

# Oelwein Public Library

2024 Annual Report

Library Board of Trustees

Brett Ingersoll, President

Cortney VanDenHul, Vice President

Melissa Franzen, Secretary

Anita Mars

Blake Kerns

Submitted by Susan Macken  
January 3, 2025



# Year in Review

- An AED was installed.
- Laminating services for the public were started.
- Staff completed their annual recertification as passport agents. Staff executed 121 passport applications in 2024.
- The Annual Charging Station Report was submitted to the Iowa DOT. There were 210 charging events with 36 unique users.
- A patron donated Opal the American Girl Baby Doll along with several handsewn doll clothes.
- The Children's Librarian attended the Youth Services Conference and gave a presentation on developing STEM programs.
- Board Member, Callie Berryman resigned after serving on the library board for 13 years. Melissa Franzen was appointed to fill this position.
- School Classes visited the library throughout the year to learn about using the library and checking out books. In the spring, they learn about the upcoming Summer Reading Program.
- The library offered temporary office space to City Hall staff during the asbestos removal process at city hall.



- VOX audio picture books and Interactive Reality books were added to the children's department.
- Staff attended the regional Learning Circuit to learn about using Artificial Intelligence in library services and attended the Iowa Library Association Conference in Des Moines.
- After 30 years of service, Schmitt Cleaning resigned from their duties maintaining the library building and grounds.

- The new Book Sign was installed to replace the old digital sign. The Library Logo was updated to reflect the Book Sign image.



## Programs and Events

- Author Sheriff Tony Tompson gave a program on mental illness and the criminal justice system.
- The new book club, Oelwein Reads, began their meetings at Ampersand.
- The library collaborated with the Oelwein Rotary Club to offer a program about two Rotarians who circumnavigated the world in their small plane to raise money for eradicating polio.
- The Riverview Center set up a display for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- ISU Extension taught a second series of classes on Healthy Aging and a Journey Through Parkinsons and a winter wreath making workshop.
- The Oelwein High School HEARTS group held a Diversity Event at the library. A Senior Seminar student held a Mad-Lib program.



- The Contemporary Affairs high school students toured the library and learned about the civic structure of the library, current issues facing libraries, and the library's connection with the community.
- Library staff designed Juneteenth and Pride Month displays.
- Crisis Intervention Services set up a display for the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims.



- The Summer Reading Program theme was *Read, Renew, Repeat*. Sixty-nine kids, teens, and adults registered to participate in a variety of programs such as the Stuffed Animal Sleepover, DIY tote bag, the annual Art Show, a visit from the Iowa Honey Queen, backyard conservation, and a Magic Show.
- The Oelwein Police Department organized a series of reading events with local officials.

- Fontana Naturalists brought in toads, salamanders, and Monarchs for the summer Creature Feature.



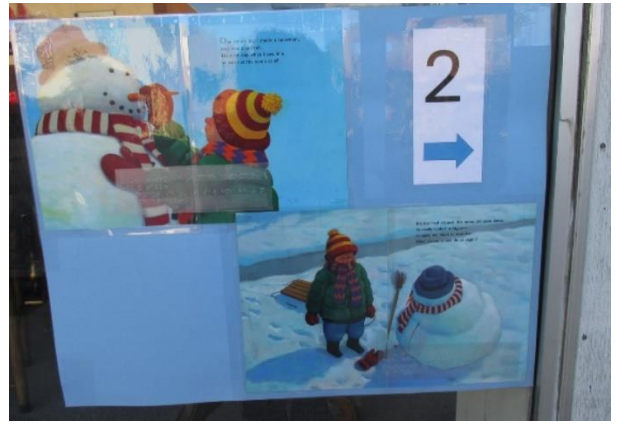
- Summer reading continued with the Smokey Bear Challenge in celebration of Smokey's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- RISE program participants attended an afternoon activity day.
- Care Initiative sponsored a class on Advance Care Planning.

- The Genealogy Club decided to retire the organization and gifted the library their club funds to sponsor programs. This year, the library offered a class on *Genealogy and DNA* presented by the Iowa Genealogical Society and author Ann Kotz on *Iowa's Prohibition and Bootlegging Legacy*.



- The children's librarian attended Back-Pack Night at the school and signed up children for library cards. In addition, she visits the HeadStart classroom each month for a Story Time.

- For the winter holiday season, library staff placed a *Snowmen at Night* Story Walk at downtown businesses for Olde Tyme Christmas and introduced a Winter Reading Challenge during the school winter break.



## Condition of the Building and Grounds

- The fire sprinkler system is inspected, quarterly. The communications for the fire alarms were updated by Hawkeye Alarm to a cell dialer. The expired fire extinguishers were replaced.
- A security camera overlooking the Reading Garden was replaced and the NVR was updated.
- The wiring for the automatic door opener in the meeting room vestibule was fixed. In addition, the ballasts were replaced in the large light fixture in the vestibule.
- For the HVAC system, various leaks were repaired, including a coil leak, the TXV was replaced, and two compressors were replaced.

