

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights January 2024

1. The Wild Winter Read Off is underway, giving readers of all ages an incentive to boost their reading time to earn fun prizes including books, STEAM kits, Wisconsin Herd swag and gift baskets. Four weeks into the program, 110 adults had signed up for the reading challenge and nearly 200 children have registered. The WWRO runs through Jan. 27.
2. OPL partnered with the Oshkosh Seniors Center for a program on the hot topic of Blue Zones, geographic areas where people live longer than the rest of the world. Community Engagement Librarian Sandy Toland co-presented at the session and highlighted ways that the library can be a resource for anyone interested in living by the nine Blue Zone tenets. Twenty-two people attended the December session and the program goes on the road to groups at Gabriel's Villa and Evergreen over the coming weeks.
3. Notary service continues to be in high demand at OPL. In 2023 there were 422 appointments during which staff notarized 646 documents. Having nearly all Information Services staff serve as notaries and offering appointments during most regular library hours makes the service widely accessible and convenient for our community.
4. OPL logged 229,406 visits in 2023 – the highest number since 2019 and the first time the library has exceeded 200,000 visits since 2018.
5. BookPage, the monthly magazine for readers that highlights new books across genres, interviews with authors and reading recommendations, is now available online. Copies have been provided for years at the library and the digital version offers a new way for readers to access BookPage from anywhere. Thanks to the Winnefox Library System, which is covering the cost of this subscription for its libraries in 2024!
6. Hoopla continues to expand its selection of BingePasses, with recent additions including the popular Hallmark Movies. Other offerings include collections of comics, Curiosity Stream (nature, travel, history, science), magazines, puzzles, Highlights, Great Courses and more. A BingePass gives patrons check out entire collections of streaming content that counts as one borrow against their monthly 10-borrow limit.
7. Submissions are being accepted through Feb. 1 for Young Authors 2024. Using a variety of writing prompts provided by the library, kids from kindergarten through high school are encouraged to create a short story, poem, comic, fan fiction or illustration that will be included in a published anthology when the program concludes. A special Young Authors Celebration is planned for Sat., Feb. 24. This is not a contest, but an exercise designed to empower kids to explore their imaginations, develop their writing skills and build self-confidence through storytelling. Special thanks to Digital Printing Innovations of Oshkosh for donating the printing of the anthologies for participants!