

Onawa Public Library

707 Iowa Ave.

Onawa, IA 51040 Ph. 712 423-1733

Annual Report 2023 - 2024



www.onawa.lib.ia.us



For those without money, the road to that treasure house of the imagination begins at the public library.

I have found the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card.

Laura Bush

"HAVING THE FREEDOM TO READ
AND THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE
IS ONE OF THE BEST GIFTS
MY PARENTS EVER GAVE ME."

- JUDY BLUME



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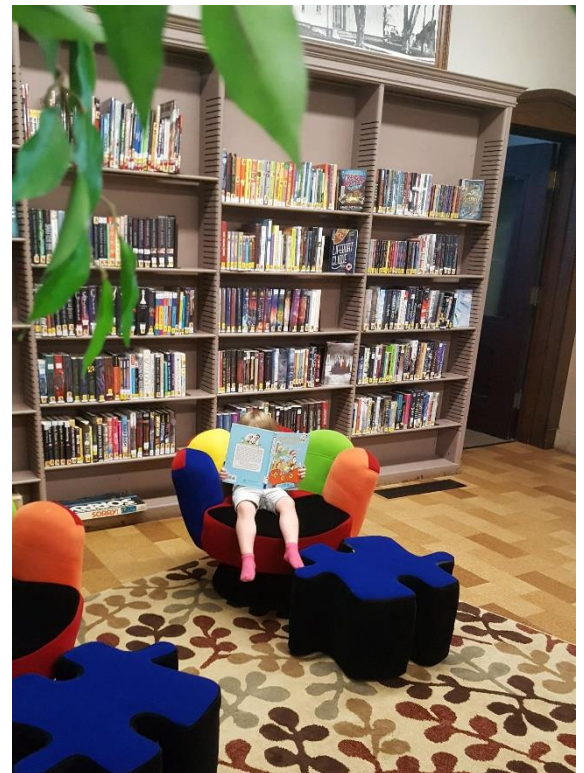


**"A truly great library
contains something in it
to offend everyone."**

—Jo Godwin

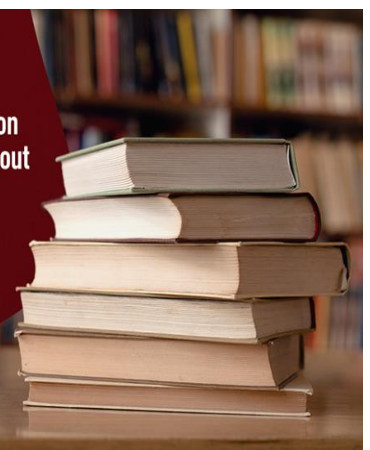
"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest."

Lady Bird Johnson



On June 25th, 1953 we said that we trust the people of this nation to make their own decisions about what they read and believe.

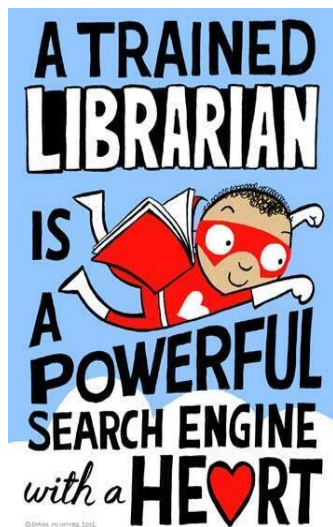
70 Years later, we still trust them to make their own decisions.





THE LIBRARY -- GOALS AND PERSONNEL

The Onawa Public Library provides the residents of Onawa and the surrounding area with access to books, library materials and other resources, as well as programs and services to meet their informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs. The library promotes reading and the use of library materials, and provides support for community, cultural and historical activities. Through its staff, Board and services, the library builds knowledge, understanding and appreciation of libraries and library materials in those it serves. Financial support of donations from gracious library supporters, the City of Onawa, the Monona County Board of Supervisors, Enrich Iowa, Open Access, Access Plus, and Iowa Infrastructure enable the library to serve the majority of people in Monona County.



We feel so fortunate to have a staff of employees who are dedicated to supplying the kind of quality service that the patrons of the Onawa Public Library have become accustomed to.

