

THE STORYLINE

A quarterly publication of the Oak Park Public Library

SUMMER 2018

News | Events | Stories



LIBRARIES ARE FOR
EVERYONE

IN THIS ISSUE

Summer 2018
Vol. 3, No. 3
June | July | August

CONTACT US

oppl.org/contact
Main Library
708.383.8200

Dole Branch
708.386.9032

Maze Branch
708.386.4751

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Find board meeting dates and locations at oppl.org/board, and get in touch at board@oppl.org.

LIBRARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David J. Seleb
708.697.6911
d.seleb@oppl.org

Get to know us and our core values at oppl.org/about.



ON THE COVER

We adapted graphics from iconic "Libraries are for everyone" posters, available in over 80 languages (see hafuboti.com). Each square represents the intersection of library strengths and community aspirations, where we believe we can have the deepest impact.



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📌 This issue showcases select events and classes at the library this summer. View all at oppl.org/calendar.

The Storyline is published quarterly as a service to the Oak Park Public Library community. Contact us at communications@oppl.org: Kristen Romanowski, Writer/Editor; Rebecca Price, Graphic Designer; Jodi Kolo, Manager. Many thanks to library staff and community photographers whose work is featured in this issue, including Rachael Bild, Ashley Boyer, Joselyn Daker, Tina Harle, Shelley Harris, Jenny Jackson, and Sarah Yale.



we're LISTENING

Since March, we've been surveying active cardholders by email, asking them to rate their satisfaction with the library's collections, programs, and spaces.*

At press time, of the 448 cardholders already surveyed, 91 percent said they would recommend the library to others. We've also heard specific concerns, such as:

YOU SAID "You do a good job in what you do but it seems less and less it has to do with books."

While we offer many kinds of services, resources, and opportunities, please know we remain dedicated to books!

"We always appreciate feedback and look for ways to improve our collection so that people will be delighted with what they find while browsing the shelves and searching the catalog," said Manager of Materials Services Kathleen Spale. "We also welcome suggestions on what to purchase."

In Oak Park, we spend about 12 percent of the library's annual operating budget solely on books and other materials. This is the standard for Illinois public libraries. And although the library has shifted more resources to digital collections, like ebooks from OverDrive, to keep up with the all-time high use and demand in the past year, Spale said, print materials still make up the largest portion of our materials budget. More on page 7.

f HERE'S WHAT YOU SAID ON FACEBOOK:

"We love that late fines went away but would be happier if auto-renewal could be turned off or on by patron."

In June 2017, we eliminated late fines on items checked out in Oak Park to improve access and equity. At the same time, SWAN, the library network we belong to, introduced automatic renewals for cardholder convenience.

This SWAN service gives patrons more time with certain materials. It cannot be

turned on or off, but you can always return items before their due dates.

Auto-renewal won't work for all items, like Hot Picks, the Multicultural Collection, mobile devices, and digital materials like ebooks and streaming movies. It also won't happen if someone else has put the item on hold.

*Cardholder surveys are randomly emailed every Monday to a small percentage of active library cardholders.

OF CARDHOLDERS SURVEYED:

91%
would recommend the library to others

92%
are either satisfied or very satisfied with the collection

YOU SAID

"Everyone is welcome and I can get all the information I need for free."

"I love Dole Library. It's a warm relaxed atmosphere buzzing with a lot of community activity. The children seem to love being there, enjoying learning."

"Friendly staff. Quick delivery of items put on hold. Love our local Maze!"

"You can be 2 or 92 and find something there."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Share your comments and concerns: oppl.org/contact

STEWARDSHIP

past, present, future

Since 2015, the library has been committed to three strategic priorities: engagement, learning, and stewardship.

To us, stewardship means we respect and preserve Oak Park's capital, environmental, and historical resources. By carefully managing Oak Park's resources—including your tax dollars, our buildings, and our historical collections—we are able to offer the information, services, and opportunities that fulfill Oak Park's aspirations.

As previous generations did for us, we can carry the library forward through careful stewardship: to provide equitable opportunities for learning, to engage neighbors and citizens, and to serve our community now and in the future.



The Main Library's green roof in May 2016.



Architectural drawing (1936) of the library's South Branch, 845 Gunderson Ave., renamed The Adele H. Maze Branch in 1957.

"The library is one of Oak Park's treasures."

—Survey respondent (see page 3)

Committed to environmental **SUSTAINABILITY**

AN IMPORTANT CIVIC BUILDING

Opened to the public in October 2003, the 104,000-square-foot Main Library is the culmination of design goals to create an important civic building that adds to the strong architectural heritage of Oak Park and minimizes the impact on the natural environment through the use of sustainable building materials and systems. The current Main Library is the third to serve as Oak Park's central public library building at 834 Lake St.

GREEN ROOF

The Main Library's 12,500-square-foot green rooftop has diverted more than 2.5 million gallons of runoff from the local storm sewer system since the building opened. Planted with native Illinois plants that require minimal upkeep, including phlox and sedum, the green roof also improves the building's energy performance and contributes to better air quality in the neighborhood. See more of the Main Library's environmentally friendly features at oppl.org/green.

This spring, two staff water filter stations were installed at the Main Library. In the first three days, they helped eliminate waste from 150 disposable plastic bottles. Based on use and feedback, this staff-inspired pilot may expand to public areas in the future.

PROACTIVE MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION

"One of the primary goals when constructing the Main Library was to carry environmental stewardship forward," said Deputy Director Jim Madigan.

A comprehensive study of the Main Library and Maze Branch Library buildings and grounds completed in 2017 brought more opportunities to reduce the buildings' energy consumption. (Dole Branch Library was not included in the study because its first-floor space in the Dole Learning Center, 255 Augusta St., is rented from the Village of Oak Park.)

