Language Ambassadors

Language Ambassadors are available to assist non-English speaking North Liberty residents having trouble navigating city services or community resources. These multilingual volunteers are fellow residents open to your call or email for translation help and will respond at their earliest convenience.

Embajadores del idioma

Los embajadores de idiomas están disponibles para ayudar a los residentes de North Liberty que no hablan inglés y que tienen problemas para navegar los servicios de la ciudad o los recursos comunitarios. Estos voluntarios multilingües son compañeros residentes abiertos a su llamada o correo electrónico para ayudarle a traducir y responder lo más pronto que puedan.

Ambassadeurs linguistiques

Des ambassadeurs linguistiques sont disponibles pour aider les résidents non anglophones de North Liberty ayant des difficultés à s’orienter dans les services municipaux ou les ressources communautaires. Ces bénévoles multilingues sont des résidents qui sont prêts à répondre à votre appel ou à votre e-mail pour vous aider à traduire et le feront dans les meilleurs délais.

语言大使

语言大使愿意为非英语语言的North Liberty住民提供便利熟识的城市服务设施，以及社区的各种信息资源。这些多语种志愿服务者都是当地的居民，他们将为你提供电话或电邮翻译服务，并尽快给予答复。
Dear neighbor,

Two decades ago, I moved to North Liberty with my wife, Robbie. We came for a new job. Some of my neighbors are here because they came for school or, like me, for a job. Others are here because this is where they could buy their first home, or it made sense to raise kids, or they could retire closer to grandchildren. Some of our neighbors grew up here, moved away and came back. Some never left.

Despite all that moving, we’re a still a town small enough you can reach out to city leaders and staff when you need help, or to let them know what you think. And, we’ve appointed Neighborhood Ambassadors, volunteers to help everyone feel welcome our community, and to help make sure our city and its residents are connected, too.

Because we know that good neighbors build great neighborhoods, and great neighborhoods make for a more connected and resilient community.

So, whatever the reason you’re here: welcome to North Liberty.

— Mayor Terry L. Donahue
Over the past century, our town, once known as Squash Bend and Big Bottom, has transformed from a small farming community of 190 when it was founded to a town of more than 20,000 neighbors. That means keeping pace with roads and pipes and other infrastructure, as well as adding four new elementary schools, a new high school and a new junior high school within city limits since 2005.

If you’re new to town, this guide is intended will help you find your footing. If you’ve been around here, we hope it helps you feel more connected by getting to know your Neighborhood Ambassador or learning something new about our town. You can find links to this and other information for new residents at northlibertyiowa.org/welcome.

### How Do I Get Started?

Here are some common questions asked by new residents. More FAQs can be found at northlibertyiowa.org/FAQ.

**How do I sign up for utilities?**
Sign up for water, waste water, trash and recycling through the city, either in person at City Hall or online. Gas, electric, phone, television and internet are provided by private utility companies.

**How do I get a different trash bin?**
We offer three different collection options to fit different needs and budgets. When you move in, you should find trash and recycling carts. You can change your garbage option or add curbside compost, through City Hall or online.

**Where do I get my pet license?**
All dogs and cats older than four months should be licensed. Register online or at City Hall. You can find current fees and a form at northlibertyiowa.org/petlicense. You can also get a pass for Red Fern Dog Park, which will be required starting in June 2021.

**Can I park on the public street?**
For the most part yes, unless the street has signs saying otherwise. But you also can’t park on the street when there’s two inches of snow fall or if the city has declared an on-street parking prohibition to allow crews to efficiently clear streets.

**Where do get my driver’s license?**
The closest station is in southeast Iowa City, but if you just need to renew or change your address, you might be able to do it online or at the kiosk in the North Liberty Library. More details can be found online at iowadot.gov/mvd/driverslicense.

**Can I get help with food or other services?**
The North Liberty Community Pantry has been serving our community for three decades and is a great place to start for neighbors who need food, clothing or other items. They’re a connection to other local agencies for additional resources.

