



DES MOINES
PUBLIC LIBRARY

KIDS & TEEN ITEMS ARE NOW

FINE-FREE



DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY ELIMINATES FINES ON KIDS AND TEEN MATERIALS

In November, the Des Moines Public Library removed overdue fines on all children and teen materials and stopped collecting previously accrued overdue fines on those items.

As a result, nearly 2,000 customers with library cards that were blocked due to unpaid fines on children and teen materials are able to use the library again.

"This decision provides many Des Moines families with new opportunities and ensures that the library continues to be a welcoming place to each and every member of our community," said Susan A. Woody, Des Moines Public Library Director.

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DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY ELIMINATES FINES ON KIDS AND TEEN MATERIALS (CONTINUED)



“We know that removing barriers to service is important, especially now, and especially for our youngest readers. This is a crucial step in doing so,” said Woody.

By clearing these fines, the Des Moines Public Library is welcoming back families who stopped checking out books and using library services due to an inability

to pay overdue fines on materials checked out for children and teens.

“This action by the Des Moines Public Library will benefit some of Des Moines’ most vulnerable residents, and allows hundreds and hundreds of families to once again take advantage of the books and other valuable library services in their communities,” Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie said.

Anyone who has overdue children and teen books and DVDs is encouraged to return those items to any of our six libraries. The library is reaching out to each cardholder with accounts that are now unblocked to inform them how to reactivate their library cards. If you think this change affects your library account, you can call us at (515) 283-4152.

Go to dmpl.org/fine-free for more details about our new overdue fines policy.

UPDATED FINE AND FEE POLICIES

When all locations of the Des Moines Public Library first closed in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, daily overdue fines were temporarily suspended. While overdue fines on children and teen materials are now eliminated, overdue fines on adult books are once again accruing — but at a reduced rate of 10 cents per day.

Additional details:

- The library reinstated the \$1 fee to borrow non-children’s DVDs. (Children’s DVDs remain free to check out.)
- Overdue fines for non-children’s DVDs remain 50 cents per day.
- DVDs are checked out for one week, but DVD series/sets will be checked out for three weeks.
- Customers will still be charged for all lost and damaged materials, including children and teen materials that are lost and/or damaged.



Groups and organizational partners in the Mighty Girls Series:

- Community Youth Concepts
- Iowa Safe School
- Planned Parenthood North Central States
- Polk County Health Department
- Young Women’s Resource Center

DMPL PROGRAM HELPS CREATE MIGHTY GIRLS

The Des Moines Public Library’s Mighty Girl Empowerment Series aims to give girls age 10-12 the skills and information they need to find their inner mightiness as they mature.



Erica Eis

Erica Eis, a children’s librarian at the Forest Avenue Library, began the program in 2019 as a five-week series. She said the goal of the program is to foster well-being and build more resilient youth. Skills discussed over the course of the series include developing healthy relationships with family and friends, puberty and physical development, sexuality, mental health, and more. The program provides girls with resources to help them develop healthy coping strategies they can use throughout their life.

“Girls that are educated about themselves and their bodies in an inclusive and accepting environment are more likely to face and overcome challenges through a self-determined and empowered mindset,” Eis said.



Alissa Cornick

After that initial program in 2019, a second series was held in February 2020, and a virtual series on Zoom started in November 2020. Alissa Cornick, a youth librarian at the Central Library, facilitated the most recent series.

“We didn’t know what to expect in terms of interest when we moved it to a virtual setting, but the response was amazing,” Cornick said. “We filled all 15 seats, and we had a waiting list.”

The program is expected to continue in 2021.

NOTE: The Girl Power Initiative recognizes and welcomes individuals who self-identify as genderfluid, non-binary, and transgender who seek inclusion in the programming.



MEET NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR EMANUEL SINCLAIR MITCHELL

The Des Moines Public Library welcomed Emanuel Sinclair Mitchell as its new Deputy Director this fall. Mitchell comes to the library with a wealth of experience in a number of different library settings, including work at public libraries, academic libraries, and even prison libraries. This broad experience has given him a great platform on which to help lead DMPL into the future.

