



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

**TO:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

**FROM:** Laura Blaker – Library Director

**DATE OF MEETING:** September 2, 2025

**ITEM TITLE:** Department Report – Library

### The Summer Reading Program is “in the books” for 2025

We enjoyed our summer reading program this year and had 1011 participants who read 758,922 minutes! Below are some quotes to let you know what the community said in this year’s post-summer reading program survey:

“My child discovered new vocabulary words through the books and has started using them in everyday conversations. It’s been exciting to see that growth.”

“We made it a family activity because of the program. Reading time turned into bonding time, and that helped them enjoy it even more.



“My child started seeing the library as a fun place, not just somewhere quiet. The reading program events and friendly staff made them want to go back often.”

“I come to the library...and usually end up visiting with old and new friends.”

“I really enjoyed discovering new skills in a fun way while having the chance to meet and connect with other people.”

“My kids checked out and read more books this summer than in the past because of your great programming! Your great events brought them into your space, and your book displays intrigued them.”

*City Connection: Promote and encourage community involvement and engagement.  
Improved quality of life for everyone.*



## Kanopy

The library has launched a video streaming service called Kanopy. With a library card you get tickets that you can use each month to stream movies, documentaries, and tv series on your smart TV, computer, or phone. Over 31,000 videos are available from Warner Brothers, MGM, Paramount, BBC, and more.

**kanopy**  
stream smarter

There is a section called Kanopy Kids with titles from Weston Woods, Sesame Street, Signed Stories, and more. Parental controls can be set to assist parents.

*City Connection: Support high quality city services.  
Improved quality of life for everyone.*

## On the Go with Oaklee

The library has been selling stuffed Oaklees. They are squirrels inspired by the carved Oaklee north of the library. We have encouraged people to take their mini Oaklee on vacation with them and take photos of him wherever they are. So far, a sampling of the places Oaklee has traveled is to the Buchanan County Fair, to all the midwestern states, California, Florida, Kentucky, Montana, and his international travel has included Iceland and Nigeria.



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## 1000 Books Before Kindergarten



We held another graduation for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten readers. IPL started the program almost three years ago, and have over 30 little ones who have graduated from the program! It's a great motivator for families to read to and bond with their young children. Also, being read to as a child fosters literacy skills critical for success in school.

*City Connection: Improved quality of life for everyone.  
Encourage a supportive environment for businesses, workforce, and economic development.  
Our young readers grow up and become part of our communities and workforce.*

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Growth*