

Oshkosh Public Library Highlights

November 2024

1. Readers' Advisory Librarian Sarah Read attended her first Wisconsin Library Association convention, where she presented as part of the Notable Books Marathon panel. The panel features four librarians from across the state who each highlight a selection of books from various awards lists. The panel was well attended with more than 50 people in the audience, and Sarah has been asked to return to speak again next year. OPL is pleased that Sarah, who is herself an award-winning author, is recognized as a leader in her field!
2. The Library Development team and Darryl donned costumes and handed out candy and branded swag to trick-or-treaters and their families on Oct. 26 at the Oshkosh Farmer's Market. The library's new website and brand launch were hot topics for the day and visibility at the market underscored OPL's renewed commitment to serving our community and being a place to Spark Your Story.
3. OPL is hosting NaNoWriMo activities again this year, providing a venue and inspiration for writers working to write the first draft of a 50,000-word novel by the end of November. An introductory session and kickoff party led into events aimed at offering support, running down roadblocks and helping writers to cross the finish line as they pursue this lofty goal.
4. As a member of this year's Leadership Oshkosh class, Darryl will serve as an adjunct board member for Covey, an organization that offers respite and adult day programs. After meeting with Covey's CEO, Darryl jumped in to engage with clients and staff there, visiting the respite house on Nov. 14 to play a few folksy blues tunes. The singing library director easily connected with the group over a slide guitar and some Statesboro Blues.
5. OPL has fired up our Instagram account and is already attracting attention with content that reflects the library's newly-defined brand personality. Reels and images are showcasing patrons and staff; tying our resources to timely events and trends; and creating a vibe that is current, welcoming and fun. Content is resonating with followers and driving engagement that will only continue to build new connections with the Insta crowd.
6. The library teamed up with the Northeast Wisconsin section of the American Chemical Society to teach kids about photography and imaging during National Chemistry Week. Nineteen kids attended the Picture Perfect Chemistry program on Oct. 23.
7. This year's Creature Carnival contest brought in 46 entries, including robots, octopi, alien eyeballs and all manner of fantastical beings that adorned the shelves in the Youth Services Department. Library visitors found the creatures a timely complement to the Halloween season, with 157 patrons casting ballots for a People's Choice Award.

8. The library's first Puzzle-Rama drew nine teams of four to compete for bragging rights and tasty prizes. Teams had two hours to complete a 1,000-piece puzzle. There were smiles all around as teams pieced together not only their puzzle, but a fun afternoon built on camaraderie and a common interest.

9. Librarians Michael McArthur and Sarah Read presented the Great Reads of 2024 to Learning in Retirement at Evergreen on Nov. 13. A full house of about 50 people sat in rapt attention as the pair shared their picks for noteworthy books from the past year. One attendee was at the library no more than an hour after the program, booklist in hand, to place a title on hold that was recommended!

10. Job seekers had the opportunity to speak with representatives from 10 local employers during the latest Mini Job Fair at the library. An ongoing partnership with the State Department of Workforce Development and Fox Valley Job Center-Menasha, the Nov. 13 event drew 44 people. The events have become an effective way for job seekers to learn about area employment opportunities, with at least two more sessions planned for 2025. The events were even called out by a member of the City Council as a valuable service for the community.