SAVING ON ENERGY COSTS

"We learned retro-commissioning the heating and cooling systems was the No. 1 thing we could do to have the biggest impact," Madigan said. Work done in 2018 to modernize these systems is expected to result in as much as a 30 percent savings in the library's electricity and natural gas consumption, Madigan said.

MAZE BRANCH

In 2000, Oak Park voters approved a \$30 million library referendum to build the current Main Library building and renovate Maze Branch, constructed in 1936. Accessibility was the goal, and a new elevator and front entrance ramp were added to Maze Branch. At the June 2006 re-opening, the best news we heard was from a woman who pushed up her grown son's wheelchair and said, "Thank you. My son has not been able to come here since he was 6 years old."

DOLE BRANCH

Since 1940, first-floor library space has been leased in the Village of Oak Park-owned Dole Learning Center. In 2000, major renovations, including an elevator, cork flooring, and interior painting, were financed by the village, the library, and grant contributions.



JOIN US IN THE COURTYARD!

On Thursday, June 14, you're invited to join us from 3 to 4 pm in the Maze Branch Courtyard for an outdoor (weather permitting) book discussion (see pages 18-19).

“A library is more than a place to store books. It is a community builder. ... I am glad to see our tax dollars spent to make the library a dynamic, safe, useful space.”

—Facebook user comment, April 24 

Being responsible and transparent in the wise use OF OUR COMMUNITY’S RESOURCES

AFFORDABILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY

In hundreds of Community Conversations and survey comments, Oak Parkers have told us directly: affordability is important.

As one put it, “Economic diversity is the biggest concern. Lots of people can no longer afford to live here.”

Another told us, “How much longer can I stay in Oak Park, I ask myself. I’d like to be able to age in place.”

We make the aspirations and concerns of our community central to everything we do. That’s why we’re committed to being responsible and transparent in the wise use of our community’s resources, for current and future generations of Oak Parkers.

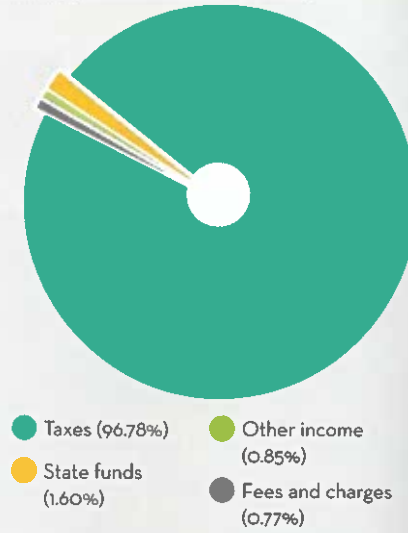
THE LIBRARY BUDGET

The primary way the library demonstrates its strategic priority of stewardship is through our budget, the majority of which comes from property taxes. As a slice of an Oak Park property owner’s total tax bill, about 5 percent goes to fund the library. And what you pay for a library card has been trending down for several years.

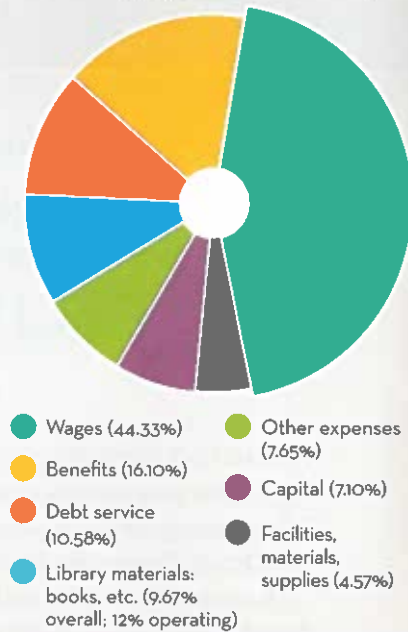
In 2000, Oak Park voters approved a \$30 million library referendum to build the current Main Library building and renovate Maze Branch. Because that resulting bond debt will be paid off by 2020, Oak Park taxpayers will see a lower per-household cost for the library in 2018, compared to the 2015 and 2016 levies. By 2021, we expect property taxes collected by the library will be less than those in 2015.

Find the full 2018 library budget and more at oppl.org/budget.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



HOW IS THE MONEY SPENT?



Work in progress: Manager of Materials Services Kathleen Spale worked in May to shift materials based on circulation data and staff and community feedback. The goal: to create easier access to items and better browsing experiences.

OUR COLLECTIONS

“We’re always looking for ways to improve our collection and your experience in the library,” said Manager of Materials Services Kathleen Spale. “For example, in May, we shifted some materials at the Main Library so people can find items more easily.”

Based on circulation data and staff and community feedback, we gave more visibility to Hot Picks (popular items you can find only on the shelf) and new items on the Main Library’s second floor.

Another recent change is a new third-floor section showcasing recently returned nonfiction books. It gives cardholders quicker access to what Oak Parkers are reading now and adds interest for those who like to browse the shelves, Spale said.

“And if you can’t find something on our shelves or in our catalog, we can track items down through interlibrary loan,” Spale said. “We also always welcome purchase suggestions.” Learn more: oppl.org/request

The Village of Oak Park periodically uses formal market research tools to help policy makers better understand priorities for government action, as well as gauge citizen opinions on quality of life and public services.

Complete results from the 2017 National Citizen Survey can be found at oak-park.us/sites/default/files/surveys/2017-oak-park-illinois-community-survey-complete.pdf.

