

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights April 2023

1. Local 5 Live visited the library to preview an Earth Day event held here on April 22. Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland and Jessica Hanson from Winnebago County Solid Waste talked about the activities planned for Think Outside the Trash: Upcycling & Recycling for Earth Day. Jessica demonstrated creative ways that non-recyclable items can be upcycled into something useful. Sandy highlighted the public library model of sharing books and resources as the ultimate in sustainability and helped the library shine as a community resource for information and lifelong learning.
2. Little Free Libraries in the Oshkosh area got some support from the “big free library” in April when OPL helped to refresh their neighborhood collections. Survey information from the LFL coordinators was used to assemble bags filled with the types of books likely to appeal to their readers. Seven LFLs took home 110 donated books.
3. Library patrons will be able to check out day passes to Wisconsin state parks after May 1. The DNR expanded its pilot program, Check Out Wisconsin State Parks at Your Library, and OPL was one of 200 libraries selected to participate. The goal is to bring more people to state parks and forests and libraries are seen as the perfect partner to offer access to this popular resource for learning and enjoyment.
4. Readers Advisory Librarian Nancy Bell presented the program Banned Books, Censorship and the Freedom to Read to 120 members of Learning in Retirement on March 29. Getting out into the community to talk about the importance of intellectual freedom is important to building support for this cornerstone of public library service.
5. Area writers have had numerous opportunities to sharpen their creative skills by attending the Write Now! series of programs. Since March 2, 21 people have attended workshops that offer inspiration, techniques and tools designed to help writers develop their craft. The series culminates with After Hours Open Mic on May 5 under the Dome during the Lakefly Writers Conference.
6. A program presented in partnership with the Winnebago Land Genealogical Society drew 20 people on April 13 to learn about Wikitree.com, a website on a mission to grow an accurate single family tree online.
7. Art Fest is currently adding a burst of color and flair to the library’s lower level. The exhibit featuring art by elementary school students in the Oshkosh Area School District is on display through April 28. A reception was held on April 16, with 66 people attending.