



Oak Park Library is Transforming

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

Libraries across the nation are transforming, and so is the Oak Park Library. People, particularly the younger generation, are changing the way in which they learn and socialize, largely in part due to the onset of technology and social networks. Today's market is more apt to be do-it-yourselfers, thinkers and entrepreneurs who need more hands-on and interactive experiences. They seek a forum to network with peers and subject experts. They prefer to learn at their own pace, when needed, and are the true epitome of lifelong learners.

Traditionally, we learn by book, lecture and obtain degrees in a career category. Today, people are able to connect with technology in real time. The movement is working towards utilizing readily available technology for research, social networks to connect with others, and faster ways in

which to informally master a skill or topic of interest. Somewhere in between this change, libraries are transforming to meet the emerging needs.

"The Oak Park Library is transforming to something that's a little bit more community-centered," states Library Director Brandon Bowman who has added more events and programming to the mix and expanded Library hours. "For libraries, it's always been about community knowledge, but now we are incorporating new technologies, tapping into local experts, and bringing culture into the mix."

The Oak Park Library invites local experts to share their knowledge with others on topics of interest to groups of patrons. For example, the Library recently held a presentation on how to buy, appraise and sell hidden treasures with well-known antique appraiser Bob Ramsey. On February 6, the Library will host the Motor City Ghost Hunters, a group of locals who investigate paranormal activity throughout Southeast Michigan. On March 16,

“For libraries, it’s always been about community knowledge, but now we are incorporating new technologies, tapping into local experts, and bringing culture into the mix.”

Gwen Lewis’ Family Literacy Workshop will provide parents with helpful tips and valuable pointers to encourage their child to succeed in reading. The Library will also host Teen Tech Week on March 6-10, as part of a national initiative to encourage teens to use all the great resources that are available in libraries to make positive changes in their lives and within the community. These are resources that are available to teens for college and for 21st century careers.

The Library has opened its programming to multi-generational audiences as lifelong learning becomes more prevalent. For example, the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) Generation Makerspace programs are now open to adults and seniors, and not just an after school teen program anymore. The Library partners with the Oak Park Arts and Cultural Commission to coordinate a new monthly art appreciation program called, “You Create.” And, through a grant funded by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, Library patrons will be encouraged to explore the science of shadows, silhouettes, and cityscapes during a four-week program on Thursday afternoons in February.

Meanwhile, the Oak Park Library has become a gathering space for individuals with like interests. Take, for example, the Adult Coloring Club, Library Book Club, Historical Society, Tournament Tuesday card gaming crowd, Monday Movie Night followers, and the Family Game Night participants. Libraries are one of the few remaining gathering spaces for people with like interests to socialize, interact, share, explore, create, succeed and conquer.

“Just recently, the Adult Coloring Group has expressed an interest in learning how to shadow and tint their art,” states Bowman. “So, we are scouring the area for individuals who may be able to visit the Club and share their expertise in advanced coloring techniques.”

Realizing that not everyone is fluent in every technology, the Oak Park Library continually updates their technology and expands their partnerships to provide forums

for users of varying skill levels to further their ability to use the internet, access emails, post on social media, photograph with smart phones, and stay conveniently connected to the latest news and developments through today’s ever-changing technologies.

The Oak Park Library is located at 14200 Oak Park Boulevard, Oak Park, Mich. For more information on Oak Park Library events and activities, call (248) 691-7480.

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, closed

Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAN ON THE RUN

Author Carl Weber Meet and Greet

Wednesday, January 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Ages: Adult | FREE

Carl Weber, the author of "Man on the Run," will make an appearance at the Oak Park Library to discuss his book, meet the public, and sign books. Copies of Mr. Weber's book will be available for purchase. This event is co-sponsored by the Oak Park Library and Book Beat.

YOU CREATE

FREE

The Oak Park Library is partnering with the Oak Park Arts and Cultural Commission once a month for fun, artsy and creative experiences with our "You Create" projects. Whether we create make-and-take tiles, heads on a stick, or pet rocks, you can count on the experience being a little artsy and tad bit over-the-top fun.

Thursday, January 19, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Make and Take Tiles

Thursday, February 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Heads on a Stick

Thursday, March 16, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Pet Rocks



SHADOW PLAY

Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16 and 23, 4:30-5:15

Ages: Children of All Ages | FREE

Join us for a series of Shadow Play workshops based on the books of Ezra Jack Keats. We'll explore the science of shadows, trace our own shadows, create colorful silhouettes, construct cityscapes, and make collaborative large format banner creations. Shadow Play is funded by a grant from the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.

MOTOR CITY GHOST HUNTERS

Monday, February 6, 7-9 p.m.

Ages: Adult | FREE

Join us for an evening with the Motor City Ghost Hunters, a group of locals who investigate paranormal activity throughout Southeast Michigan. They will share stories of their experiences and the equipment they use to investigate. They will also share their findings from Holly Hotel, Historic Fort Gratiot and the Farmington Winery. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library.



