



OLEAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

May 2025 Newsletter

134 N. 2nd Street
Olean, NY 14760
(716) 372-0200
Oleanlibrary.org

Hours:
M-Th 9am-9pm
Fri 9am-6pm
Sat 10am-5pm



Curbside service available by appointment.

The library will be closed 5/26/2025 in observance of Memorial Day.

Frances Bean O'Connell Endowment Provides Amazing Programs

In 2021, the Frances Bean O'Connell Endowment for the Arts was established, allowing the Library to offer excellent arts and crafts programs to the community.

Son of the late Frances Bean O'Connell, former Olean resident Kevin O'Connell, decided to create the endowment, after earlier grants he had provided demonstrated the library was meeting an important community need through the high-quality programming it allowed for.

O'Connell said the family wanted to contribute to the Library in this way because "a robust arts program can help lift people up in so many ways." He described his mother as "a woman who loved art and its ability to lift people up, especially young people." These words are inscribed on a plaque in the Library's Gallery recognizing the establishment of the endowment.

Born and raised in Olean, Frances was an accomplished artist and a strong library supporter, instilling a love for both in each of her 12 children! Therefore, Kevin's gift to the Library is also a moving memorial to his mother's influence. The connection between the arts and the public library is nothing new. Frances' art work was often on display at the Olean Public Library in its previous location on South Union Street.

Since 2019, the Library has received nearly \$80,000 in funding from the O'Connell family, first in the form of individual grants and later in the form of annual payments from the Endowment. This year alone, the Library received nearly \$13,000!

Some examples of the exceptional programs being offered include painting classes, flower arrangement classes including a "wisteria chandelier" program, and garden fairy houses. Often upcycled and recycled materials are used, encouraging people to think of new uses for items they might otherwise throw out.

Teens requested we host a monthly art club to exercise their artistic and creative skills. O'Connell funds are used to provide the supplies. Last month, they painted wooden boxes they could take home to store their treasured items.

Children also benefit from the Endowment. Last May, 40 kids experienced the wonder of clay, shaping it with their hands, forming it into amazing creations and preparing it to be fired and returned to them by an experienced instructor. In December and February, kids enjoyed Teddy Bear workshops, where they got to stuff their own teddy bear to take home with them. The programs included other activities such as decorating holiday ornaments and socializing with new friends.

The Olean Public Library is so grateful to the O'Connell family for this generous funding, which is truly a benefit to the entire community!



Spring Blooms and New Beginnings at the Library

The Friends of the Olean Public Library are proud to help keep our library looking welcoming and vibrant! This spring, the Friends sponsored fresh dirt and colorful flowers for the planters outside the library entrance. These cheerful blooms are just one way we show our love for the library and our community—so next time you're in the neighborhood, we invite you to stop by and enjoy them!

In other exciting news, the Friends recently voted to fund the purchase of new chairs for the library. The first phase will focus on updating seating in the conference room, at the public computer stations, and in the staff breakroom—providing comfort and support to both patrons and library staff.

We're also happy to welcome Deb Melaro-Bradenstein and Amanda Hulbert to the Friends' Board of Directors. Both are passionate about supporting their community and education. We're thrilled to have them join us in supporting the library's mission.

Thank you for being a Friend of the Olean Public Library. Together, we're helping our library grow—inside and out!



Friends of the Olean Library

**will hold their annual
meeting on**

Monday, May 12th at 5:30pm

**in the Library Conference
Room**

**Members of the public
are welcome!**

Rethinking that \$150 Prime Subscription this year?

- Save that money and borrow any ten print or e-books from us instead!
- Enjoy a couple of arts and crafts sessions with your family at the library.
- Borrow 30 movie DVDs, a TV series, or stream documentaries or independent films on Kanopy with a library card.



Support the incredible resource that is the library

I never cease to be amazed by the Olean Public Library. What a treasure it is to this community and the surrounding area.

In talking with the staff I found out that 98,155 physical items were circulated in 2024; more than 10,150 e-books were borrowed. There's been more than 95,000 in-person visits and 169 adult and general interest programs were attended, with more than 5,000 patrons taking part.

There were more than 110 teen programs, with more than 900 young people taking part. After-school attendance at the Teen Room totaled more than

3,500 visits, while more than 2,000 kids attended the Summer Reading activities.

Look at those numbers! It's amazing. The Olean Public Library serves everyone — all ages, all genders, all races. In these days of economic uncertainty your public library offers internet, programs, books, DVDs, CDs, meeting spaces, classes — all free.

There are 23,856 current card holders. The library is a vital part of this community. Support your library. National Library Week is going on this week.

Don't take the library for granted. Don't just assume it will just always be there. Support it — verbally and financially. Stop in and see what all is available, and be sure to thank the staff for all they are providing for us.

**Letter to
the Editor**

Lanna Waterman, Olean

Children/Family Programs



Kids & Clay

This class will be taught by local artisan Tara Dedrick. Each class will be approximately an hour and a half long and one complete project will be created in each class. Parents, of course, are welcome to stay and assist. We ask that you register for only one session to allow for more kids to take advantage of this cool program. **Registration for all 4 sessions begins June 1st.**

This program is brought to you by the Francis Bean O'Connell Endowment.

