



Blakesburg Public Library

Est. 1936: *“Building Dreams and Community”*

Email: library@blakesburg.lib.ia.us

Website: www.blakesburg.lib.ia.us

Library faces challenging year of service to public

Fiscal Year 20 started off last July with the Summer Reading Program and several summer movies and activities at the library. Fall brought rain for a soggy September Corn Carnival weekend, canceling the parade, but the library participated in an impromptu parade to show off their float to the elementary students at the Blakesburg Attendance Center (BAC).

Through Fall and Winter the library participated in the much-anticipated Loving Shepherd Food Pantry’s Small Town Christmas event, providing a perfect spot for family photos and decorating six trees.

The new year brought with it some major challenges, the largest being the shut-down due to the Coronavirus pandemic that shut down the school and closed the library for 16 weeks. This impacted the library’s ability to serve patrons and hold fund-raising events. The library planned for curbside pick-up of materials and delivered some library materials to individual patron’s homes, promoted the use of online resources and the use of the library’s WI-FI for residents to have internet access even if the library was closed.

During the late spring months, the library learned that it had attained State Accreditation as a Tier 3 library. This means the library meets/exceeds state standards in providing excellent service to its patrons and resulted in an increase in funding for FY21.

Library staff were able to resume use of the library facility and re-open to the public with the start of FY21, which also brought about the retirement of Dr. Dean Cook, Superintendent of EBF Schools, and BAC Dean of Students, Sheryl Friedman. The BPL Library board and staff would like to thank them for their support of the library and welcome new Superintendent Scott Williams and BAC principal Tammy Davis. We look forward to working with them.



Library renovation begins

The Friends of the Blakesburg Public Library is closer to creating a new library for the community. Work began in early spring on the facility, with replacing the entire roof, fascia, soffit, rain gutters, and installing new doors and windows (that replaced an overhead garage door), and the installation of siding and brick trim.

This work was made possible through fund-raising efforts, donations, and grants from the Ottumwa Regional Legacy Foundation and Wapello County Supervisors. This portion of the project was completed by Christner Construction, Inc., with Blakesburg resident Brad Fisher serving as the project superintendent. The total cost of this phase of the project was \$46,000.

Since this work has been completed the library has obtained grants for \$25,000 and \$10,604 from the Ottumwa Regional Legacy Foundation and \$15,317 from the Wapello County Foundation. It also has a pledge of \$15,000 from the Cargill Cares Committee. Work on the project will resume after the first of the new year. The Friends have raised \$100,421 in grants and approximately \$73,000 in donations and fund-raising events for the new library building.

Who we are:

BOARD MEMBERS: President: Sonni Deevers; Secretary: Penny Fisher; Members: Ed Hannan, Kathy Hunt, and Theresa DeWitt. These are volunteer positions who give their time and talents to the community.

LIBRARY STAFF: Director, Cheryl Talbert; Library Assistant, Stacey McSparen; Retired Assistant Director, Chris Johnson.



Between **FY20** the covers

Cover to Cover: FY20 Quick Facts about the Blakesburg Public Library

Library patrons retrieved 118 full-text articles, downloaded 199 e-books, 120 audiobooks and 22 digital magazines for their reading, listening, and viewing pleasure or for educational, professional, or personal needs. The library's online resources were especially helpful as the library was closed 16 weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Patrons accessed the library's Wi-Fi 1,130 times and visited the library's website 1,137 times.

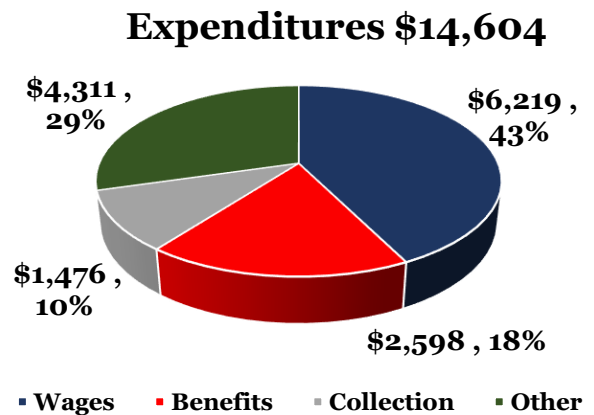
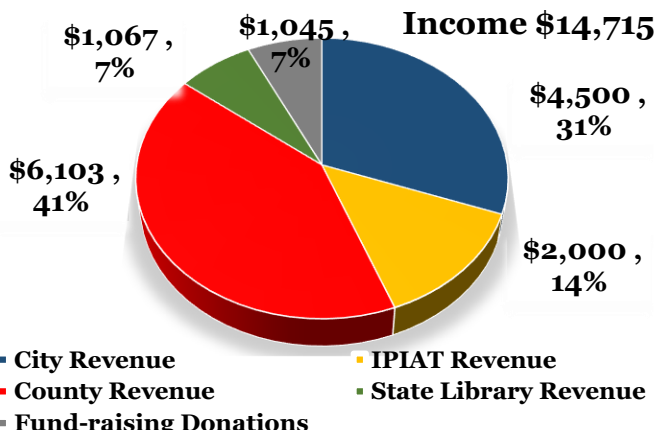


Access to
95,384
Items in the
Library
Collection

- 2,901 children's books
- 839 YA books
- 3,124 books for adults
- 784 DVDs
- 200 audio books
- 59,781 e-books
- 27,368 e-audiobooks
- 50 streaming videos



1,370 patrons visited the library for an average of 30 per week or 152 per month based on 36 weeks (or 9 months) of service in FY20.



1,227

Total circulation transactions



192 Sent
30 Rec'd

222

Interlibrary loan transactions