These workers are listed below as well as their years of service to the library:

Director:	Amy McDermott	12 years (Director: 3/1/2020)
Librarians:	Chris Zink	32 years
	Rachel Ruffcorn	13 years
	Laurie Joy	5 years
	Dani Johnson	3 years

Board of Library Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Onawa Public Library who, like the founding fathers of the library, are civic minded people who truly love and support our library. Without their dedication, our library would not be the community asset that it is.

These members of our Board were as follows:

Jessica Hupke	appointed July 2016	(July 2028)	President
Jenn Collison	appointed July 2018	(July 2030)	Vice-President
Kara Minnihan	appointed July 2020	(July 2026)	
Charles Persinger	appointed July 2022	(July 2028)	
Randy Stanislav	appointed July 2024	(July 2030)	

The dates of expiration of their terms on the Board are shown in parenthesis.





Every year we have to depend on the gracious and generous support of many different entities and people. Our City is a constant source of great support for our facility making us able to continue to provide wonderful services for those in our community who cannot afford these things themselves. We are always pleased with the amount of donations that have been given. Some of these come in the form of memorials, monetary gifts, or a gift of an item from our wish list. This year with the city's help we were able to replace the remaining 6 heat pumps and paint the windows and door trim. We also received generous donations that have helped with additional kids' programming and improvements to the library yard.



Revenue Collection

(Actual)

Transfers in (city funds)	\$ 148,118.00
Monona County	\$ 20,301.00
Fees and fines	\$ 1,422.19
Fee cards	\$ 185.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 5,155.80
Gifts	\$ 6,654.95
Memorials	\$ 420.07
Facility tax	\$ 25,237.56
Rents	\$ 4,212.00
Grant	\$ -
Enrich Iowa	\$ 2,419.54
Totals	\$ 214,126.11

Expenditures

(Actual)

Salaries	\$ 91,973.13
Withholdings FICA, IPERS, Health Ins	\$ 15,718.00
Repairs	\$ 7,296.72
Liability Ins. -Work Comp	\$ 10,675.61
Books & Periodicals	\$ 16,100.93
Operational supplies	\$ 38,805.84
Misc/petty cash	\$ 1,260.52
Memorials/Gifts	\$ 5,850.55
Capitol Outlay - Improvements	\$ 226,033.32
Totals	\$ 413,714.62



****Capitol Outlay = Painting doors & windows and 6 heat pump replacement with new controls covered with city bond issue.**

We truly value and appreciate the generosity of our patrons. With the continued support of our community, we will be able to keep up with whatever changes the future holds for America's Libraries.

A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.

—Andrew Carnegie



The citizens of our community are happy with all we are doing at the library. The library has been able to continue to provide BRIDGES eBook/audio services to our patrons. This service has seen a continued growth level and our Facebook page continues to gain support and followers. We try hard to keep our website up to date so check it out! We are always looking for new ways to expand our services such as homebound delivery, proctoring tests, processing passports, Notary Services, BRIDGES eBooks, and free Wi-Fi. This year we received a grant to upgrade our water fountain and to add handicap accessibility to the restrooms. We have also started work on a "Library of Things" to include a telescope, hand tools, bubble machine, various baking/decorating items, and so much more!

BRIDGES is an eService that we subscribe to for our patrons to use to download any form of audio or electronic format. There are many different formats and genres available. We have had an ever-increasing number of patrons subscribe to use this service. We now have over 245 patrons who have registered and used this service for a total of 4640 circulations this fiscal year.



Circulation Statistics:

Books:

Adult	8,239
Young Adult	363
Juvenile	<u>6,673</u>
Total Books	15,275

Other Materials:

Video (DVD)	795
Audio	392
Periodicals	235
All others	<u>241</u>
Total	1,562

Registered Patrons:

Patrons Added	156
Patrons Withdrawn	<u>340</u>
Total active patrons	3,559

Meeting Room use 6,386 @ 501 mtgs/programs

In-Library Material use 7,500

Door Count 24,465

Computer usage 6892

Passports processed 174

Notary 31

Proctored Tests 9 tests for 3 students

Holdings:

Items held at the start of the year	49,762
Materials Added	1353
Materials Withdrawn	<u>1390</u>
Total materials at year end	49,725

This year we replaced the remaining 6 heat pumps (4 in the basement and 2 on the main floor). This was funded by the city with a bond issue. We were also able to include the cost of painting the windows and doors into the bond issue so we had donation funds to use in the library yard. We received the Monona County Community Partners Foundation Grant which will allow us to install a new bottle filler/water fountain and add handicap accessibility to the restrooms. Work will be done in August 2024.