**Where do I register to vote?**
You can register with the Johnson County Auditor or when you get a driver’s license. If you’re already registered, you’ll need to update your address when you move. Just visit jcauditor.com for details.
The Community Center is the Center of Your Community

The North Liberty Community Center, 520 W. Cherry Street, is home to our library, recreation center and pools. Residents can use the indoor track for free year-round, participate in a variety of classes and programs, and get space for a meeting, birthday party, fundraiser, and more.

While the current pandemic has eliminated some of these opportunities, we hope to return to full operations later this year.

Get a Library Card

Your library card is your pass to books, movies, databases, audio books and even cake pans. Get yours, for free, of course. Bring your photo ID and, if it doesn't include your current address, a piece of mail that does.

Daily Use, Memberships & Passes

Our recreation facilities include indoor and outdoor pools, two gyms, an indoor track, weight and cardio equipment, meeting rooms and an indoor play area. A variety of facility passes and memberships are available. Financial aid is available for passes and classes; inquire with the front desk.

Reserving Community Facilities

Our Recreation Department rents out gyms, pools, meeting rooms and park facilities. Contact the Recreation Department at (319) 626-5716. Additional space is available at the library primarily for community organizations. Contact the North Liberty Library at (319) 626-5601.

Community Activity Guide

We typically publish three activity guides each year highlighting programming and community events. You can find it online or in person at the Community Center.

Keep Up with City News and Events

You can sign up to receive our monthly newsletter, the North Liberty Bulletin, a no-more-than-once-daily digest of news items, as well as road closures and various public meeting agendas sent to your email inbox by signing up at northlibertyiowa.org/subscribe.

You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, just search “North Liberty,” and connect to neighbors through Nextdoor by signing up at your home address.
Community Events
North Liberty hosts events throughout town over the course of the year, making adjustments even during the pandemic to offer safe options. Here’s just a few of the regularly held events in our community. A calendar of all public events can be found at northlibertyiowa.org/events.

Senior Connections
Providing community members 55 years and older a chance to get together for lunch and socialization. Held each Friday.

Beat the Bitter
Forget hibernating and embrace winter with a week full of activities to get you out of the house. Held the last week each January.

Free Fishing Weekend
Spend the day outdoors and fish without a license at Liberty Centre Pond. Held the first full weekend each June.

Summer Reading
Reading challenges and events for all ages, all summer long. Coordinated by the North Liberty Library. Held each summer.

Summer Lunch & Fun
Providing a free, healthy meal for all North Liberty kids up to age 18 each weekday of the summer.

Blues & BBQ
A day of live music, mouthwatering barbecue, Iowa craft beer and family fun. Held the second Saturday of each July.

Haunted Happenings
Tunnel, mazes, carnival games and more. Come in costume and have a fun, frightful time. Held each October.

Breakfast with Santa
A hot breakfast and chance share a Christmas wishlist with Santa. Held each December.

Noon Year’s Eve
A kick off to the New Year family-style with the library, complete with a balloon drop at noon. Held each December.

City Government

Mayor & City Council
North Liberty is governed by a city council of five members and a non-voting mayor, each serving a four-year term in office. Together, the city council sets policy, budgets and local laws. The council is served by City Administrator Ryan Heiar to operate the day-to-day business of the city.

Advisory Commissions
The mayor and city council appoint the members of several boards and commissions that make recommendations on issues such as development, zoning, parks and other local issues. Volunteer commissioners are appointed each spring (maybe you’re interested?).

Meetings
City council meetings are regularly held at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, and streamed live online and available on cable from North Liberty Television. When we’re not in a pandemic, meetings are held in the City Council Chambers, 1 Quail Creek Circle and you can attend these meetings live in person.
What are Neighborhood Ambassadors?

They’re volunteers passionate about advancing the quality of life for their neighbors. These on-the-ground local leaders partner with the city to help close the information gap between the city and residents, build community through gatherings and projects, and connect neighbors to each other and to community resources.

Ambassadors are community minded, value diversity and are the eyes, ears and voices for their corners of North Liberty.

The Great Neighborhood program has ambassadors assigned to neighborhoods, ambassadors in our senior-living facilities and language ambassadors to strengthen the city’s communication with residents who are English-language learners.