VALENTINE'S DAY IS FOR BOOK LOVERS!

Tuesday, February 14, All Day

Author Meet and Greet 6:30-7:45 p.m. | Ages: All | FREE

Make Valentine's Day a day for book lovers! Plan a blind date with a good book or available author at the Oak Park Library. Visit the Library between 6:30-7:30 p.m. for an opportunity to speed date (interact, obtain autographs and buy books) with over 10 visiting authors. Mark your calendar, dress for comfort, and choose the good company of one great book, or date a variety of novels with topics that are of interest to you.

TEEN TECH WEEK – BE THE SOURCE OF CHANGE

Monday-Friday, March 6-10, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Ages: Youth | FREE

Teen Tech Week is a national initiative to encourage teens to use all the great resources that are available in the Oak Park Library to make a positive change in their lives and within their community. These are resources that are available to teens for college and for 21st century careers. Teens will walk away with make and take projects every day during Teen Tech Week.

FAMILY LITERACY WORKSHOP WITH GWEN LEWIS

Thursday, March 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Ages: Adults | FREE

Gwen Lewis' Family Literacy Workshop is an interactive presentation designed to provide parents and grandparents with helpful tips and valuable pointers to encourage their child to succeed in reading. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library.



DROP-IN PROGRAMS

MONDAY NIGHT MOVIE

Rated PG | FREE

If you're looking for a wonderful excuse to wander out of the house during these cold winter nights, come join our Monday Movie Night at the Oak Park Library. Our movies are family appropriate and fun – a great excuse to spend quality time with the family away from home.

Monday, January 9, 5:30 p.m. – Finding Dory, 103 minutes

Monday, February 20, 5:30 p.m. – The BFG, 108 minutes

Monday, March 20, 5:30 p.m. – Zootopia, 117 minutes

IT'S STORY TIME

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:05 a.m. | FREE

Ages: 2-6 Accompanied by an Adult

Our story time is a drop-in program for parents with children under the age of six. Come make friends, bond with your child, play and learn. Story time develops listening, literacy, and pre-reading skills while exposing your child to letters, numbers, shapes, colors, animals, and more. We read, sing, dance, move and play.

ADULT COLORING CLUB

Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. | FREE

If you would like to relax, exercise creativity and dabble in artistic projects, come join our Adult Coloring Club. When focusing on coloring as an art form, worries wash away. Coloring generates wellness, solitude, and stimulates areas of the brain that involve motor skills, the senses, and creativity. If you are new to adult coloring, no worries. The Oak Park Library supplies patterns, coloring pencils and gel pens.



TOURNAMENT TUESDAYS

Tuesdays, 6-7:45 p.m. | Ages: Youth and Adults | FREE

If you're a tabletop gamer who enjoys the competitive gaming experience, join us on Tournament Tuesdays at the Oak Park Library. Players of all skill levels are welcome. Some games on our repertoire include, Force of Will, Magic: the Gathering, Yu-Gi-Oh!, and other collectible card games. Whether you are collecting, trading or enjoying the game, come join in the fun! Tournament Tuesdays are sponsored by Collectible Investments.

STEAM: GENERATION MAKERSPACE

Every Other Wednesday, 4:30-5:15 p.m. | Ages: All | FREE

The STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) initiative is part of a larger effort to expose patrons to the fields of engineering and design by building skills in math, science and the arts. Through interesting projects, participants learn crucial problem-solving skills while gaining appreciation for various industries. Programs include, button making, fingerprint art, Ozobots, sensory bottles, Strawbees, and 3Doodlers.

Wednesday, January 4, Button Making

Wednesday, January 18, Fingerprint Art

Wednesday, February 1, Ozobots

Wednesday, February 15, Sensory Bottles

Wednesday, March 1, Strawbees

Wednesday, March 15, 3 Doodlers

Wednesday, March 29, Button Making

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Thursdays, 6-7:45 p.m. | Ages: All | FREE

Family game night is a great excuse for the whole family to enjoy a fun-filled evening, together. It's a time when the Oak Park Library unleashes our game collection for game lovers of all ages and abilities to create memories that last. Our game collection includes Leaping Lemmings, Monopoly, Munchkin, The Pact, Ravenous River, Red7, Skip-Bo®, The Tomb Game, Tycoon Games, The Witches, UNO, and more!

MEETINGS

Historical Society Meetings

Sunday, January 15, 2 p.m.

Sunday, February 19, 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 19, 2 p.m.

Library Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.

Friends of the Oak Park Library

Monday, January 9, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.

Library Book Club Meetings

Wednesday, January 4, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 1, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1, 6 p.m.



OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 26, 5-8 p.m.

Join us at the Oak Park Library to help us plan for the Library's future.