These single session classes will be offered on:

June 2nd at 3:30
June 2nd at 5:30
June 23rd at 3:30
June 23rd at 5:30



Children/Family Programs

Stories & More

R

Wednesdays at
10:00am

Story time captures the imagination and attention of young ones to inspire a lifelong love of books and reading. Our story times include songs, rhymes, flannel boards, and instruments. Our programs are specially designed for birth through preschool. We incorporate early literacy tips and practices to promote reading readiness.

Stories & Stretches

R

Thursdays at 11:00am

Children ages 2 to 5. A fun, movement-oriented program with stories, songs, and stretches.

Investigation Stations

R

Tuesdays at 6:30pm or
Wednesdays at 3:30pm

Kids ages 3 and up participate in directed group activities, including longer stories, music, and instruments, followed by exploration of creative art and STEM stations.

Reading Can Be Ruff Club

R

Tuesdays at 6:30pm or
Wednesdays at 3:30pm

Practice reading with our favorite therapy dogs. These guys are great listeners and never judge! They make reading fun. Bring a book or choose one here. Explore the Investigation Stations and enjoy some "pupcorn" while you wait.

Stories & More, Stories & Stretches, Investigation Stations, and Reading Can Be Ruff Club run from 4/28–5/23/25. Registration can be completed online in addition to calling or stopping by.



Come One! Come All!

Olean Public Library is having our Summer Kick Off Carnival !

Saturday, June 14th from 12:00 - 1:00pm



***Games! * Prizes! ***

Face painting!* Balloon Animals!

***Refreshments! ***

Magic Show with the Jeffers follows at 1:00pm!

*** Fun for all ! ***



The Safe Kids Staying Safe Program



SAFE KIDS
SOUTHERN TIER
NEW YORK



Safe Kids Southern Tier New York is a subsidiary of Southern Tier Health Care System, which provides dedicated and caring staff, operational support and other resources to assist in achieving our common goal: keeping your kids safe.

Thursday, May 15th at 6:00pm

This month we will be learning about water and bike safety. There will be crafts, healthy snacks and giveaways! Most importantly, we will learn how to stay safe on our bikes and in the water!

Join us at the library every third Thursday at 6:00 beginning in February.

Each month a different community organization will present a book related to one of the Safe Kids Staying Safe Initiatives.



R

Registration Required

LR

Limited Registration

Z

Zoom Option Available

R

Registration Requested 3

After School Programs (Ages 7-12) - (4-5:00pm)

May 5th— Mother's Day Craft
Come join us to make small "kid friendly" terrariums for mom that is maintenance free! NO dirt, NO watering! Kids will be able to come create something special for mom while being able to use their own creativity and imagination! This is while supplies last!

After School Club will be on break until June 2025.



QR code for after school program updates & reminders.

Teen Programs (Ages 13-18)

OTAB Meeting

Tuesday May 6th

3:30pm in the Conference Room

During this meeting, we'll be planning out activities for Summer Reading, as well as finalizing our activities for the next few months. New members are welcome to attend, though participants need to be between 13 and 18 years old; reach out to programming@oleanlibrary.org for details.

Team A, Teen DnD

Wednesday May 7th

6:00-8:30pm in the Gallery

Our brave heroes have (to varying levels of success) found a way to board the moored Death Knight Dreadnaught, but they have drawn the ire of the captain and crew. How will the party return this cursed vessel to the high seas?

Team A is currently FULL, but scan the Teen DnD QR Code to request information on Teen DnD programs with openings.

Art Club: Taco Thursday

Thursday May 8th

3:30-4:30pm in the Gallery

Come join OTAB as we celebrate Taco Tuesday a few days late. Come enjoy some taco-themed treats while we make taco-themed crafts!

REGISTRATION REQUESTED—sign up in the Teen Room or at the Circulation Desk.

Teen Gaming Club

Wednesday May 14th

3:30-4:45pm in the Gallery

We'll bring our Nintendo Switch and some games; you come prepared to play! We also have space ready and available to play board games or card games like Sushi Go. Any and all teens are welcome to join, and you can bring a game to play if you want.

Teen Jackbox Games

Friday May 16th & 30th

3:30-4:30pm in the Gallery

We have every party pack available to play! Bring a device and your thinking caps to compete with other teens. The family filter is kept on throughout, and your screen names and answers must remain library appropriate throughout the program.

Team B, Teen DnD

Wednesday May 21th

6:00-8:30pm in the Gallery

Phandalin awakes to a dawn without a vampire planning an assault on its borders. However, there still are a host of Talos followers with questionable intents for our stalwart party's current home. What will become of both them and the town?

REGISTRATION REQUIRED—email programming@oleanlibrary.org or scan the QR code to join.



Teen Anime Club

Wednesday May 28th

3:30-4:45pm in the Gallery

Is there an anime you can't get enough of? Is there one you want to show others? Come enjoy some international snacks and watch anime with other teen fans. Participants help choose what shows we'll enjoy together!

