

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights October 2021

1. Readers Advisory Librarian Nancy Bell debuted OPL's Book Bike at the Oshkosh Farmers Market on Sept. 25. The bike was a tour de force in its first appearance with many curious shoppers expressing an interest. Lively conversation and a free book giveaway rounded out a busy morning at the market.
2. Assistant Director of Public Services Ruth Percey attended the 20th Avenue YMCA's Free Community Resource Fair on Sept. 29 as part of Active Aging Week. She shared information about the library's genealogy resources, favorite authors and Libby. Ruth also highlighted notarization, faxing and document scanning. Several participants expressed their appreciation for these services being available at low or no cost.
3. Local History and Genealogy Librarian Michael McArthur was a guest speaker at the 20th Century Club's 125th anniversary celebration held at the Delta Restaurant on Sat., October 9. Michael presented the history of the group, which was founded in 1896 as one of the premier women's organizations in Oshkosh.
4. Use of the library's notary service continues to grow with Information Services staff notarizing 64 documents in September - an increase from 37 documents in May.
5. Five Chromebooks are now available for checkout with a loan period of two weeks. When paired with a Wi-Fi hotspot, this service provides a digital lifeline to patrons who need computer and internet access at home.
6. Seasonal flair was a draw this month for nine Adult DIY crafters who each created a decorative candy corn candle. Take-home kits and instructional videos remain an option for anyone who prefers to participate at home.
7. Oshkosh Memory Café has resumed monthly in-person programs at OPL. The café is a partnership with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Winnebago County and is designed to support people who are experiencing early memory loss and their care partners.
8. The first month of our subscription book boxes for teens was a big hit with 20 Lit Loot Boxes quickly reserved. Teen Services Librarian Maggie Mueller selected 76 books for the September themed boxes. A mother of two subscribers remarked that her family is very excited about the new offering.
9. Roving Readers are once again fostering the development of literacy skills in young children. Ten sites are hosting readers, with additional requests from childcare centers and preschool programs. Library Assistant Victoria Sheehan assembles a monthly collection of books, rhymes and puppets meant to actively engage little learners.

10. In September, weekly Family Storytime sessions welcomed a combined total of 96 preschoolers and their grown-ups while twice-weekly High Hopes Early Literacy Storytimes hosted 118. Participants are overwhelmingly pleased to be back at the library.

11. OPL is fulfilling its role as a catalyst for creativity with three contests this month.

F Stop: Resilience asked teens and adults to submit images that illustrate the concept of resilience. Prizes will be awarded to the top three photos in two age categories. Camera Casino is a supporting sponsor for the second year.

The Two-Sentence Horror Story Contest challenges teens to tell a scary story in just two sentences. Amazon gift cards will be awarded to the top three contestants in two age categories and stories will be shared on OPL's website.

The Annual Creature Carnival Contest is back by popular demand. Kids ages 2 - 18 are asked to craft an original creature using common household materials. Prizes and accolades will be presented to the top finishers in a variety of categories and age groups.

12. Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland has recently participated in several local events.

She received a warm welcome at the Oshkosh Earth Science Gem Mineral and Rock Show on Sept. 25 at the Sunnyview Expo Center. Hobbyists expressed their delight to connect with the library at the show.

Sandy also hosted a booth at the Time of Your Life Senior Expo on Oct. 5 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. This event attracts more than 500 active older adults in addition to other representatives from retirement living communities, healthcare facilities, home healthcare agencies, non-profit, charitable and government organizations.

Sandy was a featured guest on the new Oshkosh Media Life TV program *The Place to Be Oshkosh*. Viewers will learn more about the library's services, resources, programs and how to discover their next great read!

13. The library continues to be a site for COVID-19 vaccination clinics every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., under the Dome. A Winnebago County Health Department report stated, "The library for us has been a strong player as well and met a need we might not have been able to reach without that location. The space is very welcoming and easily used. As partners both FC (Fox Crossing) and the library have been super." As of Oct. 12, there have been 116 shots given during the library's clinics.