Q: Why did you get into libraries to start?

As a child, I always wanted to change the world for the better. The library was always there; I visited the library my whole life, and in college, I was working as an assistant to the director of reference at the university library.

When I was about 28 or 29, an epiphany came. It changed my ideas and perspective about how to affect change in my community for the better. I started looking for what I really wanted to do, and I dove into the library world as a whole. I started at the Atlanta Fulton Public Library on May 5, 2002.

Q: You have worked at academic libraries, public libraries, and even managed prison libraries. How did those diverse experiences shape your philosophies of librarianship so far?

The library is the center of all communities. Dealing with all those types of libraries strengthened my belief in that philosophy. Where you have a strong library, you have a strong community. As the center of the community everything ebbs and flows through the library. When the library is engaged, patrons are engaged, and the library can provide anything that community requires.

Libraries reflect their communities' demographics. If they don't, they're irrelevant. Being a diverse system means that the library is providing for every person within those demographics, whether it's the majority or minority, to keep them engaged.

Q: What do you think about Des Moines so far?

Des Moines is a great city. It has such a rich culture. I want to keep learning and embracing that culture. The more I learn about Des Moines, the better equipped I am to help.

Q: What are some of your favorite books?

I can read *Big Bad Wolf* by James Patterson or *Digital Fortress* by Dan Brown all day, any day.

Read more of this interview at dmpl.org/blog

DMPL'S MOST REQUESTED OF 2020



ADULT FICTION

- 1 *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens
- 2 *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett
- 3 *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins
- 4 *Such a Fun Age*, by Kiley Reid
- 5 *The Guest List*, by Lucy Folely

ADULT NON-FICTION

- 1 *Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man*, by Mary L. Trump
- 2 *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Race*, by Robin DiAngelo
- 3 *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson
- 4 *Untamed*, by Glennon Doyle
- 5 *A Promised Land*, by Barack Obama

TEEN FICTION

- 1 *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, by Suzanne Collins
- 2 *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas
- 3 *Midnight Sun*, by Stephenie Meyer
- 4 *One of Us is Lying*, by Karen L. McManus
- 5 *Clap When You Land*, by Elizabeth Acevedo

DVDs

- 1 *1917*
- 2 *Little Women*
- 3 *Knives Out*
- 4 *Parasite*
- 5 *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

CHILDREN'S FICTION

- 1 *The Deep End*, by Jeff Kinney
- 2 *The One and Only Bob*, by Katherine Applegate
- 3 *Wrecking Ball*, by Jeff Kinney
- 4 *Pug Blasts Off*, by Kyla May
- 5 *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, by J.K. Rowling

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

- 1 *The Great Eggscapade!*, by Jory John, illustrated by Pete Oswald
- 2 *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*, by Kevin Noble Maillard, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal
- 3 *Something Happened in Our Town*, by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivion
- 4 *Last Stop on Market Street*, by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson
- 5 *The Day You Begin*, by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López

DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION



Bill Bryson couldn't make it. So we stayed home too. The **All Dressed Up & Nowhere to Go Gala** fundraiser was a success, thanks to our generous sponsors and donors who purchased tickets. They enjoyed an evening at home knowing they made a difference for all those who use the Des Moines Public Library. Participants were given bottles of wine and \$25 gift cards to local restaurants,

plus a list of recommended library books, movies, and music. It was a double feel-good move as they supported the library and local businesses with a single purchase.

THANKS TO ROTARY CLUB FOUNDATION

The Des Moines Public Library and Des Moines Public Library Foundation are delighted to announce the Rotary Club of Des Moines selected the Library Foundation as a recipient of a 2020-2021 Community Grant. This grant is awarded to charitable projects that contribute to transformative impact around relevant and current challenges impacting the greater Des Moines metro community.

The \$40,000 grant will be used by the library to expand community outreach efforts with the purchase of a new van. In recognition of the Rotary grant, the new van will be called the Rotary Rosie Reader van. The van will take grant-funded laptop computers and hot spots into the community for checkout for use at home. The van will also deliver books, storytimes, and other services to adults and children in their neighborhoods.



