

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights June 2024

1. The library is alive with art, crafts and music this summer, with programs for all ages and a wide array of interests.
 - a. Thirty kids created a whimsical frog canvas during the first of three Paint Along with Miss Katie programs. It was fun to see the different creative interpretations of the same image come to life as the kids painted! The young artists will paint an airplane in July and a unicorn in August.
 - b. Several stitchers brought projects to the library to enjoy a little crafty camaraderie under the Dome for the first session of Stitch Together. There were a variety of projects including knitting, loom knitting and needle punch. Stitch Together happens monthly.
 - c. Kids in grades 3-5 dove into drawing for the first session of Art Adventures. Local art teachers are leading the programs, which introduce participants to a variety of studio art media and techniques. Future sessions will focus on making books and collage and mosaic art.
 - d. Better Poetry, Better Life offered writers the opportunity to create works with impact. Led by two accomplished local writers, participants discussed techniques, created a poetry “toolbox” and put this fresh knowledge to work writing their own poems.
 - e. The V3NTO Brass Trio performed a free concert under the Dome on June 13. The accomplished group appeared under the Dome courtesy of the Green Lake Festival of Music.

More live music and art programs are scheduled throughout the summer, culminating in Art After Hours on Sat., Aug. 3. This special event under the Dome for ages 16 and older will feature a community art display, opportunities to create art, henna designs and refreshments.

2. Readers of all ages are logging their minutes for fun and prizes in OPL’s annual Summer Reading Challenge. Three weeks into the program there are 886 kids signed up, 145 teens and 257 adults.
3. OPL has been out in the community in force since spring, promoting a summer of fun at the library. On June 1 the library had a booth at the Oshkosh Farmers Market and at the Oshkosh Comic and Toy Show. Staff also have visited countless Oshkosh classrooms, the Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, June Dairy Day at the Leach Amphitheater, Free Laundry & Literacy Day and are providing ongoing literacy programming for the Winnebago Area Literacy Council’s Women & Children English Class at St. Andrew’s Church.
4. Local brewing historian and blogger Lee Reiherzer returned to the library on June 4 with the presentation, 175 Years of Brewing History. A popular figure among local history and beer buffs, Reiherzer covered Winnebago County’s brewing history, from the early breweries established by German immigrants to today’s craft breweries. The 65 people attending the program under the

Dome soaked up the hoppy history lesson, sharing stories, memories and plenty of laughs. The program was sponsored by the Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society.

5. The Zoomobile from the NEW Zoo & Adventure Park returned to the library on June 13 with a few furry, scaly, shell-covered friends in tow. About 100 people attended and learned about the lives and habitats of a rat, a tarantula, a lizard and a tortoise.
6. The chicks have hatched at the library! Kids have been learning about the life cycle of chickens as part of the ChickQuest program, presented over three sessions by Winnebago County 4-H. This live learning opportunity began with eggs nestled in a small incubator and ended with the excitement of chicks hatching in the library's lower level!
7. AniManga Club is a weekly gathering of teens at the library who are interested in anime and manga. The first session brought 15 teens to the library to sample these popular forms of Japanese animation and graphic novels, eat snacks and hang out.
8. Support from several community sponsors is adding luster to OPL's summer library experience.
 - a. A donation from the Donald Hansen fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation is helping to fund programs for all ages; Reading Challenge incentives and prizes; a special end-of-summer event and a guest speaker.
 - b. A donation from Winnebago Community Credit Union is funding two special children's events: Zoomobile and Climb Theater.
 - c. The GFWC-Oshkosh Women's Arts Club is providing funding for the Art Adventures series for children in grades 3-5.
 - d. The Oshkosh Herald provided funds to purchase prize books for children participating in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Many thanks to these generous sponsors for their support of literacy and learning in Oshkosh!