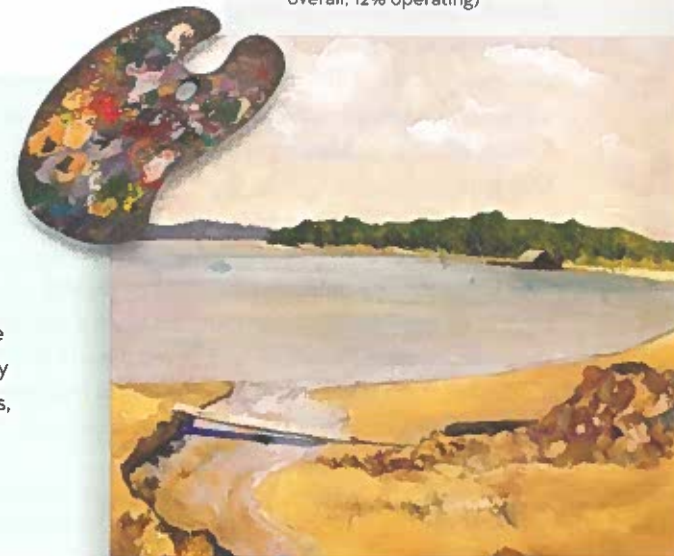
Here’s what results revealed about the library:

84% of Oak Parkers surveyed said they use the library

87% of Oak Parkers surveyed rate the value of services for property taxes paid as excellent or good

Preserving and providing access TO OAK PARK’S HISTORY

When the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park (EHFOP) closed its museum at 200 N. Oak Park Ave. in 2017, many objects found a new home at the Main Library. These included an artist’s palette (pictured at right) likely owned by Ernest’s mother, Grace Hall Hemingway. Hundreds of Hemingway family artifacts, including drawings, letters, and photos, are in the Illinois Digital Archives (idaillinois.org) and can be seen by appointment and during Special Collections Open Houses in July. More: oppl.org/special-collections



Rennie in Rhapsody, by Jesse Howard, is the newest acquisition to our art collection. More: oppl.org/art

Private donations, PUBLIC ART

In addition to a Main Library Art Gallery with rotating exhibits, the library has a permanent collection of art to engage our multicultural community with works that are challenging, intriguing, and enduring.

The collection was established with funds raised before the 2003 opening of the Main Library. Funds continue to be raised through a percentage of sales of artwork exhibited in the gallery and through donations. Some pieces are donated, including a mask created by Oak Park sculptor Geraldine McCullough. Oak Park property tax dollars do not pay for maintenance of or new acquisitions to our permanent art collection. More: oppl.org/art

Civic Literacy

“There is a rewarding, even exhilarating role for each of us in making democracy real.”

—*Daring Democracy*
by Frances Moore Lappe



February meeting of Moms Demand Action, at capacity in the Main Library Community Engagement Space. Providing public spaces to learn, collaborate, and create is a core library service available to the community. More: oppl.org/space



The Book Bike is one way we bring storytimes out into the community. See more on page 15 and at oppl.org/bike

DO FENCES *make good neighbors?*

Our new *Civically Engaged Reader* series, in which we ponder the meaning of civic activity, launched on May 8. The group read and discussed “They’ll Say, She Must Be From Another Country” by Imtiaz Dharker and “Mending Wall” by Robert Frost. Both poems deal with barriers and community building. The group had a lively discussion about whether fences make good neighbors, and whether invisible barriers exist in our community. What do you think?

Join us for one or all of the following discussions. Copies of the book are available as Hot Picks, and through the library catalog. Find specific selections we’re reading and discussing at oppl.org/calendar.

MONTHLY DISCUSSIONS

Tuesdays, 7–8 pm, Main Library Book Discussion Room

June 12 | Part I: Associating (pp. 3–82)

July 10 | Part II: Serving (pp. 85–154)

Aug. 14 | Part III: Giving (pp. 157–220)

Sept. 11 | Part IV: Leading (pp. 223–290)

Oct. 9 | Final discussion: What Is Justice?

- “Second Inaugural Address” by Abraham Lincoln (pp. 278–279)
- “Letter from Birmingham Jail” by Martin Luther King, Jr. (copies available at the discussion)

CONNECTING COMMUNITY

See pages 18–19 for details about One Book, One Oak Park, the community summer reading program striving to bring us all together through one great read.



OUR COLLECTIONS, *ourselves*

“When children cannot find themselves reflected in the books they read ... they learn a powerful lesson about how they are devalued in the society of which they are a part.” —Rudine Sims Bishop, “Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors” (1990)

BRIDGING DIVERSITY GAPS

This spring, a diverse Children’s Services task force embarked on an audit of about 500 “go-to” picture books used in library storytimes. The goals? To determine gaps in representation regarding gender, race, disability, body image, language, and more. And to bridge those gaps by replacing some books with more inclusive ones exploring

similar topics and themes.

The team is asking questions like: Do the text and illustrations promote a positive or negative body image? Do they reinforce gender or racial stereotypes? Does the author identify with a marginalized group? Is the work bilingual? If a character has a disability, is that their only characteristic?

“Our team has a variety of viewpoints, with diversity in age, gender, race, and storytime experience,” said Early Literacy Librarian Shelley Harris. “We’re all coming with our own experiences, and having great conversations about books that have been part of our collection for years. Some we all love, some we have already flagged to remove, and some we debate.”

This audit is part of a larger initiative to examine all collections, to be intentional about creating a truly diverse collection, in all available formats, true to the library’s Collection Strategy Statement (oppl.org/collection-strategy).

#WENEEDDIVERSEBOOKS

We Need Diverse Books, a grassroots organization that advocates changes in the publishing industry, notes that statistics on the diversity gap in children’s literature can be traced back to at least 1965, when a three-year review showed that only 6.7 percent of children’s books had one or more African-American characters.

Despite our nation’s growing diversity, the American publishing industry hasn’t caught up, as recent statistics and studies show. For example, multicultural publisher Lee & Low Books reported in 2016 that although people of color make up 37 percent of the U.S. population, only 11 percent of children’s books published from 1994 to 2016 contained multicultural content.

Harris noted that the Cooperative Children’s Book Center studies the diversity of every book they receive. Of the 698 received in 2017, only two starred kids with disabilities.

“A picture book character was twice as likely to be a rabbit than a Native American child,” she said. “It’s so frustrating. But until publishing catches up to where it ought to be, we can still ensure that we are buying and sharing the published books that reflect our community so that every family can see themselves at the library.”

