

## Oshkosh Public Library Highlights May 2024

1. OPL is now offering card clinics for employees at two of 4Imprint's Oshkosh offices. Community Engagement Librarian Sandy is at 4Imprint's offices in Downtown Oshkosh and at their west-side distribution center one afternoon a month to issue and renew library cards; answer questions about library services; and listen to concerns, ideas and general observations of employees that the library could possibly address. To sweeten the deal, 4Imprint is even offering OPL-branded swag to encourage their employees to engage with the library during the card clinics.
2. A collection of original comics and art featuring a home-grown superhero is currently on display at OPL. The display features Augmento, a superhero created in the 1970s by UWO students including artist Bill Bukowski and future Marvel Comics legend Mark Gruenwald. The history behind Augmento and his creators, as well as original comics, are on display on the library's second floor.
3. Children in grades K-12 are invited to bring in original art to display throughout the summer in the library's lower level. Students are encouraged to create art with an adventure theme. Inspired by the success of other student art exhibits at OPL every spring, the display will also brighten up the library environment and give kids a chance to create and share their talents with the community.
4. The library partnered with River East Neighborhood Association for their annual birdhouse painting event on May 4. You could feel the promise of spring under the Dome as participants painted 41 birdhouses to take home for their feathered friends.
5. OPL contributed to the annual celebration of Star Wars Day on May 4 by sponsoring the film *The Empire Strikes Back* at the Time Community Theater. Nearly 150 people came together to enjoy arguably the most beloved of the Star Wars films at a reduced ticket price courtesy of the OPL sponsorship.
6. The library was once again a stop on the BikeOsh route on May 11. The annual event takes cyclists on a route around the city to check in at locations of interest and earn chances to win prizes. Event organizers report that 100 people participated in this year's event.
7. Regular community engagement activities not only extend OPL's reach to individuals but also lead to new opportunities to support organizations with library services and resources.
  - a. When the activities coordinator at Gabriel's Villa needed information to help generate interest among residents in birding, Community Engagement Librarian Sandy developed and presented a talk identifying the 20 most common birds in Wisconsin.

- b. The annual Spring Fling at Carmel Residence included a band to entertain residents. Asked if the library had instruments available so that residents could play along with the band, Sandy worked with Children's Librarian Kallie to provide a bin of shakers, tambourines and other rhythm instruments so residents could sit in with the band!
8. The Lakefly Writers Conference was held May 2-3 at the Oshkosh Convention Center, with 107 paid registrants and more than a dozen volunteers. The first annual Lakefly Book Fair was held in conjunction with the conference; the fair featured more than 50 authors and was attended by conference attendees and approximately 45 members of the public, mostly from Oshkosh. Friday evening, approximately 46 attendees dined at four Oshkosh restaurants, and more than 40 people stayed overnight at the Oshkosh Premiere Hotel and Fairfield Inn. Another highlight was the Lakefly After Hours open mic held here at the library. The event had an audience of 44, including people from the Oshkosh community.
9. A partnership with Oshkosh North High School has helped to make the library more accessible to students and staff. Volunteers are available to deliver requested materials and bring returns back to the library on a weekly basis. This model will be used to begin offering this service to Lourdes Academy Middle School during the 2024-25 school year.
10. A program on the Early History of Oshkosh Truck drew 18 people to learn about how the iconic Oshkosh company got its start. Tim Wright, historian, memorabilia collector and known online as Mr. Oshkosh "Historian of Oshkosh Trucks" was the presenter. Wright previously brought a collection of his Oshkosh Truck memorabilia to display at the library.
11. Local History Librarian Michael presented his talk on the Athearn Hotel to a group of 30 people from the Oshkosh Public Museum Auxiliary on May 10. This is Michael's most popular presentation and several people in the audience were seeing it for the second time (who knew local history librarians had groupies?). Other local history presentations available to community groups focus on Manufacturers of Oshkosh; Steins (an upscale boutique); Terrell's Island, the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club; Railroads of Oshkosh; and the Washington Avenue Historic District.