The new van will help library staff encourage early literacy and love of reading for all ages, build awareness of free library resources, and build relationships to empower people. There will be volunteer opportunities for Rotarians, as we work together to transform and enhance thousands of lives.

Pictured, from left to right: Rotary Club grants committee member Ganesh Ganpat, Des Moines Public Library Foundation Executive Director Dory Briles, Des Moines Public Library Director Sue Woody, Rosie the Reader, grants committee member Jessica Worley, grants committee member Ashley Hemphill, and grants committee member Dave Kenworthy.

Opening Doors. Books. Minds.

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The mission of the Des Moines Public Library Foundation is to raise funds and advocate for the Des Moines Public Library System.



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Tim Hickman
Co-Secretary



Dave Watson
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HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

We sadly say thanks and goodbye to our outstanding board members who terms have ended.

Tim Hickman — Substance Architecture

Dave Watson — LWBj

Please consider a gift to the Des Moines Public Library Foundation.

Leave a legacy by designating a planned gift today. You will make a difference in the future. Planned gifts can show a lifetime of caring and be in the form of a bequest, gift of life insurance, stocks or annuities.

Please contact Foundation Executive Director, Dory Briles at (515) 412-0180.

KIND WORDS FROM A DMPL FOUNDATION DONOR

Denise, a recent donor, wrote: "Being able to get curbside delivery has made a HUGE difference! Keep up the good work. You are making a difference in the community and helping us all get through the pandemic."



WE LOVE OUR DONORS!

Meredith Foundation — \$5,000 grant.

Humanities Iowa — \$5,000 grant for 2021 AVID.

Mary K. and Daniel M. Kelly Family Foundation — \$5,000 for 2021 AVID.

Ralph & Sylvia G. Green Charitable Foundation — \$3,500 for 2021 Summer Reading & School Readiness.

Principal — donated 30 used laptop computers, five used 60-inch smartboards and three used 60-inch TVs.

GIFT FOR RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

We received a gift from the Davis Brown Law Firm and former DMPL Foundation board member, Kent Herink. They said: "We chose to support the Library and Library Foundation in recognition of the special role the library plays in the mission toward racial and social justice within our community. It is our belief that knowledge is power and our community libraries provide an invaluable resource to our communities to help address systemic racism and social injustice."

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Shirley, a recent donor, said: "I really enjoy reading that Insight publication – keep it coming."

Please let us know what you think about this newsletter by emailing dorybriles@dmplfoundation.org or calling 515-412-0180. Thank you.



YOUR GIFT CAN HAVE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT

With gift matching opportunities, like company matching of charitable gifts or volunteer time, your giving will increase. Ask your Human Resources Office for the required forms. Thank you!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The following donations were received by the Des Moines Public Library Foundation from August 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us, and we will make corrections.

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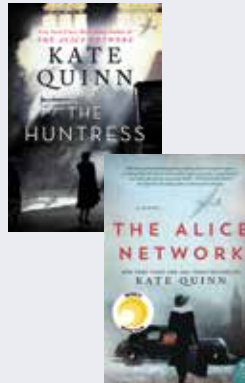
Winter Holiday Closures:
January 1 & 18



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AVID IS BACK — ON ZOOM!

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Des Moines Public Library to close its doors and cancel all in-person programming in March 2020, our annual visiting speaker series, Authors Visiting in Des Moines (AVID), was also canceled.

But AVID is back! And it's going virtual! The first virtual AVID event took place on Wednesday, Dec. 9 with best-selling historical fiction novelist Kate Quinn on Zoom. Nearly 300 people watched Quinn share stories, talk about her inspirations, and answer dozens of questions from her passionate fans.

We will be releasing the rest of the 2021 author lineup online soon!

**Go to dmpl.org/AVID to stay up to date
on the latest information.**



dmpl.org



Phone: 515.283.4152



Email: reference@dmpl.org

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