FIND IT IN THE CATALOG



Run for Something: A Real-Talk Guide for Fixing the System Yourself
by Amanda Litman



Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want
by Frances Moore Lappe



What You Should Know About Politics But Don’t: A Nonpartisan Guide to the Issues That Matter
by Jessamyn Conrad



What Does It Mean to Be White? Developing White Racial Literacy
by Robin DiAngelo



“A compelling look at African-American life and history in the wake of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s untimely death through the two terms of our nation’s first black president.”
—Larry Nance, Branch and Access Services Supervisor on Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise (on DVD)



“Seuss is a reminder of how racism infects our minds in ways that we’re not aware.”
—Author Philip Nel, interview with The Washington Post, December 11, 2017

MOVING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION FORWARD: STAFF & COMMUNITY PICKS

Financial Literacy

includes services and materials to improve management of personal finances, business start-up and development, and to improve the skills needed to find and apply for jobs and advance careers."

—Lori Pulliam, Director of Public Services and Programs



Librarian Rashmi Swain helps job seekers with computer classes, seminars, and one-on-one help by appointment. Here she offers resume help to a patron who also attended a May seminar on applying for jobs online. Find more seminars below and at oppl.org/job-search.



LET'S WORK together

Bridget Opholt, Business & Government Services Librarian

Providing public spaces

to learn, collaborate, and create is a core library service we offer the community. Anyone with a library card can reserve a meeting space at the library, including local businesses and nonprofit groups who use our spaces for meetings, panel discussions, workshops, and more.

- Auditorium, classroom, or conference style setups
- A/V equipment included in some spaces; bring your own laptops
- Free WiFi

More: oppl.org/spaces



LOOKING for a job?

We can help you fine-tune your resume, sharpen your interviewing style, and develop stronger technical skills at our seminars. Register at oppl.org/job-search, in person at any library location, or by calling 708.452.3480. Walk-ins welcome, as space permits.

LINKEDIN FOR JOB SEEKERS
Wednesday, June 13, 2–4 pm, Main Library

TIPS FOR SUBMITTING ONLINE JOB APPLICATIONS
Thursday, Aug. 23, 2–4 pm, Main Library

ACCESS SUBSCRIPTION-BASED resources that Google can't offer

LYNDA'S LEARNING PATHS

These carefully curated groups of courses, quizzes, and practice sections focus on specific topics, such as 3D and animation, audio and music, and business. Start on a learning path to become a Java developer, advance your career as a graphic designer, become an SEO expert, improve your mobile photography skills, and more.

Find more digital learning opportunities, in person and online: oppl.org/digital



At the library, we provide public spaces to learn, collaborate, and create. It's a core service we offer our business community, as well as nonprofit organizations and individuals.

Another core service I can offer small business owners and others is my expertise with the library's collections. When community partners like the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce reserve library spaces for their workshops, panel discussions, and meet-ups, I like to think about how we can work together so I can add value.

Here's one example: To help attendees get more out of a panel

discussion on personal and business coaching put on by the chamber's Women in Business affinity group in February, I curated library resources, including related ebook titles, Lynda.com courses, and books recommended by the five business owners on the panel (see below).

That's just one simple, yet effective example of how I can use my expertise to tailor what the library offers to an organization's needs.

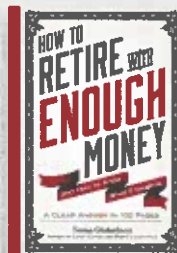
Do you have an idea for how the library can partner with your organization? If so, contact me at bopholt@oppl.org or 708.452.3466.

SPACES TO learn, grow, connect

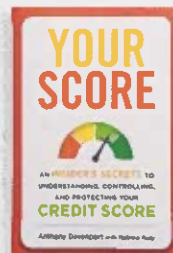
In April, we collaborated with Oak Park's African American Christian Foundation and Maywood's Economic Growth Initiative to provide space for a one-day entrepreneurship bootcamp.

Throughout the year, aspiring business owners use library space to meet with SCORE mentors—active and retired business people who provide free and confidential business counseling. Make an appointment: scorechicago.org/request-meeting

FIND IT IN THE CATALOG



How to Retire With Enough Money, and How to Know What Enough Is by Teresa Ghilarducci



Your Score: An Insider's Secrets to Understanding, Controlling, and Protecting Your Credit Score by Anthony Davenport

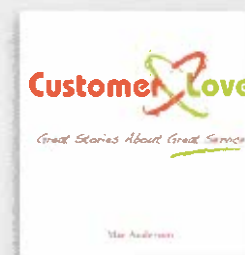


Infographic Guide to Personal Finance: A Visual Reference You Need to Know by Michele Cagan



OPRF CHAMBER WOMEN IN BUSINESS RECOMMEND

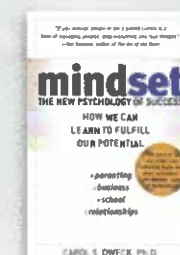
Women in Business meets at the library twice a month. See a full schedule: oprfchamber.org



