




Library Hours

Sunday	Closed
Monday	9-8
Tuesday	9-8
Wednesday	9-8
Thursday	9-8
Friday	9-6
Saturday	9-3


812-829-3392


812-829-6165


10 S Montgomery ST
Spencer, IN 47460



Tuesday	Whitehall Holiness Church 3:30 pm-4:30 pm	Freedom Baptist Church 5:00 pm-6:00 pm
Wednesday	Cunot Community Center 11:00 am-12:00 pm	Coal City Volunteer Fire Dept. 4:30 pm-5:30 pm
Thursday	Kingston Ridge Apartments, Gosport 3:30 pm-4:40 pm	Gosport, Downtown 4:45 pm-5:45 pm
Friday	Greenbriar Apartments, Spencer 12:30 pm-1:30 pm	Sweet Owen Manor, Spencer 1:35 pm-2:30 pm

ISSUE NO. 3 // VOLUME NO. 1 // MARCH 2023

OWEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

In Like a Lion Edition



OWEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Report Card

Each year the Indiana State Library requires all public libraries to complete an annual report, which is nearly 100 pages long, and attempts to cover all the things the library offers to the public, how often they were used, the programs we offer to the public and how well they were attended, the state of our finances, and much, much more. It gives us an excellent opportunity to take stock of what we have accomplished, where we can improve, and how we have improved from the year before.

12 Public Computers usage **2,798**

Reference Questions asked **5,188**

Books borrowed from other
Libraries **459**

The library is open **2,975** hours per year. Internet access is available around the perimeter of the building **24/7**, and broadband capability was expanded to create more accessibility.

The Bookmobile brings library access to schools, day cares, and a wide variety of other community centers throughout the county 31 hours per week, including accessibility to library services through weekly visits to Freedom, Coal City, Gosport, Cunot, Cataract, and Patricksburg.



Visits in 2022



41,177

Through our doors

Books Checked
out in 2022



66,118

↗ Up from 51,763 in 2021

Children's Books
Checked out in
2022



30,264

↗ Up from 20,990 in 2021

eBooks Checked
out in 2022



17,667

↗ Up from 9,650 in 2021

Items We own

60,199 Books

9,193 DVD's

6,293 Audiobooks

Women in Jazz

Virtual Lecture and Performance
by Flautist Galen Abdur-Razzaq

Tuesday, March 28th at 6 pm
*via Zoom

*You can also join us in person to watch the presentation here at the library.

Contact the Library for more information



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Book Sale

Saturday March 11th
9am - 2pm



Stop by and see what's available in the library community room. There is always a wide variety of material to choose from at low prices. All sales benefit the library.

In addition, there are internet hot spots and audio CD players for public check-out. Owen County Public Library *does not charge late fees*, and library cards are *free* to Owen County residents. We offer copying (including items downloaded from cell phones), faxing, and scanning.

The courthouse often sends people our way to access many necessary forms, documents, and website usage for legal matters. We recently received a Kiosk that offers legal help with housing issues. This is just the first of many legal helps that are to be added to the kiosk throughout the year. There are at least 6 rooms and spaces of varying sizes available for public reservation and use.

Since the move into the current location in 1997, the library has never asked to raise the tax rate, not even to take on the much-needed renovation in 2016, when we re-roofed, replaced the heating and cooling, revamped the plumbing, and solved many structural problems that had plagued us for years in addition to a complete remodel and addition.

The library has operated every year in the black, and continues to do so, with each department operating within its budget. This effort includes a current hiring freeze to ensure that we stay within our 2023 budget.

The library, under the leadership of our Board of Trustees, voluntarily instituted a system of Internal controls years before the state instructed libraries to do so. The system of checks and balances we created was complimented by our State Board of Accounts auditor, who asked permission to use it as a template for other public libraries.

We have prided ourselves on wisely investing any extra money left over each year into a Library improvement reserve fund, which is in place to cover any future needs or opportunities that may arise.

Owen County was one of the earliest counties in Indiana to establish a public library. We think that is something to be proud of; this community has long held libraries to be a thing of value, and importance. We thank you so much for your patronage and support.

Ginger Kohr
Director, Owen County Public Library



Free tutoring is available for various ages and subjects, and the libraries' highly successful Life Long Learning Center produces an average of 40 graduates of the high school equivalency exam each year, as well as certifications for a variety of work-related skills. These Owen County students are moving directly into jobs or are working on certification while they are working.

The English Language Learning Class, as a part of the Lifelong Learning department, is helping Owen County workers, residents, and parents who are just learning English, or who have learned to speak English, but would like to improve their English Language skills. The class grew very quickly and is well attended.

The recently built library community pavilion was built with funds from two extremely generous donors, as well as a sizable grant from the Community Foundation, and gifts from various members of the community. To this point, no taxpayer funds were spent on it at all. Depending on our fund-raising efforts going forward, if more funding is needed for the features we hope to add to the pavilion, we have resolved to use the interest earned from the funds we invested in our Library Improvement Reserve Fund. We hope this demonstrates our determination to handle taxpayer funds carefully and responsibly.



Cupcakes and Canvas
March 29nd 6:00pm

Youth Department Activity Room
Spots are limited. Call to reserve
your spot today.

812-829-3392

Crochet with BJ
Mar 8th & 22nd 3:30 - 5:30pm

Drop in and learn how to Crochet.
Come anytime during the program.
All materials provided.



Celtic Music with
Emily Ann & Kelly
Mar 10th 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Stop by and celebrate St Patrick's
Day with our old friends Emily Ann
and Kelly

Shrinky Dinks
Mar 15th 4:30pm

Stop by and make Shrinky
Dinks with us.
Call ahead so we know to
expect you.
812-829-3392



Polymer Clay
Mar 24th - 4:30pm

Youth Department Activity Room. All
materials provided.
Call ahead so we know to expect
you.
812-829-3392

Creative Journal Making
Mar 21st 6:00pm

Join us as we learn about creative
ways to make journals of your own
and what to put in them.

