

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights

August 2019

1. The benefits of play-based learning are well documented. OPL offers numerous opportunities for children to learn through play, including Smart Starts Play Stations. This monthly program for children ages one through four features eight play-based stations that encourage exploratory learning, parent/child interaction and early literacy skills. Activities change each month but always include sensory, fine motor, movement and reading stations that relate to the key pre-literacy skills: talk, sing, read, write and play. The program is popular, with attendance averaging 43 children per session.
2. It was a full house under the Dome in July when local author and beer aficionado Lee Reiherzer presented a talk on People's Brewing Company and local brewer Wilhelm Kohloff – "the last of the German-born brewers to make beer in Oshkosh." To add flavor to Reiherzer's talk, Bare Bones Brewery's Head Brewer Jody Cleveland made a brew based on one of Kohloff's recipes for everyone to taste. The event brought 85 people to the library. This is another example of OPL creating learning experiences that build community.
3. The library is following up on the successful launch of the Washington Avenue Historic Tour with presentations in the community that highlight the tour itself, as well as the library's role in preserving and sharing Oshkosh's rich history. Local History Librarian Michael McArthur gave a talk to 55 people at Evergreen in July and will speak to a group at Gabriel's Villa on Aug. 30. In the weeks before the talks, display boards highlighting Oshkosh history during the early 1900s are set up at the locations to generate interest and add context to the historic tour.
4. Community members of all ages were invited to help OPL Build a Space City under the Dome for one week at the end of July. Imagination and creativity were clearly in high gear as participants made space vehicles, cafes, rockets, theaters, aliens and more for this community of the future. Space City was also offered as a backdrop for anyone who wanted to film a video for It Came from Oshkosh: A Sci-Fi Short Film Project.
5. In what has become an annual celebration of The Chosen One at OPL, teens celebrated Harry Potter's birthday with an interactive screening of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Viewers make noise, talk back to the characters on the screen, and toss around props at strategic moments to become an active part of the movie experience. Forty-nine teens participated.
6. Readers want to know which books library staff recommend. Since re-launching the OPL eNewsletter, the Staff Picks article has been its most popular feature. Children's & Family Outreach typically create a Staff Picks display in the Lower Level and have a new page on our website that highlights books in a fun and user-friendly way. Find the new Staff Favorites page under the Kids & Teens tab at oshkoshpubliclibrary.org and sign up for our eNewsletter (look for the button at the bottom of the front page) to see monthly recommendations from a variety of OPL staff.