

For immediate release

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September is Library Card Sign-up Month

Creston, IA – This September the Gibson Memorial Library is joining the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide for Library Card Sign-Up Month, a time to remind parents, caregivers and students that a library card is the first step toward academic achievement and lifelong learning.

Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children. Studies show that children who are read to in the home, and who use the library, perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

This year DC's Wonder Woman is on a new mission to champion the power of a library card as the Library Card Sign-Up Month Honorary Chair. A Founding member of the Justice League, Wonder Woman is known for strength, compassion and truth. Armed with the Lasso of Truth, Wonder Woman makes a perfect ambassador to support the value of learning and the role libraries play in transforming lives and strengthening communities through education.

The American Library Association (ALA) has created a special library-themed bingo card and patrons may pick up a copy of this bingo card at Gibson Memorial Library. Patrons may also post their completed bingo cards online and tag the American Library Association, the Gibson Memorial Library and use the hashtag: #LibraryCardSignUpMonth.

Since 1987, when then Secretary of Education, William Bennett, stated, "Let's have a campaign...Every child should obtain a library card and use it." Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. During the month, the ALA and libraries unite in a national effort to ensure every child signs up for their own library card.

Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic, all on-site programming at Gibson Memorial Library has been cancelled or postponed. However, the Library does offer virtual programs and services. These include the monthly adult book club, curbside pickup and make and take crafts for children and teens.

The Gibson Memorial Library also offers the following services and resources:

- **OverDrive/Bridges** - online eBooks and audiobooks
- **Transparent Language** - an online language learning software free to patrons

- **Brainfuse** – Get help online with live job coaching, ACT testing, resume lab and live Veteran navigator (allows Veterans to connect with an expert to learn more about VA benefits and community resources!)
- **Ancestry Library Edition** - the world's largest collection of online records for genealogy research
- **Library of Things** - the Library has a wide collection of paintings, prints and portraits that are available for patrons to check out
- **Notary Services** - free notary services are available at the Library!
- **Gale Resources** – Gale is a web-based information resource which offers 24/7 answers to ever day research, health information, small business resources, K-12 homework help, readers' advisory, gardening, history, home improvements and more!
- **Chilton Auto Repair** – learn how to repair your car yourself, obtain labor estimates for those more challenging repairs and learn about the types of parts for your car!
- **Credo Reference** – a collection of over 1,000 full-text reference titles with images and videos. Credo offers credible, authoritative information for homework and school projects.
- **Document scanning** – The library provides a flatbed scanner to the general public to use to scan their documents and send them electronically.

Library Operations

As of June 15, 2020, the Library still remains in its Phase 1 for Re-opening. Until further notice, meetings and gatherings remain prohibited. The following guidelines and restrictions are being adhered to:

1. A maximum of ten (10) members of the public, regardless of age, will be permitted to enter the library building.
2. Library Visits shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes.
3. Library staff will disinfect all incoming materials, interior touchpoints and public computers after each use.
4. Plexiglass sneeze guards have been placed at the downstairs circulation desk and at each upstairs staff desk.
5. Library staff are required to wear masks at all times and patrons are encouraged to do the same.
6. Operating hours for the library are Monday through Friday 10 AM to 6 PM.
7. All library material returns should be directed to the drop box.
8. Restrooms are closed to the public.

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