To find your Ambassador, look them up by your neighborhood. You can find the most up-to-date directory online at northlibertyiowa.org/BeGreat.

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<th>Neighborhood Key</th>
<th>1  Aspen Ridge &amp; Liberty Farms</th>
<th>18  West Penn Street</th>
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<td>Fox Run</td>
<td>19  Penn Meadows</td>
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<td>Deerfield</td>
<td>20  W Zeller Street &amp; Liberty Heights</td>
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<td>8 Point Trail</td>
<td>21  Chestnut</td>
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<td>Harvest Estates</td>
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<td>Liberty Centre</td>
<td>33  Penn Ridge</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Cedar Springs</td>
<td>34  Scanlon Farms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lívia Woodcock
liviaeadam@gmail.com

My hidden talent
I’m a writer who has never published any of my work.

My hobbies
Singing and crafting. Crafting turned into a small online shop to sell my crafts.

My go-to karaoke song
Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen.

Jaime Bonner
jaimebonner@gmail.com

A business I’d like to see here
A small family-owned bakery! The smell of baking bread, donuts and the like makes any day a good one.

When people ask for my help, it’s usually for
I’ve been a nurse for 15 years, so I’m often asked for advice on medical matters.

Five years from now I hope North Liberty
Is a destination for folks of all descriptions looking for a place to thrive.

Dana Van Abbema
dlvanabbema@gmail.com
(301) 481-9820

What I love about North Liberty
My kids run around the neighborhood all summer just like I did as a kid.

A skill I’d like to master
Dog obedience training! My pup seems to love it, but I don’t really know what I’m doing.

My hobbies
Gardening! Our previous home was on a shady wooded lot, so this has been a new one for me since moving to North Liberty, and I still have lots to learn!

Don’t see your Neighborhood Ambassador? 
THEY might be YOU

Apply for any neighborhood at any time at northlibertyiowa.org/BeGreat

Adela Hunter
adelahunter@gmail.com
(314) 712-8024

A skill I’d like to master
Tennis.

I’ve lived in North Liberty
For five years.

My favorite item that I’ve purchased recently under $100
A hammock I enjoy napping in.

Elizabeth Hoover de Galvez
hoovergalvez@gmail.com
(319) 329-2902

My favorite North Liberty business
Colony Pumpkin Patch. Such a great family activity for my favorite season.

My hobbies
Reading, hiking and inventing.

When people ask for my help, it’s usually for
Whatever they need help with, as a librarian I usually offer them a book that I think they might find useful.
Anna Wu
bradburndesign@gmail.com

A skill I'd like to master
To be fluent in Mandarin.

What makes me laugh
Word banter. I'm a linguist at heart and love a good play on words. My favorite characters in books are the ones with witty comments such as Elizabeth Bennet, Wit/Hoid and Lopen.

My favorite books
I love high fantasy series, especially the Stormlight series by Brandon Sanderson.

Heather Weber
weber.heather@gmail.com
(319) 541-5338

I've lived in North Liberty
My family and I moved here in 2011, but I have lived in the ICR area since 1986.

My favorite item that I've purchased recently under $100
An air fryer—best kitchen appliance I never knew I needed! I love making sweet potato fries.

A household chore I don't mind
Vacuuming the house—if everyone helps out first by picking up their stuff!

Cathy Coleman
ctoussa@southslope.net

My hobbies
My husband and I like to take trips to the southwest and go to the national parks. We also enjoy walking and biking here in North Liberty.

What I love about North Liberty
How friendly everyone is. We know people all over the city we've met when out walking.

A skill I'd like to master
Glassblowing, tap dance and cooking.

Hunter Schmitt
hunter3schmitt@gmail.com
(563) 513-7261

If I had to pick one local restaurant for the rest of my life it'd be
Reds Alehouse! I've never had a bad experience there, and the food and atmosphere is always impeccable.

I could give a presentation off the cuff on
Pizza! I worked in food service for many years, and I grew up in my dad's restaurant.

