



# Oelwein Public Library

2022 Annual Report

Library Board of Trustees

Blake Kerns, President

Callie Berryman, Vice President

Brett Ingersoll, Secretary

Anita Mars

Cortney VanDenHul

Submitted by Susan Macken  
February 3, 2023



# Year in Review

- After serving on the Library Board of Trustees for 14 years, Catherine Gilson retired from her position on the board. Courtney VanDenHul joined the board in July and brings valuable perspectives being a teacher and having a young family.
- Dr. Beth Wahler visited the library while conducting a study on the feasibility of libraries collaborating with social workers. The results of the study will be addressed in 2023.



- The passport camera and printer was upgraded. Staff executed 126 passport applications in 2022.
- The wireless microphone was replaced in the meeting room. In addition, a MAC display adaptor was purchased for people needing to hook up to the LCD projector with MAC laptops.
- The Launchpad collection was expanded. These pre-loaded tablets come with fun, educational games.

- After a four-year hiatus, two staff members attended the Iowa Library Association Conference in Coralville.
- New teacher packets containing library-marketing materials were distributed.
- A grant was received to install an Outdoor Musical Instrument Garden. Staff are eager to see this develop in 2023.
- After tracking library usage patterns for more than a year, the library adjusted open hours to better serve the community. In general, hours were shifted to open earlier in the morning and Sunday hours were eliminated.
- The Library Board worked on the Five Year Plan needed for renewing the library's accreditation.



# Programs and Events



- The Oelwein Library was one in forty libraries across the United States to be chosen to host the *Thinking Money for Kids* exhibition.
- Author events included topics on dogs, a missionary, the Civil War, and the Villisca Axe Murder case.
- ISU Extension taught a number of classes including a fall wreath making workshop and a program on Scams & Frauds.

- The Iowa Department of Public Health led a program on Alzheimer's and Dementia.
- The children's librarian started weekly, after school programs called Theme Thursday and started monthly visits to read to the children at Head Start.
- The Summer Reading Program theme was *Read Beyond the Beaten Path*. A wide variety of programs were offered for kids, teens, and adults. Kids attended weekly camps and adults went to workshops to make recycled book wreaths and learn how to pan for gold.
- An EV Charging Station educational event was hosted by the library. Mallory from Upper Explorerland answered questions and arranged a Tesla demonstration drive.



# Condition of the Building and Grounds

- The sewer backup issue was resolved.
- The roof issues have been an ongoing discussion.
- The fire alarm monitoring system was activated with Hawkeye Alarm. The sprinkler test determined that the water pressure was too low. City crews identified and fixed a broken valve.
- The parking lot plantings were renovated and new landscaping rock was added. The parking lines were repainted.
- Six refurbished computer stations for patrons were installed.
- The outside steel beams were repainted.
- Two electric car charging stations were installed using grant funds.
- In July, the HVAC suction line vibration isolator was repaired. By November, two additional leaks were identified that need to be repaired.
- Three sound-masking units were set up.



## Oelwein Public Library Foundation

The Library Foundation sponsored the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. One hundred thirty-one (131) children, from age 0-5, are enrolled in this program with an additional 44 children graduating 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.

In addition, the Library Foundation and a library patron co-sponsored the Ancestry genealogy research database. Nine hundred forty-one (941) searches were performed on Ancestry. Library staff led a class on best practices for obtaining positive results.

A promotional banner for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and an Ancestry Library Edition workshop. The banner features Dolly Parton holding a stack of books, the text "YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH BOOKS INTO THE HANDS OF ENOUGH CHILDREN", and the workshop details: "Learn how to discover your roots at our Ancestry Library Edition workshop February 24 2:00pm". The banner is split into two sections: a blue section on the left with Dolly Parton and a yellow/orange section on the right with the workshop details.

# Friends of the Library Contributions to the Library

## Speakers and Programs

- ✓ “Thinking Money for Kids” refreshments
- ✓ “Fashions to Die For” Appreciation Tea
- ✓ Book and Bake Sale



## Library Enhancements

- ✓ Musical Instrument Garden
- ✓ Parking Lot Renovation
- ✓ Entry Flowers
- ✓ Poinsettias at Christmas Time

## Community Outreach

- ✓ Dolly Parton Imagination Library sponsor
- ✓ Book Page Book Review Magazine
- ✓ Memorial books in honor of Friend’s Members who have passed away
- ✓ Keychains for new library patron’s library card



## Library Statistics

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b><i>Attendance</i></b>	26,199	19,290
<b><i>Program Attendance</i></b>	1,882	991
<b><i>Circulation of materials</i></b>	49,326	42,447