MUSSER PUBLIC

LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

A New Season at the Library



Fall brings new programs, new ways to connect, and new online content from Musser.

Fall has a way of sneaking up on us. One day it's sprinklers and sunscreen, and the next it's football Saturdays, combines rolling through the fields, and a sudden need for a sweater. Hawkeye or Cyclone, we stay neutral on game day, like Switzerland, only with more books.

Autumn is our favorite season at Musser, and this year we've packed it with good reasons to stop by, or to stay right where you are. Read on in this issue for a look at Beyond the Baton, our after-hours ghost hunting program, and our Walkabout History YouTube series. Whether you want a night of music, a little spookiness, or a stroll through Muscatine's past from your couch, there's something here with your name on it.

Halloween is coming, and the shelves are ready with spooky novels, classic monster movies, and cozy cookbooks for harvest-season baking. Want to stock up even more? The Friends of Musser Public Library Annual Book Sale runs October 22–24, with plenty of bargain reads to fill your fall. Whether we run into you around town or behind the front desk, we'd love to say hello.

And a little secret: Musser is heading toward its 125th year, and we're already dreaming up ways to celebrate. Our story has always been Muscatine's story, and the best chapters are still ahead. Pull up a chair and enjoy the new season.

Bobby Fiedler
Musser Public Library, Director









Walkabout History is Back!



Last year, Musser Public Library debuted the first season of **Walkabout History**, a YouTube series where we take a deep dive into local history and share what we discover. Season One explored the history of Weed Park. If you haven't watched it yet, check out the episodes on our YouTube channel!

This fall, Jenny and Emma are at it again—and this time, they're introducing Becca to some of the spooky stories connected to Muscatine. Every week in October, **Walkabout History** will release a new episode of Season Two: **Muscatine's Haunted History**.



Jenny and Emma will share actual ghost stories that have been reported in and around Muscatine. But they won't just tell you the stories—they'll take you along for a walkabout to visit some of the locations connected to them.

Walkabout History

Musser Public Library

Be sure to tune in, and let us know if you've heard any of these stories!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A NEW PROGRAM!

October will be Musser Public Library's first time hosting **Beyond the Baton**. In partnership with the Muscatine Symphony Orchestra, we'll hear from the orchestra's director about the upcoming performance, the music, and some of the stories behind it.

You don't have to know anything about music to attend. You don't have to have a symphony concert ticket to attend. Bring a curious mind and enjoy an opportunity to learn more about the music in a relaxed setting.

Are there Ghosts in the Library?

Ever wondered what it would be like to investigate a historic building after dark? Join us at Musser Public Library on October 30 for a night of ghost hunting! Learn about the tools, techniques, and history behind paranormal investigations before dividing into small groups to explore the library and see what you might discover.

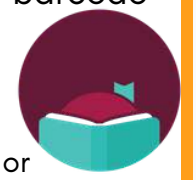
This special after-hours event runs from 8 p.m. to midnight and is for adults 18 and older. Registration is required, and participants must commit to attending the entire event. Come curious, bring an open mind, and see what happens when the lights go out!

Register at:
https://musserpubliclibrary.org/event-registration/



ATTENTION LIBBY USERS!

Starting on October 12th, Libby will require you to enter your PIN when you log in to the Libby app, in addition to the barcode number of your library card.



FAQs

- **What is my PIN?** This is the same PIN or passcode that you use to log into the library's catalog to see your due dates, holds, and more. If you've never changed it, your default PIN is the last 4 digits of your library card number.
- **My default PIN didn't work – what do I do?** Contact your library by calling *(563) 263-3065* or come see us at a service desk. We are happy to help!
- **Why is a PIN now required?** This change was made by OverDrive, owner of the Libby app, in order to provide more security to users.

Friends of Musser Public Library
BOOK SALE

Friends Only Preview Sale
October 22 4pm-8pm
Not a Friend? Buy a membership at the sale to gain early access!

Open to the public:
October 23 10am-6pm
October 24 10am-2pm

Sale will take place in room #104 of the library

Literacy Begins with the Big Five!

Early childhood and literacy experts have identified five key ways parents and caregivers can help babies and toddlers build foundational skills and get ready to read. Musser Public Library provides support for all five!

- **SING!** Singing to babies & young children helps them identify different sounds and begin segmenting words into syllables. Singing is a key feature of every Baby Lapsit & Preschool Storytime here at Musser!
- **TALK!** Talking to babies & young children encourages them to "talk" as well. Developing spoken vocabulary helps them understand the world around them and prepares them for comprehension. Have a fun chat with the young child in your life as you find all the pictures hidden around the library in our weekly scavenger hunts!



