

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights April 2024

1. This year's LEGOMania Design Contest experienced a resurgence after a low-key 2023, with 54 entries submitted by kids ages 3-17. Imagination led the way with creations that ranged from star fighters to go-carts; from a crowded mall to the temple of Atlantis. More than 130 people viewed the entries on March 29, when awards were given out to contest winners. As a special treat, John Cujak of Westfield brought his amazing working model of beloved Star Wars character R2D2, which he created using a 3D printer. It was inspiring for the young LEGO builders and fun for all to watch the beeping, whirling droid put through its paces to familiar Star Wars music. Many thanks to Cujak and event sponsors Oshkosh Corporation and House of Heroes Comics + Games.
2. Local history librarian Michael McArthur spoke to the Oshkosh Garden Club during its regular meeting on April 11, sharing stories about the parks in Oshkosh. In addition to the establishment of the parks he focused on the impact of Dutch Elm Disease and the Emerald Ash Borer.
3. Library Director Darryl Eschete shared his vision for OPL and offered community members the opportunity to share their perspectives, opinions and aspirations for the library in two public appearances during April. On April 5 he spoke to 30 members of the Oshkosh Mid-Morning Kiwanis about the ways that the stature of a library reflects on its community, inviting them to visit and share their impressions and ideas.

During An Evening with the Library Director at Caramel Crisp Corner on April 16, he spoke about the past, present and future of the library and engaged in conversations with community members about their impressions and experiences with OPL. Attendees also were invited to fill out a survey following the event, which lays a solid foundation for future community engagements.

4. Community engagement librarian Sandy Toland made connections in early April when she presented a talk at Bella Vista about library resource for low-vision patrons and participated in Greater Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods' Spring Rally, which featured workshops and speakers aimed at strengthening neighborhoods.
5. OPL was the perfect backdrop for a Sunday morning photo shoot with the Oshkosh Photography Group. Photographers captured the beauty of the library's architecture and images of the building in repose during the "before hours" session. Some of the photos can be viewed on the Oshkosh Photography Group's public Facebook group.

6. Two family-friendly movies drew nearly 60 people to the library during Spring Break. Kids happily munched on free popcorn while watching fan favorites Clifford the Big Red Dog and Paw Patrol with family and friends.
7. Library book clubs for kids and teens continue to draw enthusiastic young readers from kindergarten through high school with lively discussions, engaging activities and snacks to fuel the conversation and camaraderie. Attendance at April's Elementary, Tween, Teen and Young Adult clubs totaled 61. The Teen and YA groups combined this month and were led by guest facilitator, Library Director Darryl Eschete.
8. The Lakefly Writers Conference has received a \$150 donation for this year's event from HenschelHaus Publishing, Inc., in Milwaukee. The popular conference will be held May 3-4 at the Oshkosh Convention Center.
9. The spring election brought 346 voters to the library. Good coordination with the City Clerk's Office, adequate space and parking, and a welcoming atmosphere for voters when they are here continue to make OPL a desirable polling place.