

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights

July 2024

1. A new partnership brought a full day of music for all ages and tastes to the library on June 21. Heid Music worked with Community Engagement Librarian Sandy T. to set up performances and workshops including a musical storytime, harmonica jam (led by Library Director Darryl Eschete), a guitar jam with Guitars for Vets; a sing-along with the Oshkosh Chamber Singers, a community jazz jam with students from the Valley Jazz Institute and a book reading and musical performance with local music legend John Harmon. Bringing people together around live music has created some truly magical experiences at the library; watch for more in the future!
2. The library's community engagement activities continue to connect local groups with resources that enhance their lives. Both of the following opportunities were born out of regular card clinics held at Carmel Residence.
 - a. Local History Librarian Michael M. assisted with research when Miravida Living hosted *Time Capsule Tour: The History of Miravida Living* at Carmel Residence. The Carmel Residence History Team was thankful to Michael and the library for their expertise and assistance in making this a special event!
 - b. For the second year, staff at Carmel added a little flair to their June Garden Party with lawn games from the library. Residents enjoyed some friendly competition with Bocci Ball and Giant Lawn Dice sets checked out from OPL. "Thanks for being such a valuable resource to us," event organizers wrote. "Everything you do for us is very much appreciated."
3. When the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry put out a call for books to stock their children's play area, the library was ready. Community Engagement Librarian Sandy T. quickly gathered up 25 children's books from OPL's donation stock and delivered them to the OACP, complete with information about the library's Summer Reading Challenge tucked inside. OPL has a regular presence at the pantry, connecting with clients during bi-monthly card clinics.
4. Youth Services is bringing literacy outreach to a new Oshkosh Area School District initiative this summer. Manager Marie B. is visiting Oaklawn Elementary to offer literacy-based activities to students who are struggling with reading and literacy skills. The academic enrichment program is an expansion of the after-school programs run at nine sites during the school year and employs a fresh approach to learning. The district has asked the library to partner again next summer as they grow the program.
5. Youth Services staff Kallie S. and Morgan D. are participating this summer in the Winnebago Area Literacy Council's Women and Children English Class at St. Andrews Lutheran Church. Staff lead a storytime and activity for 20-30 children while their moms are learning English. The families hail from multiple countries and face many challenges, so beyond literacy activities, the

goal is to build trust and encourage the families to visit the library and learn about resources that could help to meet their needs.

6. Minneapolis-based CLIMB Theater brought their play, *Country Mouse, City Mouse: Adventures in the Suburbs* to the library on July 2. During the high-energy show, more than 50 kids and their families laughed and learned about the importance of empathy, cooperation and advocating for themselves. Many thanks to Winnebago Community Credit Union for their generous sponsorship of this program.
7. Teens have a new outlet for creative expression this summer with the Teens Write! series at the library. During the first two sessions 13 teens learned about and wrote a six-word memoir and blackout poetry. Future sessions will focus on story starters and writing haiku. The series is presented by the Oshkosh Area Writers Club.
8. Two recent programs offered participants the opportunity to make a musical instrument, learning about the sounds that different materials produce and creating something that was uniquely their own.
 - a. Fifteen enterprising music-lovers endeavored to build their own one-string musical instrument at the library on June 22. Guest presenter John Kestrell led the group in using every day and discarded materials to build a Diddley Bow and other instruments.
 - b. Local favorite Dr. Kickbutt led a DIY instrument workshop for families under the Dome on July 13. Once the 35 participants completed their creations, they were invited to jam with the Dr.'s Orchestra of Death, creating a memorable experience for all who attended!
9. Kids in grades 3-5 have been on an Art Adventure throughout the summer at OPL, getting the opportunity to try a variety of creative projects led by experienced art teachers. A total of 56 kids learned and applied techniques for drawing, book making and collage/mosaic art. Thanks to the GFWC-Oshkosh Women's Arts Club for their generous sponsorship of supplies for this series.
10. Teens applied their creative talents to making tie-dye T-shirts at the library on July 16. Twenty-one teens crafted their own unique designs and ended up with a wearable piece that shows off their artistic flair.