

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights June 2019

1. **An Evening on the Avenue**, the June 1 special event to introduce the community to the library's new app-based historic tour, was a celebration of Oshkosh history that brought an estimated 240 people to experience life in the Washington Avenue Neoclassical Historic District in the early 1900s. Visitors took the tour using the Vamonde app, listened to live music, met costumed staff and volunteers representing the district's influential Oshkosh citizens and gathered with other locals who share their love of Oshkosh past. The event was successful in part because of fruitful partnerships with the River East Neighborhood Association, staff from the City of Oshkosh Community Development and Parks departments. Other groups that participated included the Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society, Oshkosh Memorabilia Club and the Winnebago Genealogical Society. Special thanks also to the Oshkosh Public Museum and the UW Oshkosh Theater Department.
2. On June 7, our Summer Reading Launch Party kicked off our busiest season of reading, learning and discovery. This year's theme is Mission 2019: A Universe of Stories, with a Race to Space Reading Challenge, special events and hands-on activities designed to transport the community to galaxies far beyond their usual earthly realm. Replicas of a Mercury space capsule and space suit; a visit from a professional filmmaker (to promote our summer moviemaking project); space-themed activity stations and a scavenger hunt got the 150+ people at the event in the mood for a summer of fun and learning!
3. A centerpiece of our summer reading program is **It Came from Oshkosh: A Sci-Fi Short Film Project**. The library is inviting community members to make a short sci-fi film (no more than three minutes) for screening at the **It Came from Oshkosh Sci-Fi Film Festival** at the Time Community Theater on Aug. 31. OPL is providing tech support and inspiration in the form of programs and personal assistance to help participants experience the process of making a short film in a fun, hands-on way. Films can be made by individuals, families or other groups. The project encourages creativity and self-expression; offers access to technology and showcases the library as a neighbor who inspires exploration and discovery.
4. Ginny Gross, local author and research assistant at the Oshkosh Public Museum, did a talk at the library on June 10 about her recently released book, which is based on the diary of Oshkosh resident Nancy Chandler Derby. *A World of Partings* recounts daily life in Oshkosh during the 1850s and 1860s through Derby's eyes. Twenty-two people attended the event.
5. OPL's popular Wonderlab STEAM program has morphed into the Outerspace STEAM Lab Series for the summer. The first session, focusing on Loony Lunar Phases, drew 24 kids. Upcoming sessions include Jump to Jupiter, Exploration: Mars, Stomp Rockets and How Big? How Fast? How Far Sorting Games.