

Busy Year for the Library

This past year was a busy one for the Norfolk Public Library. Improving technology access and education, connecting readers and writers, supporting summer learning, and planning for the upcoming renovation and expansion were all a part of the library's activities in the 2015-2016 year.

Improving Technology Access & Education



Providing the community with access to information continues to be a priority for the library. Access to technology and the skills to use it are increasingly important. In August 2016 the library started loaning out WiFi hotspots to help families gain high-speed internet access in their homes. Computer skills classes were offered each month, and this year Tech Tutoring sessions were added to provide one-on-one help for those wanting to improve their technology skills. Mobile

printing was also made available this year as library customers increasingly rely on mobile technology for school, work, and communication with family.

Connecting Readers & Writers

The library connects the community with meaningful literature that both reflects their own life experiences and introduces them to new worlds. This year the library held its first Local Author Fair to connect readers with Northeast Nebraska writers and also hosted the 22nd Annual Literature Festival which brings nationally-known authors to our community. In addition to these special events, the library regularly hosts five book clubs, humanities programs, movie screenings, children's programs, a live trivia contest, a coloring group, and a "Needles, Hooks, & Books" group.



By The Numbers

143,711

library visits

13,901

people with library cards

295,787

total items used

21,139

computer sessions used

5,476

research, technology and general help questions answered by librarians at the Information Desk

81,529

uses of the library's website, databases and online resources

474

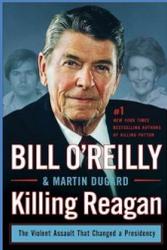
classes & programs offered

9,721

attendance at classes & programs

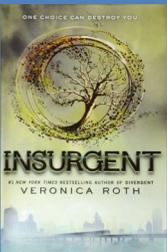
The Norfolk Public Library is a Division of the City of Norfolk and operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 Fiscal Year.

Most-Borrowed Books this Year



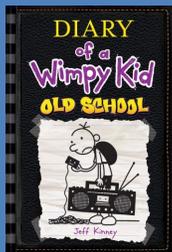
Adults

Killing Reagan
Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard



Teens

Insurgent
Veronica Roth



Kids

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School
Jeff Kinney

Supporting Summer Learning and Early Learning All Year

1,890 kids, teens, and adults participated in the Summer Reading Program, which provided opportunities to learn about sign language, biology, conservation, nutrition, art, history, and literature.

2,727 children and parents participated in more than 150 early literacy *Lapsit* or *Storytime* programs where the children not only gained important developmental skills, but their parents saw high-quality models of early education demonstrated and were able to connect with other families with young children.

559 children from birth to age 5 have participated in the *1,000 Books Before Kindergarten* program, which rewards families for developing strong reading habits in early childhood and gives children the skills they need to learn to read.



Planning for the Expansion and Renovation of the Library

The library will break ground on its 16,000 square foot addition early in 2017. The addition and renovation of the existing building will double the available parking, make the building more accessible to people of all ages and abilities, highlight our local history materials, provide a high-tech Maker Space, create Children's and Teen Spaces that are supportive and nurturing for young minds, and provide room to grow a quality, local collection of books, movies, and music for the community.



Thank you to our Citizens Library Advisory Board who supports and guides the work of the library: Susan Colligan (President), Tom Dover (Vice-President), Kurt Bogner, Sue Burns, and Jim Curry.