This year we still focused on getting kids back into the library. We feel that if we can continue growing that relationship that it will improve our future. A few of our accomplishments focused on children are:

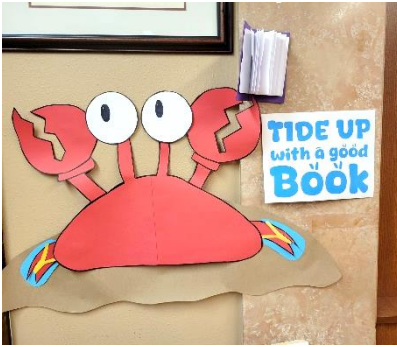
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Each child signed up gets a fun prize for each 100 books read. Once they reach their 1000 books before they start kindergarten they will receive a “Quillow” and book. Great success with this one and we love to see the parents getting involved! We have had eight more kids reach their 1000 books!
- Kids’ Club. We had programs every week during the school year to include programs with the Omaha Children’s Museum, ISU Insect Zoo, and a final program with Stomp Chomp Roar thanks to some wonderful sponsorships. We also had a lot of community involvement such as programs run by the Monona County Extension, DNR, Naturalist, and even one of our wonderful Science teachers. All the STEAM kits are available for the kids to use at any time in the library. This has been a wonderful program and I am excited that we have been able to continue into the new school year.
- We have had more class room visits to the library over the school year. This was a great opportunity for kids that have never had a chance to come to our amazing library. It also increased our circulation because the kids were able to check out books. We cannot thank our teachers enough for making this happen!
- We also had our second annual Apple Bash. This was a program that focused on how to use an apple press to make apple juice or apple cider. We were gifted music by Brittney Donn, Pixie Pony Tales gave pony rides, Funktastic Photos brought Bluey and Doug the Minion, and we had some fun games to play. We were also given a really good deal (almost free) on about 20 – 5 gallon buckets of apples from Rose Marie Vineyards. It was a great family program!



As librarians,
our job is to help
young people find
the right book for
who they are now,
without judgment.



The staff continues to make fun displays for the public. The library will always be a safe space for anyone that visits and we do our best to encourage reading new things!



We have been working together with the other Monona County Libraries to bring more to our communities. As a group we have had a Night Hike in Whiting Woods, 2 days of programs at the Monona county Fair, a Monona County Reads program with a Progressive Meal, and we have installed 2 little free libraries at local camp grounds. One is at Huff's Access in Blencoe and the other is at Peter's Park in Rodney. We have one more that will be placed at the Blue Lake camp ground. These little libraries have books and games for campers to borrow, not to mention they are fun to look at. Our very own Laurie and Dani painted them!



The Friends of the Library continued funding our books to hand out for Halloween as well as supporting our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. The Friends also helped us purchase new large print books every month as well as audio books on CD, the Sioux City Journal and Omaha World Harold subscriptions and an increased donation for the Summer Reading Program which allows for more exciting programs!

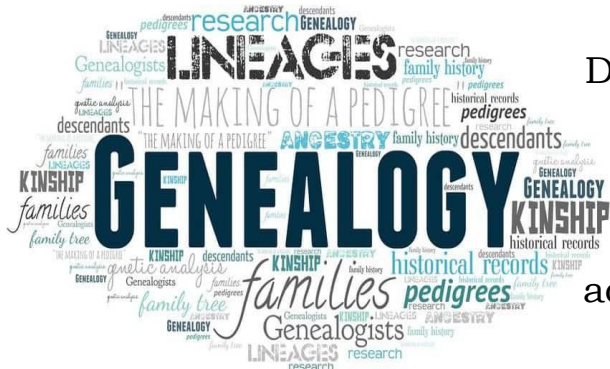
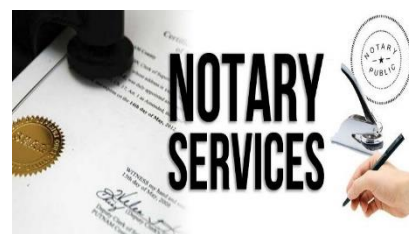


