

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights September 2023

1. OPL has launched an eNewsletter for Oshkosh elementary school teachers aimed at helping them stay connected to the library and its services. The effort kicked off with a survey that determined local teachers are most interested in:
 - a. Special programs with partnership opportunities (author visits, student art exhibits, reading challenges, etc.).
 - b. Educator services such as teacher collections, library visits, classroom visits, etc.
 - c. Library programs.

Survey results drove content for the first newsletter in September, which included items on upcoming dyslexia workshops for parents and educators; Read to a Dog; Creature Carnival and links to new children's books. We're off to a great start: The open rate for the first issue was 60 percent! Teachers can sign up at oshkoshpubliclibrary.org under the Kids & Teens tab.

2. Libraries support democracy and OPL continues to help educate and serve voters thanks in part to a strong partnership with the Winnebago County League of Women Voters. Forty of their members attended a presentation on Sept. 13 by Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland on banned and challenged books. September is Voter Registration Month and the group staffed a table in the library lobby on Sept. 14 to check voters' registration status and provide information about polling places, absentee ballots, candidate forums, voter resources and upcoming elections. The group was thrilled to connect with 75 adults during their six-hour visit.
3. Local History Librarian Michael McArthur and Information Services staff recently pitched in to help a fellow city department with resources and expertise. Oshkosh Media was planning an aerial drone tour of Menominee Park and library staff provided them with OPL's robust files on the history of Menominee Park, the Zoo, and several of the monuments located in the park. According to McArthur, "We were able to quickly pull this research together because of the research efforts of librarians and librarian assistants over the decades."
4. Archive Dives, a new video program featuring some of OPL's behind-the-scenes local history collections, premiered on the library's YouTube channel Sept. 1, with a look at the library's Mark Gruenwald Collection. Librarians Michael McArthur and Sandy Toland shared comics and other items related to Gruenwald, an Oshkosh native and Marvel Comics executive. Future segments will highlight hidden photos and the Geer Murray Collection.
5. History programs brought nearly 90 people to the library to learn about an accomplished local architect, a storied area mansion and a somewhat macabre look at death in the late 19th century.
 - a. On Sept. 9, guest speaker and historic restoration pro Terry Laib of Laib Restoration unveiled architect Henry Auler's extraordinary contributions to Oshkosh's cityscape,

using Auler's own files. The presentation was sponsored by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society and a recording of the presentation is posted on the group's YouTube channel.

b. Author Edward Bentley shared stories of unfortunate deaths of Oshkosh residents detailed in his book *What a Way to Go: Death in Oshkosh in the 1880s*. Highlights included the unique graphic style of journalists of the time, whose writing brought tragic events to life.

c. The mysterious Foote Mansion was the centerpiece of a presentation by author Daniel Butkiewicz, whose work of historical fiction was inspired by stories of the farmhouse built by twin brothers in Eureka during the 1800s.