

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights June 2021

1. Local History and Genealogy Librarian Michael McArthur was recognized by Learning in Retirement with their Community Partner Award for his “significant contribution to the University of Wisconsin Learning in Retirement program during the 2020-2021 program year.” OPL has been doing presentations for LIR for several years, covering local history, technology and a variety of other topics for this group of active life-long learners. Congratulations Michael!
2. Two new efforts that offer personalized services for adults launched at OPL recently:
Book-a-Librarian is a 30-minute in-person or online session, by appointment, with a staff member for assistance using library resources and digital services; personalized book recommendations; building technology skills and more. A previous version of the service focused primarily on technology, so this expansion will likely be welcomed by patrons who look to the library for assistance with a broader range of topics.

Book Bundles, which became a staple for children and families during the pandemic, are now available to adults. Patrons fill out an online form to indicate the types of books that interest them and a staff member selects up to ten titles that match those preferences. OPL has always offered reading recommendations, but Book Bundles packages the service and broadens access – especially for those patrons who can’t visit or contact the library during our regular hours.

3. Despite the limits imposed by the pandemic, library staff was able to flex their approach to summer reading outreach, getting the word out to numerous schools, community groups and local organizations.

Children & families:

- Staff visited (in person or via Zoom) 42 elementary school classes, reaching a total of 1,030 students.
- OPL participated in Family Night at the Boys & Girls Club, interacting with dozens of families and handing out STEAM kits.
- About 50 kids and teens signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge at the OPL booth during the June 4 Farmers Market.
- OPL was a special guest at Wild Wednesday at the Menominee Park Zoo on June 6, offering a storytime and SRC signups to 17 participants.

Teens

- Our Teen Services Librarian conducted virtual visits with four different Oshkosh schools speaking with more than 200 students.

4. All full-time staff in Information Services are now notaries. This means that OPL can now offer the service every day that the library is open, including evenings and weekends. Notary service is free and available by appointment. Schedule online at calendly.com/oshkoshpubliclibrary or by calling 920-236-5205.