We proctor tests for students who need this service. The individuals that used this service expressed their gratitude for not having to drive to Sioux City to take a test or having to pay someone to proctor the tests. Some of these individuals were in college while others were taking exams for work purposes. Pass the word!!!



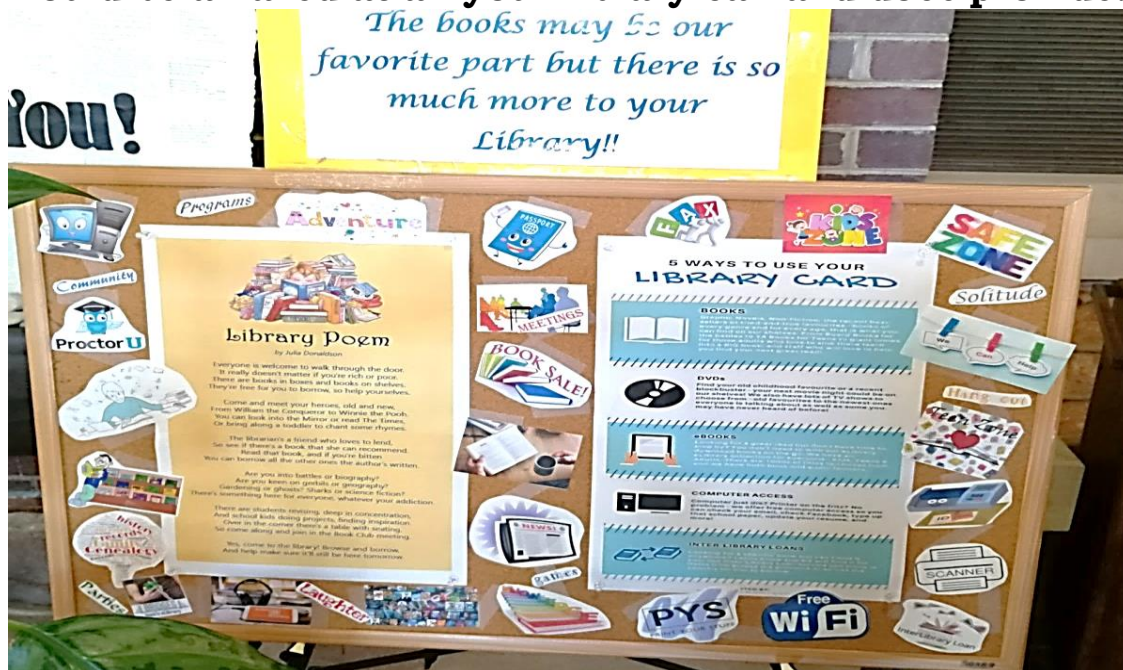
We continue to have 2 registered agents who can process passport applications. We have been getting people from all sorts of areas that have heard about how easy we make the process. We have been very busy with passports each year and processed 174 passports this year. It is an amazing service and we are so glad to be able to provide this service for our community.

And why not add Notary services to our list of things we do!



Did you know you can view the local newspapers on our website? These date back to the 1800s! Thanks to a generous donation we have also added access to Ancestry.com Library Edition to our genealogy resources so you can do additional genealogy research here in the library.

You'd be amazed at all your library can and does provide.



Read, Renew, Repeat



We finished up our 31st Summer Reading Program which ran June 7th – August 2nd, 2023. We had a lot of community involvement with this program and were able to have Summer Reading Program and Summer Story Time every week in June and July with a final big program in August. Community involvement included Monona County Extension, Monona County Naturalist, Iowa DNR, and Burgess Mental Health/BHIS.

