Intergovernmental Collaboration

Goal 2: Partner with local, state, and federal agencies to enhance the culture and resources of Oelwein.

Strategy 1a: Support the Oelwein Community School District in their growth and community engagement activities.

Action Item 1a1: Engage with the Oelwein Community School District regarding development plans and community activities.

Library Aid in Implementation

School Partnership – The School Early Literacy Team met with library staff to address the concern about low reading scores, especially with children from families of low socio-economic status.

- Library participates in Back Pack Night and gives families the opportunity to sign up for library cards.
- Library Board changed the registration policy. A student card does not need to be signed by a parent.
- Library staff are encouraging class visits throughout the year utilizing an online calendar for signups.
- School Staff and Library Staff are working with the schools on the possibility of having an afterschool bus stop at the library.
- Husky Adventures comes to the library on Wednesday's at 2:00.
- *Read Aloud family night is the first Monday of the month from 5:30-6:30.*
- Theme Thursday every Thursday at 4:00 offering youth programs using LEGOS, STEM projects, Bee Bots, and arts and crafts.
- Children's librarian reads to students at Head Start.
- Work with Senior Seminar students who wants to develop some programs that are attractive to students. This year's project: a Chess Club tournament. The sponsoring teacher and the children's librarian are scheduling additional Chess Tournaments.
- The Middle School Art Teacher will have students prepare artwork for the library art show.
- Library has the 1000 Books before Kindergarten incentive program.
- Friends of the Library and the Oelwein Library Foundation sponsor the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program where age appropriate books are mailed each month to a registered child's home ages birth to 5 years old.

Action Item 1a2: Promote community activities on the City website and various public spaces.

Library Aid in Implementation

Library Promotional Tools – Website, Facebook, Newsletter (paper and digital), Oelwein Daily Register available in Reading Room, Bulletin Boards, Digital Message Board, Posters and Flyers, Bookmarks

Community Vision & Character

Goal 2: Encourage participation in community-based opportunities.

Strategy 1a: Foster a strong sense of community culture.

Action Item 1a1: Promote festivals, community events, and recreational opportunities.

Library Aid in Implementation

Library Promotional Tools – Website, Facebook, Newsletter (paper and digital), Oelwein Daily Register available in Reading Room, Bulletin Boards, Digital Message Board, Posters and Flyers, Bookmarks

Action Item 1a2: Support cultural and arts initiatives that celebrate Oelwein's heritage and resilience.

Library Aid in Implementation

Cultural and Arts Initiatives -

- Installed the Musical Instrument Garden
- Host an Annual Community Art Show
- Initiate Oelwein Reads Book Club at Ampersand
- Host a wide variety of educational programs, author visits, and traveling exhibitions
- Promote library services and events to Oelwein Service Organizations
- Participate in Oelwein Celebrations: Party in the Park, Olde Tyme Christmas, Summer Celebrations
- Library Staff are members in a number of community clubs and organizations: Rotary, MacDowell Club, RSVP Advisory Council, United Way Board, Oelwein Historical Museum Board

Celebrate Oelwein's Heritage and Resilience -

- Oakdale Cemetery Walk Sharing the stories of Oelwein's pioneer families
- Curate a Local History and Genealogy collection
- Offer classes on genealogical research using Ancestry and Family Search
- Digitize Oelwein Daily Register from 1887
- Assisted with the Sesquicentennial by updating Oelwein's History Book from 1973-2023 and coordinating and overseeing the Time Capsule located in the library lot.