Customer Love by Mac Anderson



Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain

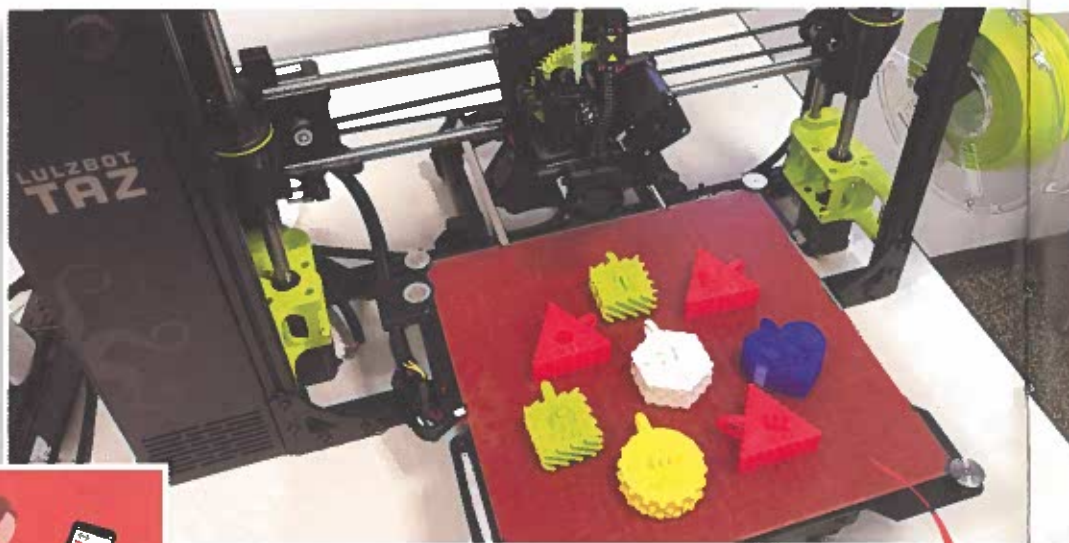


Mindset: The New Psychology of Success by Carol S. Dweck

"Digital literacy

includes services and materials to access technology, build technology-related skills and confidence, and make beneficial use of digital resources and services to meet patron needs."

—Elizabeth Marszalik, Director of Collections and Technology



Find more digital learning events: oppl.org/digital

EXPERIMENT *with digital maker tools*

INCLUDING OUR LASER CUTTER, VINYL CUTTER, AND 3D PRINTER!

FOR ADULTS & TEENS

MAKER SERIES: OPEN LAB

Wednesday, June 13, Wednesday, July 18, and Thursday, Aug. 16, 7–8 pm, Main Library Computer Classroom. Materials will be provided. Computer experience is required. Creations may need to be picked up after the program ends. Register now for one or more sessions.

FOR KIDS ENTERING GRADES 4–6

KIDS' TECH LAB

Thursdays, June 21, July 26, Aug. 9, 4–5 pm, Main Library Computer Classroom. Creations may need to be picked up later. Register now for one or more sessions.

FOR TEENS

TEEN MAKER LAB

Thursdays, June 14–July 19, 3:30–5 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Registration not needed.

MAKER SPACES

"We have a lot of cool tech tools at the library and staff with fabulous skills and interests," said Digital Learning Coordinator Deidre Winterhalter.

This spring, staff and kids in grades 6–12 designed 3D-printed objects, made stop-motion animation films, and experimented with virtual reality glasses.

"We used our mobile lab stocked with items like iPads and laptops, meeting kids where they are, both inside and outside the library," Winterhalter said.



DIGITAL LEARNING *for all*

Recently, a patron contacted us to ask if we'd offer tech classes specifically for older adults, covering things like how to get online, find one's way around a computer, and use a smartphone. "A lot of this knowledge is taken for granted by kids who learned it in school or picked it up on their own because they are techies," the patron wrote.

We agree that digital learning can't be taken for granted. That's why, in addition to helping residents on our regular visits to the Mills Park Tower and Oak Park Arms senior living communities, we

provide digital learning opportunities, resources, and expertise to anyone who wants to improve their tech skills.

ONGOING IN-PERSON OPPORTUNITIES AT THE MAIN LIBRARY INCLUDE:

- Tech Time Drop-In every Tuesday, 9–11 am
- Group tech workshops
- One-on-one Learning Lab sessions, available by appointment

TECH TIME DROP-IN

Tuesdays, 9–11 am. Drop in to the Main Library Computer Classroom with your technology questions. From phones to ebooks to privacy and security, our experts can help you on your way to tech wizardry.

More tech workshops and ways to learn: oppl.org/digital

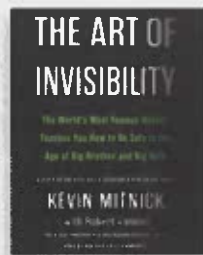
In the weekly Tech Time Drop-In sessions, patrons have learned how to use new smartphones and laptops, edit photos, create flyers, and more.

"We've found the best experiences come from meeting individuals where they are," said Digital Learning Coordinator Deidre Winterhalter. "Because each person's range of experiences and goals is unique, the weekly drop-in sessions are providing our community with the most efficient, effective ways to learn."

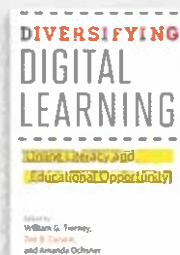
FIND IT IN THE CATALOG



Think Before You Like: Social Media's Effect On the Brain and the Tools You Need to Navigate Your Newsfeed by Guy P. Harrison



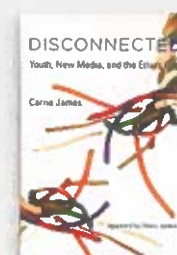
The Art of Invisibility: The World's Most Famous Hacker Teaches You How to Be Safe in The Age of Big Brother and Big Data by Kevin D. Mitnick



Diversifying Digital Learning: Online Literacy and Educational Opportunity by William G. Tierney



Protecting Your Children Online: What You Need to Know About Online Threats to Your Children by Kimberley A. McCabe



Disconnected Youth, New Media, and The Ethics Gap by Carrie James



Create to Learn: Introduction to Digital Literacy by Renee Hobbs

Early Literacy

“The single most important thing we can do to help our children grow into thoughtful, compassionate, literate adults is to read aloud to them.”

—Raising Bookworms: Getting Kids Reading for Pleasure and Empowerment by Emma Walton Hamilton



Two-year-old Rory is one of nine children who have finished the library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. By this May, 868 babies, toddlers, and preschoolers had signed up for the program that's all about growing early readers. More: oppl.org/early



‘LIKE YOGA for the mind’

Our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program asks families to read—you guessed it—1,000 books together before their babies, toddlers, and preschoolers become kindergarteners. After finishing 1,000 books, each child gets to pick out a book to take home and keep, and is invited to a special graduation party at the library held twice a year. Learn more at oppl.org/early.