A household chore I don't mind
Mowing the lawn. I like to use that time to enjoy the weather and listen to some tunes.

Jennifer Renk
jennifercrenk@yahoo.com
(319) 321-2331

I've lived in North Liberty
For 14 years. I grew up in Iowa City, attended college in Cedar Falls, and put down my roots in North Liberty after getting married.

A business I'd like to see here
An indoor bowling alley or a place for teenagers to hang out together.

A skill I'd like to master
Graphic design and photography.
Travis Hiatt
2tallhiatt@gmail.com
(319) 560-4410
If I had to pick one local restaurant for the rest of my life it’d be Rocky O’Briens. I just love their food and beverages that are a little different than the norm.

My go-to karaoke song
Dani California by Red Hot Chili Peppers.

My hobbies
Fantasy sports. It’s a way to stay connected with friends and enjoy different sports.

Payton Cannon
paytaycannon@gmail.com
(319) 325-7885
I’ve lived in North Liberty
My whole life! I did leave for four years to attend college at UNI but was quickly brought back to the area.

My go-to karaoke song
Hands down Brittney Spears or Shania Twain, but I can bust out a little Justin Bieber.

Favorite book
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes.

Jenn Pedersen-Kahler
jpedersenkahler@gmail.com
(309) 428-5446
If I had to pick one local restaurant for the rest of my life it’d be Blue Bird Cafe. I’ve recently become more gluten conscience and their gluten-free pancakes are delicious.

My hidden talent
I’m very mechanically and technology inclined and pick up new skills quickly. I enjoy investigating problems and problem solving.

I could give a presentation off the cuff on
Medical billing and coding and the difference between a deductible and co-insurance.

Beke Dube
bekezelapatie@yahoo.com
(641) 451-5266
My hidden talent
Once a year, I run a half marathon. Slow as a turtle, but I finish the race.

A mystery I’d like to crack
Are we the only beings in the universe?

My favorite movie
The Shawshank Redemption.

Allison Hancock
allison.hancock33@yahoo.com
(563) 581-7280
A skill I’d like to master
To be able to speak fluently in another language. I’ve taken eight years of Spanish classes, but I’m still nowhere near mastery level.

A business I’d like to see here
A local bakery.

What I love about North Liberty
It is just on the outskirts of a bigger city but it still has that small-town feel.
Jamie Bagan
jamie@baganfamily.com

A business I’d like to see here
A high-ropes obstacle course with a zipline like a Go Ape. These are so fun to do. Our family makes a point when on vacation to find one nearby.

My favorite item I’ve purchased recently under $100
Cookie cutters.

I’ve lived in North Liberty
For almost 10 years, and the Iowa City area for about 15 years.

Kelly Petrulevich
kell2323@hotmail.com

If I had to pick one local restaurant for the rest of my life it’d be Jalapenos. They have such amazing food and drinks!

My go-to karaoke song
Anything by Journey or Bon Jovi.

My favorite movies
Top Gun, Queen, Dirty Dancing and Footloose.

Jen Panther
jenpanther97@gmail.com
(319) 330-2174

A business I’d like to see here
A bowling alley or putt-putt golf course.

What makes me laugh
My family, friends and my students. Without them life is pretty blue.

My hobbies
Reading, golf (because I like to see my husband), walking and traveling.

Brandon Kuehl
bkuehl15@yahoo.com
(319) 631-4113

Favorite North Liberty business
The Leaderboard. They offer a fun and great atmosphere! Got into golfing a few years ago so able to keep golfing on simulators with friends in the winter or play other games while hanging out.

A skill I’d like to master
Wood working.

I could give a presentation off the cuff on
Personal finance for sure but just about anything. Give me a microphone and I can talk about a lot of stuff.

Jen Panther
jenpanther97@gmail.com
(319) 330-2174

A business I’d like to see here
A high-ropes obstacle course with a zipline like a Go Ape. These are so fun to do. Our family makes a point when on vacation to find one nearby.

My favorite item I’ve purchased recently under $100
Cookie cutters.

I’ve lived in North Liberty
For almost 10 years, and the Iowa City area for about 15 years.

