

Celebrate National Library Week April 23-29, 2023

The Spirit Lake Public Library encourages everyone to visit the library to explore all they have to offer! The library is open Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Most people know about the wealth of materials available at the library, from picture books and large print to audiobooks and magazines. But they also have for checkout Learning Resource Kits, DVDs, a Bluetooth Projector, a portable CD player with headphones, a CD/DVD player, speakers, Playaway Launchpads & Views.

Libraries are welcoming spaces that bring communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, story times, movie matinees, lectures, and more. The Spirit Lake Public Library offers a wide array of programs including hosting author talks, quilting groups, Mah-Jongg groups, and the Children's Summer Reading Program.

Libraries also play a critical role in the economic vitality of communities by providing internet and technology access. Job seekers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs can use the online Brainfuse resource. The Spirit Lake Public Library supports Spirit Lake, Orleans, Okoboji, West Okoboji, Wahpeton, and rural Dickinson County with services such as online eBooks, audiobooks, and emagazines via the Libby app. Tumble Books, BookFlixs, and the Dickinson County Cemetery Index are also available on the SLPL website *slpublib.com*.

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions, and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. Their goals ranged from "encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time" to "improving incomes and health" and "developing strong and happy family life."

In 1957, the committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. With the cooperation of ALA and with help from the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!" The 2023 celebration marks the 65th anniversary of the first event.