

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights August 2022

1. The library set up two fair-themed StoryWalks at this year's Winnebago County Fair. An indoor StoryWalk in the Sunnyview Expo Center featured the non-fiction book *Fairground Rides* and another out on the grounds took readers through the picture book, *Mr. Ferris and His Wheel*. A Read and Rest area was also set up where fairgoers could take a break, enjoy books activity sheets and stickers; and pick up information from numerous Winnebago County libraries. A member of the Fair Board commented that the Read & Rest areas were very popular!
2. And the winner is: Joy! For the first time, community members had the opportunity to select the theme for the library's F Stop Photo Contest. Polls on Facebook and Instagram asked followers to cast their vote for the themes Play, Thrive, Curiosity or Joy. Individuals ages 13 and older may submit entries from Sept. 12-Oct. 15. The library was also awarded a \$500 grant from Generac to sponsor the first in-person exhibit of F Stop entries at the library in December.
3. Oshkosh loves to celebrate the chosen one's birthday and this year OPL added a little extra magic to the mix. The library sponsored a free showing of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone at the Time Community Theater and held a drawing for a Kano Harry Potter Coding Kit. Throughout July, patrons of all ages could enter the drawing at the library for the kit, which can be used to build a wand and complete creative coding challenges. One hundred ten people attended the movie and 160 entries were received for the drawing.
4. The Third Lake Brass Quintet filled the library with bold, beautiful music on Aug. 5 when they performed for a group of 35 under the Dome. The group offered narratives on classical arrangements, as well as more familiar melodies made famous by the likes of French chanteuse Edith Piaf. Many thanks to the Green Lake Festival of Music for continuing to offer rich musical experiences, free of charge, at libraries throughout our area.
5. Staff from the Children's Department engaged with several community organizations this summer to bring reading and learning activities to area children. The Boys & Girls Club signed up members for the Summer Reading Challenge and brought groups to the library every week to check out books and enjoy storytime, a craft and a tour. The YMCA Summer Fun Club put reading front and center by signing participants up for the Summer Reading Challenge. The library also partnered with the Oshkosh Parks Department, reading themed stories as part of events at the Menominee Park Zoo that drew nearly 90 people.
6. Taking the library out into the community – promoting OPL, listening to feedback about library service and helping people to use the library wherever they are – has kept Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland busy this summer.
 - OPL was at Pollock Community Waterpark regularly throughout the summer, promoting summer reading, handing out book bags and even issuing a few library cards poolside.

- Six residents were issued new library cards and eight signed up for Home Delivery Service as a result of regular visits to Simeanna and Carmel retirement communities.
 - Neighborhood Night Out was a chance to promote OPL's mobile hot spots, hand out mobile power banks and introduce attendees to the library's new lawn games collection through a friendly game of bocce ball.
 - The library offered kids a chance to leave their mark at the Downtown Oshkosh Chalk Walk. OPL sponsored the children's area where kids could color a community mural created by a downtown business.
 - Establishing a regular presence at community locations builds relationships. One patron who connects with the library at regular visits to the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry is receiving library materials regularly and even signed up all eight of her grandchildren for the Summer Reading Challenge.
7. Learning and crafting at home continues to be a bestseller with library patrons, who picked up 327 take home kits in July. Children learned about bioluminescence and made a jellyfish; teens made patriotic paper lanterns; adults crafted colorful marbled bookmarks and our youngest patrons enjoyed summer-themed literacy activities in their High Flyers Early Literacy kits.