Jessica Smith
jsmith9902@gmail.com
(319) 936-1119

What makes me laugh
Pranks on family and friends.

My hidden talent
I can name the 50 states in alphabetical order.

When people ask for my help, it’s usually for
Organizing social events and medical advice even though I am not a medical professional.
Nic Gulick
nicgulickrealtor@gmail.com
(319) 621-9795

My favorite item that I've purchased recently under $100
A new chef's knife! Can't make dinner without it.

My go-to karaoke song
With my wife it's definitely *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Alone, I'd probably do some Eminem...without the prompter.

My hidden talent
I can fall asleep in pretty much any environment. Not sure if that is good or bad.

Eric Page
sportsink2000@yahoo.com
(309) 207-0649

What I love about North Liberty
The community is really taking shape, from the local restaurants to the new high school to the youth sports, we are building an identity for the place as the population grows.

What makes me laugh
Funny conversations with family and friends, good humor and funny movies.

My hobbies
Crafting and dancing. I've been dancing since I was 2 years old. I'm just learning to craft for less than a year now and open to new ideas.

Paul Burnett
pvblito@gmail.com
(319) 573-1199

I’ve lived in North Liberty for 12 years. Before that I lived in Iowa City as a student at the UI for 6 years and in Cedar Rapids for about 8 years.

A business I’d like to see here
A Famous Dave's BBQ!

What makes me laugh
Older Eddie Murphy and Dave Chapelle comedy.

My favorite movie
*It’s a Wonderful Life.*
Errin Frank  
errin.frank.NL@gmail.com  
(319) 626-7885

What I love about North Liberty
It’s a hub for activity. We can be lost in nature, on the interstate or taking in live music all in about the same amount of time. The planning of parks and trails has been outstanding.

I could give a presentation off the cuff on
Monarch butterflies, pollinator gardens and music as a modality for therapy.

A skill I’d like to master
I would like to learn and even just be average at yoga.

Matt Hylland  
matthylland@gmail.com  
(336) 682-5268

I’ve lived in North Liberty
For three years. My wife Jessica and I moved here from Virginia in 2017.

My favorite North Liberty business
Can’t beat Reds for happy hour! Since we live close by it was the first place we stopped for lunch and a drink once we moved, and we were hooked. The staff is always great, and food is always delicious.

My hobbies
Walking and hiking around the nearby parks and lakes with our two dogs, traveling and cooking.

Nick Reiten  
nicholas.reiten@gmail.com  
(319) 330-1316

My favorite item that I’ve purchased recently under $100
Firestick and TV antenna. We haven’t had cable for almost 10 years, and this helps us keep connected.

My hobbies
I do a lot of storm chasing, as weather has always been a passion of mine.

When people ask for my help, it’s usually for
Questions about technology, and most of the time I have a solution for them.

Amanda Herbst  
herbst.amandaj@gmail.com  
(563) 590-5404

My go-to karaoke song
Depending if you want to lose your hearing or not, It’s Tricky by Run DMC

A mystery I’d like to crack
How the dryer manages to eat the socks?!?

Five years from now I hope North Liberty
Continues to bring in local businesses instead of the big-box fast-food places and continues to have nice affordable housing for those that cannot afford the big new houses being built.

Epy Murillo Tovar  
emurillo_201@hotmail.com  
(319) 212-8107

My favorite item that I’ve purchased recently under $100
A T-shirt that says “Housing is a Human Right” from the Shelter House in Iowa City.

My hobbies
Listening to music—there is a song for any moment of your life you might be in—and walks with my big yellow lab.

A skill I’d like to master
Cooking. It’s a work in progress but one day I want someone to tell me that I make the best tamales they’ve ever tasted!

Eva Anderson  
eva.northliberty@gmail.com  
(319) 321-8103

I’ve lived in North Liberty
Since 2002 when our family relocated from the Twin Cities.

A business I’d like to see here
I’d love to see one of the older homes in North Liberty remodeled into a lovely Tea Room!

