

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights

October 2023

1. OPL is once again celebrating Freedom to Read, with activities designed to inform and engage the community in a conversation about their right to freely read and express ideas. A scavenger hunt for books that have been challenged; a free screening of the popular adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird*; a video series and a week of book discussions are happening throughout October.
2. Our annual F Stop photography contest invited community members to submit images around the theme, **Iconic Oshkosh**. From lakes to landmarks, participants were encouraged to use their cameras to capture what truly makes Oshkosh an iconic place to live, work and play. Thirty-nine entries were submitted in teen and adult categories. Winners will be showcased on the library's website and in a video shared on our YouTube channel. Prizes generously donated by Camera Casino will be awarded for the top three photos in each age group.
3. A traveling display from the Virtual Museum of Geology is currently available for viewing on the library's second floor. The colorful display offers a better understanding of mineral varieties, the creation of fossils, inspires the hobby of geological collecting and introduces other geology topics. The display will be at the library through Nov. 30.
4. More than 30 people attended a presentation on the history of Winnebago County's Courthouses on Oct. 12. Austin Frederick, vice president of the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society, shared information on the history of these archaeological treasures during the program, which was sponsored by the Winnebagoland Genealogical Society.
5. Seventy children took advantage of two drop-in programs where they could create an entry for the library's annual Creature Carnival. To provide inspiration and make it easier for children and teens to craft a contest entry, the library set out materials and craft supplies that kids could use to create their imaginative interpretation of a creature. The annual event was featured in a segment on NBC26 and in the Oshkosh Northwestern.
6. OPL celebrated National Chemistry Week with a program for kids and families on Oct. 14. Forty children participated in *The Healing Power of Chemistry*, which included hands-on activities demonstrating the ways that chemistry helps us understand human health and medicine. The program was sponsored by the Northeast Wisconsin Local Section of the American Chemical Society.
7. Two dyslexia workshops drew 22 parents and educators to learn more about early identification, effective support strategies for children and hear a fresh perspective on its diagnosis. Information was presented by Kelly Steinke, M.A. Ed., NBCT, founder and president of READ Learning Educational Services. The library is refreshing its collection of dyslexia resources using the Collection Improvement Fund of the Endowment Funds for Library Excellence and will explore future programs on dyslexia to help meet community needs.

8. The library will be featured in November's edition of The Place to Be, a local show that airs on Oshkosh Media's Life TV. Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland joined host John Nieman to highlight library services, discuss the importance of taking the library out into the community and showcase special offerings including the Virtual Museum of Geology's Traveling Display. The episode will air throughout November on Life TV (channel 2 on Spectrum Cable, and Oshkosh Media App for Roku, Apple TV, Amazon FireTV).