Jillian Zarlenga and her daughter, Rory, who turns 3 in August, finished the program this spring, reading favorites like the *Knuffle Bunny* series by Mo Willems (and many more). Here, Jillian shares some tips:

HOW DO YOU FIT READING INTO YOUR DAY? We always read for one hour after her nap. We have that protected time every single day. That's our recovery time, where we don't have any tantrums, and we're not stressed. It's like yoga for the mind.

WAS IT HARD TO REACH 1,000 BOOKS? We burned through it in 12 weeks, reading about 100 books a week. Even if you read 100 a month, you can do

it. If you let the child lead the way, it goes really fast. I don't say no if she wants to read, even if I'm doing something. She also reads with her dad, and by herself a lot.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT READING TOGETHER? So many things. It gives us inside jokes that come up months later. Suddenly she'll talk about something we read a while ago, and we'll giggle a lot. It's also expanded her vocabulary and has made it so much easier to communicate.

WHAT DID YOU GET OUT OF PARTICIPATING? Our habit of reading for an hour after Rory's nap originated with this program. It's really changed our day for the better. And we feel like we're accomplishing something every week. The dishes may not be done, and the laundry may not be done, but we can say we read 100 books. And we can talk about the dishes not being done, using a wide vocabulary.

Meet Jenny Jackson,

Children's Outreach & Programming Specialist

“Goodness, I absolutely love my job! I get to spend the majority of my time with our youngest patrons. My mornings are spent visiting daycares and preschools in the community. While there, the children and I share books, songs, rhymes, puppets and a whole lot of laughter. My afternoons are spent facilitating library programs at all three of our library locations.

I like to speak with the children who attend our schools and visit the library to hear what sorts of programs they would like to explore. I am always amazed by the kids I am fortunate enough to spend time with! I may start out with an idea, and then they mold it, throw in heaps of creativity, and make it brighter than I could have ever imagined.”

More: oppl.org/meet-jenny

POP-UP LIBRARY in the parks

SHARE BOOKS, SONGS, AND PLAY IN OUR PARKS

“This idea stemmed from what we heard while talking with young families and home daycare providers last summer, about feeling isolated and appreciating opportunities to meet up with other community members and home daycare providers in a public space,” said Neighborhood Services Librarian Sarah Yale.

Weather permitting, we'll pop up in local parks throughout summer. Come check out books from the Book Bike, engage with neighbors, and sign up for the summer reading program (more on pages 16–17).

TUESDAYS

June 5, 3:30–4:30 pm, Maple Park

June 19, 10–11 am, Euclid Square Park

July 3, 3:30–4:30 pm, Rehm Park

July 17, 10–11 am, Barrie Park

Aug. 7, 10–11 am, Andersen Park

Aug. 28, 3:30–4 pm, Field Park

Sept. 11, 10–11 am, Mills Park

Sept. 18, 3:30–4:30 pm, Fox Park

See all storytimes at oppl.org/storytimes.

FIND IT IN THE CATALOG

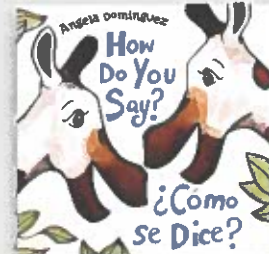
#WENEEDDIVERSEBOOKS

We've been auditing our storybook collection to make it more diverse and inclusive. Read about it on page 9 and check out a few highlights from the expanded collection. ▶



Wild Berries by Julie Flett

Includes Cree vocabulary, written by a tribally enrolled Cree-Métis author and illustrator



How Do You Say? ¿Cómo Se Dice? by Angela Dominguez

Bilingual English/Spanish



Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion by Alex Smith

Retelling of Little Red Riding Hood in an African setting



Marta! Big & Small by Jen Arena

Bilingual English/Spanish



Peekaboo Morning by Rachel Isadora

Multigenerational

READING TAKES *you everywhere*

Stories are powerful. They transport us to faraway places. We journey through space and time with them. We even get lost in them.

Let's go on adventures this summer! Sign up for our summer reading program starting June 1, and let reading take you everywhere.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Visit any library location or the Book Bike to sign up from June 1 to Aug. 21. Get a reading and activity log tailored to your kids' age or grade level. Follow the directions and take flight.

WHO CAN DO IT? All the kids! There's no Oak Park residency requirement, and we welcome all kids from birth through ninth grade.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE? Visit us in person or at oppl.org/kids.

NEED IDEAS? Find updated reading lists by age and grade at oppl.org/kids-lists.

➔ See a sampling of summer events on these pages, and more at oppl.org/calendar.



travel

ARTIFACT DISCOVERY SERIES
Travel the world by exploring artifacts from the Multicultural Collection.
Ages 5+.

- **Australia:** Monday, June 4, 2–3 pm, Maze Branch
- **Africa:** Tuesday, June 19, 2–3 pm, Dole Branch
- **South America:** Tuesday, July 24, 2–3 pm, Dole Branch
- **Asia:** Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2–3 pm, Maze Branch
- **North America:** Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2–3 pm, Dole Branch

BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION
Friday, July 13, 2–3 pm, Dole Branch. Celebrate French culture with crafts, books, and artifacts from the Multicultural Collection. Ages 4+.

tinker

TECH TIME TINKERING
Saturday, June 2, 11 am–1 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Discover podcasts, create your own worlds with coding, and explore new realms with virtual reality. For families with kids ages newborn through middle school.

