

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights June 2022

1. Oshkosh readers surpassed the one-million-minute community goal for the Summer Reading Challenge on July 19 – with 25 days remaining in the program! Plans are in the works for a celebration in August to recognize this impressive achievement. Registration for all ages is also up from the past several years, with 1,146 children, 271 teens and 517 adults signed up for this year's challenge.
2. OPL staff has been busy this summer with card clinics, outreach and programming that helps to make important connections between the library and the community we are here to serve. Events in local parks, senior living facilities, Pollack Community Waterpark, Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, the Boys & Girls Club and the YMCA are just a few of the places you'll find OPL meeting information needs and inspiring a love of reading and learning.
3. Attendance at Family Storytime and High Hopes early literacy programs are approaching pre-pandemic levels this summer. Families are enjoying the stories, rhymes and literacy-building activities geared to preschoolers every Monday. And parents of infants and toddlers are learning how to talk, sing, read, write and play with purpose, as they build the skills their children will need to become successful readers.
4. The library's video history series, Librarian Learns, has built an impressive following and helped to drive subscriptions to OPL's YouTube channel to more than 330. Local history librarian Michael McArthur takes a topic that he wants to learn more about and presents his research in quick, sometimes quirky videos that have great appeal for Oshkosh's dedicated local history buffs. At this writing the series had 1,143 views, with videos covering topics such as The Athearn Hotel, Chief Oshkosh Monument, Wildcat Breweries of Oshkosh and What's the Deal with KFC? Binge watch the entire series and subscribe to our YouTube channel to catch upcoming episodes.
5. Library services, programs and collections touch thousands of people's lives each year. But sometimes just offering space for community agencies to serve the public is the best way the library can have an impact. Services such as Mindworks, Memory Café, Advocap Adult Basic Education, Winnebago Free Legal Assistance and Job Search Assistance offer services regularly at the library that help individuals with challenging situations and allow them to pursue personal goals in a welcoming, stigma-free environment.

Recently the Advocap instructor shared the story of a young woman he worked with at the library. When they first met, she had little confidence and no clear path forward, but she worked hard to earn her GED. The instructor has seen a complete change in her outlook and reports that she is looking into registering for classes at Fox Valley Technical College.