Our 2024 program was Read, Renew, Repeat and ran June 4th – August 5th. As a recycling themed program we focused on ways to help the environment and to reuse items. As always we love using our local resources and even included the Monona County Transfer Station! With extra funding we were able to kick off with Stomp Chomp Roar Prehistoric Pep Rally and the following week we had “Love Our Earth, Love Our Bugs” a two-hour bug filled program brought to us from the ISU Insect Zoo!

Program 1: Let's Make Ice Cream (June)

This first program was hosted by Siouxland Ag in the Classroom. The kids learned where the ingredients of ice cream come from (not just the freezer section at the grocery store!). Then they got to make their own ice cream. 53 participants

Program 2: Renew Your Mind (June)

This program was presented by Burgess Mental Health's BHIS group. They read a story and learned about using different breathing techniques to renew your mind or calm your feelings. 62 participants

Program 3: How sweet the potato (June)

Megan from the Monona County Extension read a gardening story to the kids and taught them about sweet potatoes. Who woulda thought the kids would enjoy it but they sure did. Megan was a pleasure to have! 61 participants



Program 4: Bug Hotels (June)

The library staff hosted this program. We read a story about finding the perfect home for a bug. With the help of the community we were able to make bug hotels with the kids out of milk jugs (way to save and reuse!) and we added egg cartons, sticks, leaves, moss (donated by the Barn Loft), and much more for the perfect homes for their bugs. Everyone got a couple fake bugs too. 54 participants

Program 5: Recycle that junk! (July)

The Monona County Transfer Station joined us to talk about recycling, reusing, and the importance of lowering the amount of “trash” we produce. The kids then got to plant seeds in recycled containers that can be planted right in the ground. 46 participants

Program 6: Pizza Party (July)

Siouxland Ag in the Classroom joined us again to talk about the ingredients of pizza! Who knew they came from so many different places? Mini pizzas were the hit of the program! 44 participants



Programs 7: Tin Can Crafts (July)

This program was presented by Lanna Radke and friends. Lanna read her favorite book to the kids. Then the Radke's and some friends helped the kids use recycled cans and other items to make wind chimes to hang in their trees. The kids had a blast with this activity!! 50 participants

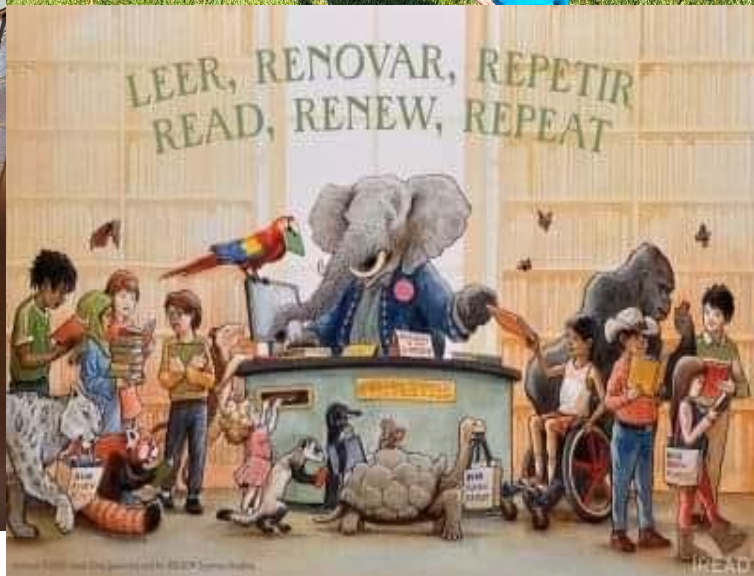
Program 8: Final surprise program (August)

The kids did such an amazing job all summer that we decided to add a final program to thank them for having so much fun with us. We had water play (the kids loved the giant unicorn sprinkler) and bubbles! It was just a fun time outside in the sun.



Finally, with our regular program our Board of Trustee President, Jessica Hupke, provided a Pre-K story time that was open to those kids that are not old enough for the regular program. We were so happy that Mrs. Hupke volunteered her time and we didn't have to break the hearts of little siblings that couldn't join us.

Thanks to the generosity of our community we had another great Summer Reading Program. We receive donations from Kiwanis and the Friends of the Library group every year to help off-set the cost of programs, supplies, and prizes. We also received prize donations from the Hut, Downtown Coffee and Cream, and Pizza Hut Book-its.