STOP-MOTION ANIMATION SUPERHERO(RINE)MANIA STORY CREATION
Thursday, June 14, 6:30–8 pm, Main Library. Travel to Naboo, Krypton, or any galaxy you choose while creating a scene using stop-motion animation. Ages 7–12 with a caregiver. Register now.

take action

GLOBAL CITIZENS SERIES
Wednesdays, June 13, 27; July 11, 18, 25; Aug. 1, 8, 15, 4–5 pm, Main Library. Find new ways to engage with the world, including gardening for the local food pantry and writing postcards to elected officials. Ages 4–12.



family learn & CONNECT

WTTW KIDS BIG IDEA TRAVELING LAB PROGRAM
Thursday, June 14, 10:30–11:30 am, Main Library Veterans Room. Discover your own everyday big idea and stay to meet a PBS Kids character. Ages 2–7.

JUGGLING FUNNY STORIES
Monday, June 18, 4–5 pm, Maze Branch. Laugh out loud as nationally known family entertainer Chris Fascione brings children's stories to life. More at JugglingFunnyStories.com. Ages 5+.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS LIBRARY ADVENTURE
Tuesdays, June 19, July 10, 7–8:30 pm, Main Library. Learn together and play the classic interactive game. For kids going into grades 5–8 with an adult caregiver. Register now.

MAMMALS AND MORE
Friday, Aug. 17, 4–5 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Learn about animal life, conservation, and unique creatures, including two of our very favorite sloths, Steve and Eve. Ages 4+.



Teens OPPL.ORG/TEENS

TEEN SUMMER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

From June through August, dedicated teams of teens are engineering, performing, creating, and volunteering on projects with us, including leading a book drive for people who are incarcerated. Besides helping our community, they're building useful skills to help them in future education and employment.

A PLACE FOR ALL TRIBES

Thursdays, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, 4–6 pm, Maze Branch. This new LGBTQ+ positive group provides a space for tweens and teens in grades 6–12 to get together, discuss different issues, share favorite books, sponsor and provide support for activism, plan outings, and more. In partnership with Oak Park and River Forest High School's A Place for All and the Rainbow Tribes of both Julian and Brooks Middle Schools.



Kick-Off Events

GREEN SCREEN PHOTO-OP
Friday, June 1, 3–6 pm, Main Library Storytime Room. What's your reading destination this summer? Travel wherever you want to go with our props in your very own green-screen photo-op. All ages.



MEET UP, EAT UP & READ UP
Most Wednesdays

this summer, weather permitting, the library Book Bike visits St. Catherine of Siena / St. Lucy School, 27 Washington Blvd., Oak Park, a free lunch site for kids and teens through the OPRF Food Pantry, to give out free books and sign up kids for the summer reading program. More info: oppl.org/bike

REACHING KIDS *where they are*

"A lot of families are busy and don't have time to make it into the library," said Genevieve Grove, Elementary School Services Librarian. "So we work hard to reach kids where they are."

During the school year, we bring library items to Oak Park Elementary School District 97 breakfast sessions. "I remember one visit, a boy enthusiastically picked up a science encyclopedia because he wants to be a veterinarian one day," Grove said. "Another girl snatched up a copy of Sharon Creech's *Moo* and hugged the book tightly, as it was already one of her favorites."

Kids at Park District of Oak Park Clubhouse after-school sites can check out and return library books on-site. "It's even easier now that the library has automatic renewals and is fine free," Grove said (see page 3).

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF CHICAGO

POEMS BY

Kevin Coval

FOREWORD BY
Chance The Rapper

ONE BOOK

ONE OAK PARK

One book, ONE OAK PARK

This summer's One Book, One Oak Park pick is a collection of poems celebrating the hidden history of Chicago from the perspective of everyday people, the 99 percent.

In *A People's History of Chicago*, poet Kevin Coval—who founded the youth poetry festival Louder Than a Bomb and teaches hip-hop aesthetics at the University of Illinois-Chicago—honors people of color, working people, and the poor as he traces the city's history in 77 poems. He dives into topics like the race riots of 1919, Disco Demolition in 1979, and the 2015 police shooting of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald.

"Coval's poetry is all about lifting up hidden voices," said Librarian and One Book Coordinator Margita Lidaka. "It is also the first time the library is reading and discussing poetry as a community-wide effort."

Now in its fifth year, One Book, One Oak Park is our community-wide summer reading program for adults and teens. It offers neighbors, families, and friends opportunities to connect, learn, and grow by reading and discussing themes explored in one specific title.

Library copies are available in print and as ebooks on OverDrive. Find discussion guides and all events at oppl.org/one-book.

EVENTS for adults & teens

BILL AYERS: POETRY AND PEOPLES' STRUGGLES

Wednesday, June 6, 7–8 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Delve into the pure power of poetry with local legend Bill Ayers, who will lead engaging discussion and an audience Q&A session.

POETRY WORKSHOP

Thursday, June 7, 6–7 pm, Main Library Community Engagement Space. Explore the art of writing and appreciating poetry with accomplished poet and vocalist Luis Tubens, the library's first artist in residence.

PILSEN MURAL TOUR

Sunday, July 22, 2–3 pm, Off-site: National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St., Chicago. Meet at the National Museum of Mexican Art for a tour of the Pilsen neighborhood and community art led by poet and vocalist Luis Tubens, the library's first artist in residence. Museum entry is free. Register now.

WATCH & DISCUSS: LOUDER THAN A BOMB

Tuesday, August 14, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Watch the 2010 documentary and stay for a discussion led by Peter Kahn of Oak Park and River Forest High School's Spoken Word Club.

DISCUSS THE BOOK

- Thursday, June 14, 3–4 pm, Maze Branch (in the courtyard outside, weather permitting)
- Wednesday, June 20, 1–2:30 pm, Main Library Book Discussion Room
- Tuesday, July 10, 7–8:30 pm, Dole Branch Meeting Room
- Wednesday, Aug. 8, 6–7 pm, Off-site: Two Brothers Social Tap (100 S. Marion St., Oak Park)

WALK & TALK

With library staff Jim Madigan & Kelly Knowles (weather permitting):

- Tuesday, June 12, 4–5:30 pm, Northwest corner of Chicago & East avenues
- Tuesday, June 19, 6–7:30 pm, Southwest corner of Lake Street & Ridgeland Avenue
- Wednesday, June 27, 4–5:30 pm, Northwest corner of Chicago & Humphrey avenues



Library staff read from *A People's History of Chicago* outside the house where celebrated African-American chemist Percy Julian once lived. Named Chicagoan of the Year in 1950, still he was subjected to threats and violence in Oak Park.

