



FALL SPEAKER SERIES 2025

Meet up at the LBC on Thursday afternoons for socializing and speakers. A different topic will be discussed each week. The **Thursday Speaker Series is FREE and open to everyone**, no membership required to attend. If you have a topic you would like to present, contact our customer service staff to fill out a Speaker Proposal Form.

2025-2027 Linn County Community Health Improvement Plan, *Jacquie Montoya*

Thursday, September 4 at 1:00

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the outcomes and accomplishments of the 2022–2024 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), highlighting key progress. We will also introduce the new 2025–2027 CHIP, outlining its priorities, strategies, and the role of community members in driving this work forward. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn how they can actively engage in improving community health, whether through advocacy, partnership, or local initiatives. In addition, the presentation will serve as a platform for community members to share their insights and lived experiences related to health and wellness, including the barriers they face in accessing healthcare, mental health support, healthy food, safe housing, and other vital resources. Your voice matters—help shape a healthier future for all by joining the conversation.

Your Government Belongs to You, *Randy Evans*

Thursday, September 11 at 1:00

Randy Evans will provide step-by-step guidance on how citizens can become more engaged in their state and local governments. He will help you understand the power Iowa's so-called sunshine laws provide in gaining access to government meetings and government records. He will relate this important information through real-life examples he and the Iowa FOI Council have been involved in. He will be available to answer audience questions.

So You Want to be on Jeopardy!, *Dick George*

Thursday, September 18 at 1:00

Dick will discuss the history of Jeopardy and his efforts to be a contestant over the years. He will also briefly talk about how Jeopardy clues are crafted. Finally, we will play a game of Jeopardy with multiple choice answers so you can test your skills.

QPR: Question. Persuade. Refer., *Kassy Rice*

Thursday, September 25 at 1:00

QPR represents three simple steps anyone can learn and implement to help save someone from suicide. This training will assist in recognizing the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to apply QPR to get someone to help. This training offers hope to those in a suicide crisis and build confidence in those identifying and interrupting a crisis and how to connect someone to support. QPR is part of a system created to increase the chances of survival in the event of a crisis. This training is appropriate for everyone over 16 (younger attendees must have a parent present but must not be younger than 13).

Using Economics to Understand What Makes Us All Different and Basically the Same, *Todd Knoop*

Thursday, October 2 at 1:00

Insights from economics, the study of how incentives shape human behavior, can make us more perceptive observers of human behavior at home and abroad. This presentation will provide a brief introduction of what economics is, how economics attempts to explain human behavior, and how a little knowledge of economics can help us all “see how to see” and better understand the world we live in.

Fires of Mount Vernon, <i>Dan and Linda Gaines</i>	Thursday, October 9 at 1:00
Two major fires occurred in Mount Vernon on February 1st, 1970 and 1975. Do you remember other fires in our town? Dan and Linda will share their knowledge and research about this burning topic.	
How Beethoven Tells a Great Story, <i>Jessica Wiskus</i>	Thursday, October 16 at 1:00
What makes Beethoven, Beethoven? There are as many answers to this question as there are listeners, but in this presentation we will investigate one, specific aspect of Beethoven's style: the way that he tells a great story. We will focus on his Egmont Overture (as a kind of "miniature symphony") and take time to get into the details of Beethoven's craft, opening your ears to the heroic narrative expressed in the music. No previous experience with Classical music is necessary – come and see that all listeners can be moved in different ways to enjoy this dynamic and powerful music!	
Cole Library: A History of Service, <i>Grace Chamberlain</i>	Thursday, October 23 at 1:00
Grace Chamberlain has worked at Cole Library for over 14 years and became the Public Library Director in 2023. She grew up in Mount Vernon and has many happy memories visiting Cole Library as a child. She has an MLIS and a Certificate of Book Arts from the University of Iowa. She lives in Mount Vernon with her husband and their two kids.	
US Census Bureau Surveys; What does the Census Bureau do the Other 9 Years?, <i>Sherene Hansen Player</i>	Thursday, October 30 at 1:00
Most people know the Census Bureau for counting the US population every 10 years and are surprised that it functions the other 9 years. It has been conducting Census Surveys for over 50 years to gather statistical information about the US population. Perhaps you have been selected for one before. Come to this presentation by Sherene Hansen Player, a Census Bureau Field Representative, to learn more about the Census Bureau and the Census Surveys that take place in our communities.	
The Art of Downsizing, <i>Ashley Grimm</i>	Thursday, November 6 at 1:00
Are you thinking about moving, downsizing, or simply need some help decluttering? Are you unsure where to begin and feeling overwhelmed just thinking about it? Then this is for you. In "The Art of Downsizing" presentation Ashley will provide helpful tips and suggestions on how to get the process started, things to think about, and how Caring Transitions can assist you!	
Dividing the City: Race Restrictions and the Segregation of Iowa Cities, <i>Colin Gordon</i>	Thursday, November 13 at 1:00
This presentation draws on new research in Iowa property records to examine the use, scope, and impact of private racial restrictions on real estate development and sales in five Iowa cities (Des Moines, Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Iowa City). Such restrictions were widely employed, especially during the First Great Migration (1910-1940) to limit the local housing opportunities of African American renters and owners.	
Monday Game Days	Mondays at 10:30
Do you have a favorite board or card game you'd like to play? Maybe you'd like to teach others how to play? Or, maybe you'd just like to sit and watch others play? Whatever your level of interest, come join us on Mondays at 10:30 am for an informal get together to play games and visit. Please bring your own board game or deck of cards and we'll provide the coffee. \$7 Adults/\$5 Seniors 62+/Free with Membership	
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