Onawa Public Library

Trust Fund Accounts

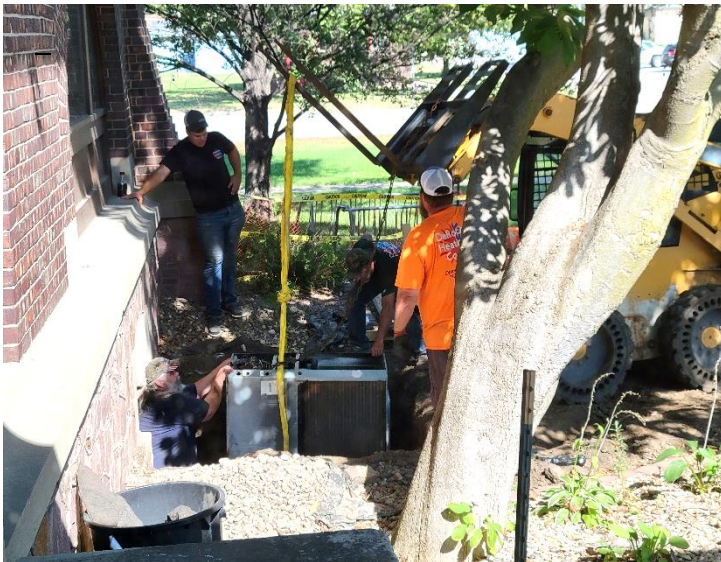
The Onawa Public Library has been the recipient of several memorial trust funds. In nearly all instances, the principal is not to be used and there are specific instructions as to how the interest of each of these accounts may be used.

Trust funds are as follows:

Allen	\$973	Interest on hand	\$336.06	\$0.00 spent
Fran		Interest to be used for biographies		
Burton	\$2,500	Interest on hand	\$338.13	\$21.30 spent
Harry		Interest to be used to create an interest in astronomy		
McCaskey	\$1,000	Interest on hand	\$443.16	\$0.00 spent
Edith		Interest to be used for books for the general collection.		
Murphy	\$5250	Interest on hand	\$324.34	\$0.00 spent
Esther		Some interest to be used for children's books some to accumulate.		
Meyers	\$5,000	Interest on hand	\$1295.88	\$24.95 spent
Frank C.		Interest to be used for books on history, biographies & general collection.		
Pennington	\$1,000	Interest on hand	\$411.29	\$23.95 spent
Horton B.		Interest to be used for non-fiction books on history.		
Prichard	\$550	Interest on hand	\$384.26	\$0.00 spent
Robert		Interest to be used for books.		
Prichard	\$405	Interest on hand	\$101.42	\$13.79 spent
E.M. "Bert"		Interest to be used for books		
Ropes	\$2,200	Interest on hand	\$287.29	\$0.00 spent
Wayne		Interest to be used for adult non-fiction		
& Cora		John Ropes contributed for a time with the purchase of Savings Bonds which will begin maturing in 2026		
Snyder	\$300	Interest on hand	\$305.42	\$0.00 spent
Earl		Interest to be used for items reflecting Earl's interests.		
Williams M	\$7966	Interest on hand	\$364.91	\$0.00 spent
Wright D		These two funds were combined at the family's request and items purchased should reflect each woman's interest.		
Blakely	\$1526.99 available	\$67.23 spent (Loren)	\$217.50 available	\$20.18 spent (Helen)
Loren &	Fund established to purchase fiction books that reflect Loren's			
Helen	and Helen's interests.			

We are also blessed to have regular contributors whose funds we are able to use at our discretion. We greatly appreciate your trust in us and hope that we are able to use the funds to best exemplify their wishes.

Our beautiful Library



Heat Pumps going in the basement!

Kids' Club STEAM Program



Other Programs



Pippa White – Orphan Train



Darrin Crow as Edgar Allen Poe



Holiday Ugly Sweater DIY



Monona County Reads Progressive Meal



*Friends Chamber Coffee
& Silent Auction*



Class Visits (5th Grade Fluency Parade)

Thanks for all your support!!!