"We are reading this book about Chicago, but we want to tie in and visit the Oak Park connections by themes."

—Deputy Director Jim Madigan

Themes include the African-American, Latinx, LGBTQ, and working-class experiences; celebrating the arts, poets, and poetry; and building the city of Chicago.

hidden HISTORIES

In late April, library staff headed to a community landmark to discuss *A People's History of Chicago*, this year's One Book pick, in preparation to discuss it inside and outside the library all summer. "One of the wonderful things about this book is it tells the hidden, suppressed history of Chicago," said Deputy Director Jim Madigan.

They stood at the northwest corner of Chicago and East avenues in Oak Park, studying the home and sprawling grounds at 515 N. East Ave. Here was a place with its own hidden history.

In June 1951, someone hurled a stick of dynamite at the home. It was the second time someone had attempted to set fire to this house, where renowned African-American chemist Percy Julian had moved with his family the previous year. Although no one was physically harmed, these attempts—and the death threats that would follow—sent a clear message that the black residents were not wanted.

The Julians stayed in their home, supported by more than 200 community members who signed a petition against the violence. No one was ever charged for the crimes.

"Even though there is a statue of Percy Julian in Scoville Park, right outside the Main Library, even though there's a middle school named after him, I'd guess that many Oak Parkers don't know this story," Madigan said. "Someone needs to remember these stories."

A NOW STORY, A STILL STORY

One of the themes that runs through the hidden histories in *A People's History of Chicago*, Madigan said, is white on black violence to maintain white supremacy.

And one of the poems that resonated with staff outside the Julians' home was "The Murder of Eugene Williams."

In July 1919, white men hurled rocks at a black boy swimming in Lake Michigan near Chicago's 29th Street Beach, which

was reserved for whites. The teen, Eugene Williams, drowned. His death, and the police's refusal to make any arrests, set off brutal riots throughout the city.

*& again water graves claim Black
& again white police refuse to arrest
& again white gangs rally*

—From "The Murder of Eugene Williams,"
A People's History of Chicago

Although Williams was murdered in Chicago in 1919, and Julian's family was assaulted in 1950s Oak Park, "these historical events resonate and affect people throughout history," Madigan said.

As Supervisor Kelly Knowles put it: "It's a now story, a still story."

With this book, and its themes that bridge time and place, "We're finding we're part of not only this story but many stories," she said. "We want to shake, wake, provoke curiosity."

Photo courtesy of Kevin Coval

Meet Kevin Coval

Wednesday, June 27, 6:30–8 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Meet poet and community builder Kevin Coval, the author of 10 books, editor of *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*, and co-writer of the play *This Is Modern Art*, which premiered at Steppenwolf Theater in 2015. He is also the Artistic Director of Young Chicago Authors, founder of Chicago youth poetry festival Louder Than a Bomb, and co-host of the WGN Radio podcast *The CornerStore*.



MAIN LIBRARY

834 Lake St. | 708.383.8200
Monday–Thursday: 9 am–9 pm
Friday: 9 am–6 pm
Saturday: 9 am–5 pm
Sunday: 1–6 pm

DOLE BRANCH

255 Augusta St. | 708.386.9032
Monday: Closed
Tuesday–Thursday: 10 am–9 pm
Friday: 10 am–6 pm
Saturday: 10 am–5 pm
Sunday: 1–6 pm

MAZE BRANCH

845 Gunderson Ave. | 708.386.4751
Monday–Thursday: 10 am–9 pm
Friday: Closed
Saturday: 10 am–5 pm
Sunday: 1–6 pm

REGISTRATION

Some events require registration.
Call 708.383.8200 or visit
oppl.org/calendar for the latest
information and all events.

ACCESSIBILITY

For accommodations at an event or
class, please contact us, allowing
seven days' notice to best serve you.
More: oppl.org/accessibility

PROMOTION

Library programs and classes are
often photographed and/or recorded
for promotional purposes. Please
let us know if you prefer not to be
photographed or recorded.

Printed on recycled paper. More: fsc.org

**ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER**



WHEN

Friday, July 27, 6–10 pm.

- \$5 admission fee, \$5 per electronic device.
- Free admission for Friends of the Oak Park Public Library

Saturday, July 28, 9 am–5 pm.

Free admission.

Sunday, July 29, 12–2 pm.

Nonprofit & Educator Appreciation!

Free admission and free materials to
everyone with valid nonprofit or educator
ID, or 501c document.

WHERE

Oak Park & River Forest High School,
201 N. Scoville Ave., Oak Park

WHY

The Friends of the Oak Park Public Library's
Annual Book Fair typically offers more than
100,000 books in every conceivable category.
With funds raised, the Friends continue a
tradition that supports literacy, learning, and
community connection. Proceeds support
programs including kids' summer reading
(pages 16–17).



SUPPORT THE FAIR

Thank you to everyone who donates to,
volunteers, and shops at the Friends'
Annual Book Fair.

Donate materials year-round only at the
Main Library:

- Sellable books, movies, music.
- All donations are tax deductible.
- Not accepted: magazines, textbooks,
and condensed texts (such as
Reader's Digest).

LEARN MORE: OPPL.ORG/FAIR

**BUILDING
CLOSINGS**

All library buildings
will be closed
Monday, May 28 and
Wednesday, July 4.

Friday, June 8 (Staff Day)

- Main Library open 2–6 pm
- Dole Branch open 2–6 pm
- Maze Branch closed

JUNE 2018						
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JULY 2018						
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