, which helps to fund programs and resources beyond the public budget. See our website under the tab "Support Us" for details!



[www.musserpubliclibrary.org](http://www.musserpubliclibrary.org)



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563-263-3065

# What's Changing & Why We're Telling You

An honest update about our budget, services, and commitment to you.

18,588

ACTIVE CARDHOLDERS

\$104K

FUNDING GAP

~45

PROGRAMS AT RISK

100%

COMMITTED TO YOU

*We believe you deserve a straight answer. Here's what's happening with the Library's budget, what it means for your services, and what we're doing about it.*

## 1. Why is the Library making changes?

We're navigating significant funding reductions from Muscatine County (\$54,000) and the City's Capital Outlay budget (\$50,000 — the fund that pays for books, DVDs, and materials). Together, these create a \$104,000 gap we're working to address as responsibly and thoughtfully as possible.

## 2. How will Library hours change?

We will need to close on Sundays and reduce evening hours Monday–Thursday from 9:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We know these times matter to many of you, and we're truly sorry for the impact on your schedule.

## 3. What programs will be affected?

Adult Trivia Night and one monthly children's program (Pages for All Ages) will be discontinued. Community outreach — including classroom visits and community events — would be reduced by approximately 10%. In total, around 45 programs would be cut from the 415 we currently offer each year.

## 4. Will I lose access to any online resources?

Three digital resources would be cancelled: Freegal (music streaming), Heritage Quest (genealogy research), and Morningstar (investment research). We know these are valued services and will share information about free alternatives wherever we can find them.

## 5. Is the Library still going to be open?

Absolutely. Musser Public Library isn't going anywhere. Even with these adjustments, we remain open, fully staffed, and committed to connecting you with the resources, programs, and community you count on us for.

## 6. Can I do anything to help?

Yes! Your voice matters more than you know. If you value the Library, please share that story with us and your elected officials — State Legislators, City Council members and County Supervisors. You can also support us through the Friends of Musser Public Library, which helps to fund programs and resources beyond the public budget.

### WHAT WE'RE CUTTING

- Part-time staff hours capped at 20 hours per week
- Programming (Adult Trivia, Pages for All Ages, etc)
- Freegal, Heritage Quest & Morningstar cancelled
- Staff development budget reduced
- Materials budget (books, DVDs, etc.) reduced

### WHAT WE'RE PROTECTING

- Core open hours (Monday–Saturday)
- All essential collections & borrowing
- Children's and teen programming
- Computer & technology access
- Reference & research assistance

**We are still here for you. Thank you for being part of our community.**

### Questions? Talk to us.

Director Bobby Fiedler · [bfiedler@muscatineiowa.gov](mailto:bfiedler@muscatineiowa.gov) · 563-263-3065 ext. 125  
408 E. 2nd Street, Muscatine, IA 52761

May 2026

# June Programs—Things you need to know

## Adults:

**Library TRIVIA NIGHT**

DOORS at 5:30 TRIVIA at 6:00  
PLAN, PARTIAL, AND ATTENDING

Friday, 6/26/26  
Doors 5:30  
Trivia 6:00

\*Last Trivia Night due to budget cuts\*

**THURSDAY**  
6/18/26  
6-8 PM

**Creative ESCAPE**

Monthly craft night for ages 18+

**Charcuterie Boards with Chelsea Harms**

*Come learn the history and art of charcuterie boards, then make your own!*

Registration will open June 11th  
Call or register at  
<https://musserpubliclibrary.org/creative-escape-registration/>

**Musser Book Club**  
Monday, June 1 at 7pm Rm 017  
"James" by Percival Everett

**July Book:**  
"The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin

# UNEARTH A STORY™

## 2026 SUMMER READING

Sign up today!



[musserpubliclibrary.beanstack.com](http://musserpubliclibrary.beanstack.com)

**Kids | Teens | Adults**

Log reading June 1 - July 31

Redeem prizes starting June 8th

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## Children's / Teens

### SUMMER PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS
<p>10:15 MAKE &amp; TAKE CRAFT (KIDS)</p> <p>2:00 TEEN ART/CRAFT</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL GUESTS</b> <b>(TIMES VARY)</b></p>	<p>9:00 ADVENTURE STORY HIKE (KIDS)</p> <p>2:00 TEEN PROGRAM</p>

**LOG YOUR READING**

**EARN PRIZES**

**ATTEND SPECIAL EVENTS**



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563-263-3065

# UNEARTH A STORY™

# JUNE 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
**8:45 Infant/Toddler Swim Storytime**  
 Meet outside the Muscatine Aquatic Center for a story before infant/toddler swim

**1** 9:30 Baby Lapsit  
 Storytime  
 10:30 PreSchool Story Time  
 6:00 Cross Stitch

**2** 10:15-12 Make & Take Craft  
 2-3:30 Makers Studio

**3** 10:30 Baby Lapsit Storytime  
 4:30-6:30 Dinos at the Dome

**4** 9:00 Adventure Story Hike  
 2:00 Teen Program

**5**

**6** 10:30 Baby Lapsit Story Time

**7**

**8** 9:30 Baby Lapsit Storytime  
 10:30 PreSchool Story Time  
 6:00 Cross Stitch

**9** 10:15-12 Make & Take Craft  
 2-3:30 Makers Studio

**10** 10:30 Baby Lapsit Storytime  
 1:30 & 6:00 Will Stuck: MESS

**11** 9:00 Adventure Story Hike  
 2:00 Teen Program

**12**

**13** 10:30 Baby Lapsit Story Time

**14**

**15** 9:30 Baby Lapsit Storytime  
 10:30 PreSchool Story Time  
 6:00 Cross Stitch

**16** 10:15-12 Make & Take Craft  
 2-3:30 Makers Studio

**17** 10:30 Baby Storytime  
 10:30, 1:30, & 5:30 Author Kelly Crull  
 4:30 Library Board Meeting

**18** 9:00 Adventure Story Hike  
 2:00 Teen Program  
 6-8 Creative Escape

**19**

**20** 10:30 Baby Lapsit Story Time

**21**

**22** 9:30 Baby Lapsit Storytime  
 10:30 PreSchool Story Time  
 6:00 Cross Stitch

**23** 10:15-12 Make & Take Craft  
 2-3:30 Makers Studio

**24** 10:30 Baby Lapsit Storytime  
 10:30, 1:30, & 6:00 Illustrator Buck Jones

**25** 9:00 Adventure Story Hike  
 2:00 Teen Program

**26** 5:30-7:30 Final Trivia Night  
 Doors open: 5:30  
 Trivia starts at 6PM

**27** 10:30 Baby Lapsit Story Time

**28**

**29** 9:30 Baby Lapsit Storytime  
 10:30 PreSchool Story Time  
 6:00 Cross Stitch

**30** 10:15-12 Make & Take Craft  
 2-3:30 Makers Studio



Musser Public  
**Library**

Children

Teens

Adults