My hidden talent
I have an unusual talent for wiggling my eyeballs. See me in person, and I’ll demonstrate.
Summer Jagnow
summer.jagnow@gmail.com

What I love about North Liberty
The convenient location with accessibility to both Cedar Rapids and Iowa City attractions and job markets.

My favorite item that I’ve purchased recently under $100
2021 planner! A symbolic end to 2020. It’s beautiful and includes extra pages for gratitude journaling. I enjoy writing things I’m thankful for and things I am hoping for so I can see that I now have things I once only hoped for.

My favorite North Liberty business
Restoration Station; the sweetest owner around—my mom!

Becky Keogh
rebeccamkeogh@gmail.com

My favorite item that I’ve purchased recently under $100
A pint of Heyn’s chocolate ice cream with Oreos, caramel and pralines.

My favorite North Liberty business
Big Picture Gallery & Studio. The owner connects with and cares for her students, my son enjoys taking art lessons, and we enjoy the take-and-make projects.

My hobbies
I enjoy listening to audio books. I’m a multitasker so while I’m driving, cleaning or going for walks, I’m most likely listening to an audiobook.

Andrew Cole
cole.andrew88@gmail.com
(563) 505-0248

My hidden talent
I taught myself how to juggle.

Five years from now I hope North Liberty
Is continually growing, has more resources for those who need it, and more community events.

A business I’d like to see here
It would be really cool if there could be a drive-in movie theater.

Megan Walker
megan_walker@yahoo.com

What I love about North Liberty
I love the trails and the parks. They are a great benefit to living here—we get to be outside and enjoy our community. Our trails and parks are beautiful and used by so many.

A skill I’d like to master
Mixology.

My favorite North Liberty business
Naomi’s Kitchen because it is a unique and useful concept. It’s helpful for busy people and families and can be a great gift for anyone who lives locally.

Terrance Murphy
tmurphysr22@gmail.com
(319) 331-6282

A business I’d like to see here
An outdoor blacktop full basketball court!

What makes me laugh
Listening to my 4-and 6-year-olds have a conversation. OMG!

A mystery I’d like to crack
How many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie pop?
Abdouramane Bila  
*abdouramane.bila@gmail.com*  
*(319) 929-5398*

**I’ve lived in North Liberty**  
I have lived in the Iowa City/Coralville/North Liberty area for about 16 years combined. Love seeing the growth and changes in the area.

**A business I’d like to see here**  
A year-round kid and family attraction complex.

**My hobbies**  
Technology. I’m amazed how small boxes can pack so many functions.

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Matt Jorgenson  
*matthewjorgenson@kw.com*  
*(319) 541-8178*

**What I love about North Liberty**  
It’s such a young, vibrant community that has grown so much since I moved here. My wife and I couldn’t be happier raising our two little ones here!

**If I had to pick one local restaurant for the rest of my life it’d be**  
Reds Alehouse is my go-to. Their menu has options for everyone and is always delicious!

**A household chore I don’t mind**  
Mowing the lawn

---

Bill Green  
*bgreenNLiberty@gmail.com*  
*(319) 371-9176*

**Five years from now I hope North Liberty**  
Will keep moving towards its own identity and less of a bedroom community.

**My hobbies**  
Fishing (since childhood), golf (when my back permits), and reading articles and books on philosophy, history, and cosmology. I believe nearly every author’s writing is improved with humor.

**My hidden talent**  
I can wiggle my ears one at a time (well, it’s more of a superpower, really)

---

Jennifer Smith  
*quilterjen@yahoo.com*  
*(319) 329-5036*

**I could give a presentation off the cuff on**  
Foster care.

**A mystery I’d like to crack**  
Why can’t everyone just get along and be happy?

**A skill I’d like to master**  
My Circuit die cutting machine.

---

Yvonne Page  
*jazzypage57@gmail.com*  
*(719) 649-7318*

**My favorite North Liberty business**  
Blue Bird Café. Great place to meet friends and they have excellent food.

**Five years from now I hope North Liberty**  
Is inviting to people of all education levels, ages, races and religions.

**My favorite books**  
*My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg; *Long Range* by CJ Box; and *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.