MONDAY 9:30
WEDNESDAY 10:30
SATURDAY 10:30
Ages 0-3

- **READ!** Reading to and with babies and young children is the most important way to build a foundation for learning to read. Check out one of the MANY books for babies & young children to read with the young child in your life!
- **WRITE!** Writing, coloring, and scribbling with babies and young chidren builds fine motor skills and helps kids understand that written words represent spoken language. Do some coloring, cutting, writing, or even scribbling at the round craft table in the children's department!



MONDAY 10:30
Ages 3-5

- **PLAY!** Symbolic & dramatic play helps babies and young children develop spoken language, imagination, and visualization skills. From trains, to dolls, to fire trucks & cooking toys, Musser Library children's department offers LOTS of options for creative play!

Source: https://everychildreadytoread.org/

www.musserpubliclibrary.org refmus@muscatineiowa.gov 563-263-3065

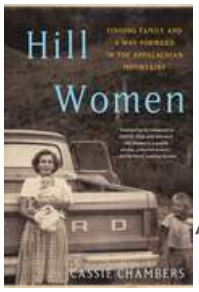
PROGRAMS

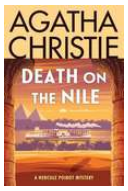
Adults:

Musser Book Club

October 5 | 6:45 | Room #017

"Hill Women" by Cassie Chambers





November Book:
"Death on the Nile"
by Agatha Christie



Halloween Yard Decor

October 13, 2026 | 6:00-7:30
Musser Public Library, room #301
Please register in advance:
Registration will open October 6th
https://musserpubliclibrary.org/creative-escape-registration/
or
call the Children's Department



Beyond the Baton

October 20 | 6:45

Room #301

Enjoy refreshments and a chance to hear from Muscatine Symphony Orchestra's Director, Brian Dollinger. Come hear about the upcoming symphony performance.

Ghost Hunting

An after hours event at Musser Public Library
Friday, October 30, 2026
8:00 PM-Midnight
For patrons 18+
Must register in advance
To register call Musser Public Library OR go to https://musserpubliclibrary.org/event-registration/



Children's / Teens

Monthly Programs

MAKERS STUDIO
ARTS/CRAFTS FOR 6-12 GRADERS

First Program: November 12
6:00 - 7:00 PM
2nd Thursday of the month
Nov, Jan, Feb, Mar, & Apr
Ages 12-18
Held in the TEEN CENTER

Curious Child Club
A Place for Ideas to Grow

Oct 8 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM
2nd Thursday of the month
Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr
Ages 4-8 | Children's Dept

Discovery Lab
A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE FOR HANDS-ON KIDS

Oct 27 | 6:30-7:30 PM
4th Tuesday of the month in
Sept, Oct, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr
Ages 8-12 | Room #017
Dissection with
Andrea Martinez

Quarterly

Adventure Story Hike
Hike through the seasons!



October 24, 9AM
Once a Quarter
Oct, Jan, Apr
Ages 3+ | Fuller Park

October 2026

Musser Public Library

Children's Programs
Teens
Adult Programs

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 11 AM Senior Balance Class	2 LIBRARY CLOSED For staff in-service and cleaning	3
4	5 9:30 Baby Lapsit Story Time 10:30 Preschool Storytime 7-8 Musser Book Club	6 10:15 AM Homeschool Reading Games	7 10:30 AM Baby Lapsit Story Time	8 11 AM Senior Balance Class 6-7 PM Curious Child Club	9 **WE HAVE A TEEN CENTER!** *OPEN WHEN THE LIBRARY IS OPEN* • Do homework or just come hang out • Browse our Teen Pop Up Collection • Color, play games, or answer our question of the week	10 10:30 AM Baby Lapsit Story Time
11	12 9:30 Baby Lapsit Story Time 10:30 AM PreSchool Story Time	13 10:15 AM Homeschool Reading Games 6-7:30 Creative Escape	14 10:30 AM Baby Lapsit Story Time	15 11 AM Senior Balance Class		17 10:30 AM Baby Lapsit Story Time
18	19 9:30 Baby Lapsit Story Time 10:30 AM PreSchool Story Time	20 10:15 AM Homeschool Reading Games 6:45 Beyond the Baton	21 10:30 AM Baby Lapsit Story Time	22 11 AM Senior Balance Class	23 Friends of Musser Public Library BOOK SALE Thursday 4-8 PM Friends preview sale (Not a friends member? Buy a membership for early access!) Public Sale → Friday 10 AM - 6 PM Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM	24 9 AM Adventure Story Hike - Fuller Park 10:30 AM Baby Lapsit Story Time
25	26 9:30 Baby Lapsit Story Time 10:30 AM PreSchool Story Time	27 10:15 AM Homeschool Reading Games 6:30-7:30 PM Discovery Lab	28 10:30 AM Baby Lapsit Story Time	29 11 AM Senior Balance Class	30 8 PM Ghost Hunting	31 10:30 AM Baby Lapsit Story Time