- The building is treated with pest control, monthly.



- Schwickert’s replaced a shingle that had blown off the roof and caulked around some vents.
- A glass wall was installed in the children’s area to clearly define the children’s library and help reduce the transfer of noise.
- The cracks on the bike path were sealed and the entire path was resealed with asphalt.
- The pallet garden was replaced with a tub garden.
- Seedorf’s Masonry inspected the brick façade and did not identify any areas that needed immediate attention.
- All the carpeting was cleaned.

### Library Statistics

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b><i>Attendance</i></b>	<b>28,827</b>	26,734
<b><i>Program Attendance</i></b>	<b>2,118</b>	2,544
<b><i>Circulation of materials</i></b>	<b>44,845</b>	52,122

# Friends of the Library Contributions to the Library

## Speakers and Programs

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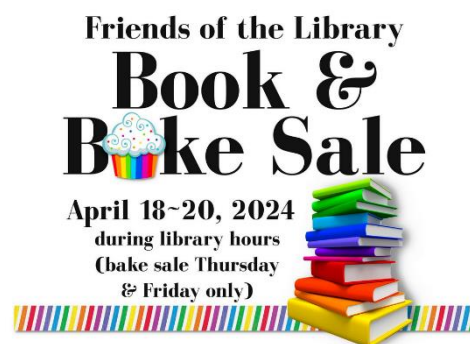
- ✓ Chocolate Festival in February
- ✓ Sponsored Dr Bechtel's animal program for Summer Reading
- ✓ Book and Bake Sales twice-a-year
- ✓ Sponsored the Scattergood Hostel speaker on assisting refugees during WWII



## Library Enhancements

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- ✓ Replaced three bushes in the planters along Highway 3
- ✓ Donated \$2500 towards the new library sign
- ✓ Planted flowers in the entryway flower boxes
- ✓ Decorated the Christmas Tree and provided Poinsettias at Christmas Time



## Community Outreach

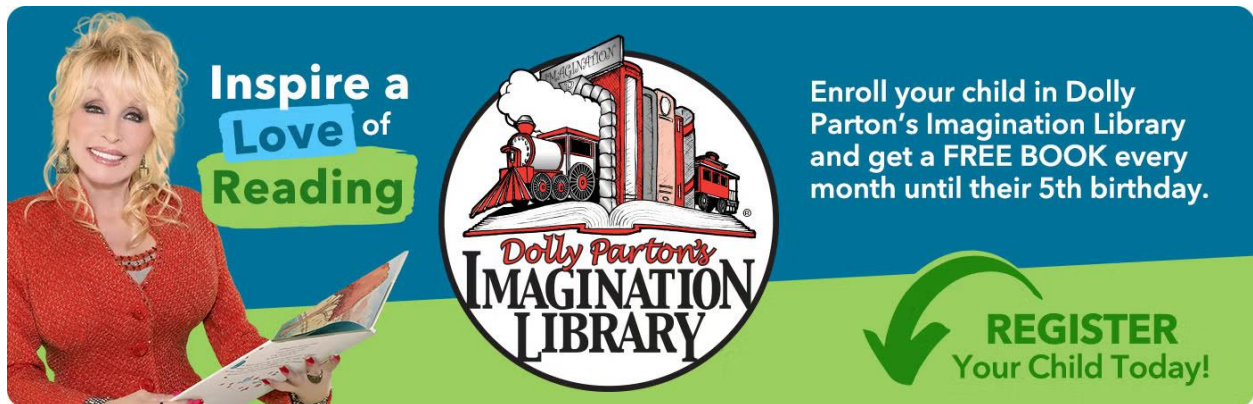
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- ✓ Dolly Parton Imagination Library co-sponsor
- ✓ Sponsored the *BookPage* book review magazine
- ✓ Memorial books in honor of Friend's Members who have passed away
- ✓ Keychains for new library patron's library card

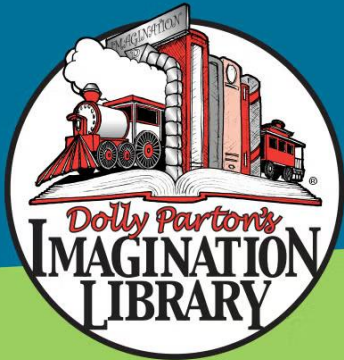


# Oelwein Public Library Foundation

- The Library Foundation co-sponsored the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Registrations increased by 26 children to a total of 182 children from age 0-5. One hundred six (106) children have graduated from the program. Each month, the children receive their own, age-appropriate book mailed directly to their home. Sponsorship rotates each year between the Foundation and the Friends of the Library.
- The Library Foundation donated \$500 towards the new library sign.



Inspire a  
**Love** of  
Reading



Dolly Parton's  
**IMAGINATION  
LIBRARY**

Enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and get a **FREE BOOK** every month until their 5th birthday.

**REGISTER**  
Your Child Today!

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