The teen room is open weekdays 3-6pm.

Adult Programs

Knit & Crochet Club

Saturday May 3rd

11:30-12:30pm in the Gallery

Knitters, crocheters, and other fiber artists of all levels are welcome to attend. Bring your current craft (or one you need a bit of help with), and we'll provide the space and company of fellow crafters. Interested but don't have a project to start? We'll have some free patterns, yarn, and some basic crochet hooks and knitting needles available to take home.

Silent Writing Group

Saturday May 3rd

2:00pm in the Conference Room

Do you want to write but never have the time for it? This is for you! Join us as we work on our individual writing projects quietly in the company of other writers. Open to anyone who enjoys writing, regardless of skill, age, or project type. Light refreshments will be available.



Container Planting with Stephanie Pikulski

Monday, May 5th

6:00-7:00pm in the Gallery

Interested in growing your own food, but don't have the space for a large garden? Learn the endless possibilities of container gardening with Master Gardener



Registration Required



Limited Registration



Zoom Option Available



Registration Requested 4

Adult Programs

Volunteer Apprentice Stephanie Pikulski! This class will be geared towards gardeners of all skill levels and abilities!

Dungeons and Dragons

Tuesday May 13th

6:00-8:30pm in the Gallery

Interested in playing Dungeons and Dragons with other adults? Come join Cherish, our library's resident game master, and try it out. Players of all experience levels are welcome, and bringing a snack to share, though not required, is appreciated.

Scan the QR to create a character ahead of time!



Cooking Club

Tuesday May 20th

6:30pm in the Gallery

This month, the Cooking Club theme will be Cinco de Mayo! Bring a Mexican dish and join us to try some delicious dishes and discuss food and cooking. This program is great for home cooks of all skill levels and new members are always welcome!

Mushroom 101 with Samuel Warren

Saturday May 24th

2:00pm in the Gallery

Curious about mushrooms? You should be, don't be scared, fungi are a beautiful and often misunderstood kingdom. Join us with mycologist Sam Warren for an introduction to the wonderful world of mushrooms. We'll cover the basics of



mycology: reproduction, anatomy, various applications, and examine dried samples collected from the North Eastern United States. We will also be observing spores and mycelium through a microscope! *No age limit.*

Craft Programs

Torn Paper Landscape Collage with Miss Allison

Monday May 12th

6:30pm in the Gallery

This is an ideal class for both beginners and seasoned artists. This delightful opportunity allows you to unwind and unleash your creativity. Join us as we tear paper to craft lovely little landscapes. Plus, it's a fantastic way to relieve stress.

Ages 16 & up.



Stained Glass Propagation Station with Serenhippity

Thursday May 22nd

6:30pm in the Gallery

Each attendant will get a pre-done design, outlined in puff paint to really make the design pop, this effect will give it that stained glass look. You will be able to let your creativity come to life using stained glass paint to make a stunning one-of-a-kind piece that catches the sun in the most beautiful way possible. Each will be unique and vibrant. This simply remains decorative or you

could use it as a water propagation jar for plants. *Ages 18 & up.*



This month's arts and crafts programs are made possible by the Frances Bean O'Connell Arts Grant.

If you are interested in donating to the Frances Bean O'Connell Art Program Fund, please contact Keely Doyle, Director of Philanthropic Services at the Erie Community Foundation at 814-454-0843, ext. 101, or by email at kdoyle@eriecommunityfoundation.org.

LR = To allow access to as many interested patrons as possible for these programs, patrons may sign up for one and go on the wait list for others.

Z If interested in virtually attending a program with a virtual option, email programming@oleanlibrary.org

Book Clubs



Brown Bag Book Club

Monday May 19th

at 12:30pm in the Gallery

You bring the lunch, we supply the refreshments! Join us as we discuss *The Paris Novel* by Ruth Reichl. Multiple copies of the book are available through the library system.

Want to read ahead? For June, we'll be reading *The Book Swap* by Tessa Bickers.



Registration Required



Limited Registration



Zoom Option Available



Registration Requested

Book Clubs



The Race Unity Circle of Olean Book Club @ the library:

Wednesday May 21st at 1:00pm

Race Unity Circle Book Club is free and open to the public. Multiple copies are available via the library. Upcoming books include:

May: All boys aren't blue: a memoir-manifesto by George Johnson



June: The Most by Jessica Anthony

Bite-Sized Book Club

Thursday May 29th at 6:30pm in the Gallery

Want to join a book club but don't have the time to commit to a novel? Good news! We're launching a book club centered on **short stories**! This month we'll be reading: "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "A Wild Swan" by Michael Cunningham, and "Likable" by Deb Olin Unferth. All short stories are available to read online, links are on our Book Club page on our website.

BITE-SIZED BOOK CLUB



Outreach



Total Senior Care (TSC) invites the community to its Senior

Health & Fitness Fair on Wednesday, May 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its facility located at 519 N. Union St., Olean. This free event is designed to provide older adults and their caregivers with valuable resources to support healthy aging and overall well-being. With people living longer than ever before, maintaining good health is essential to enjoying a fulfilling and active life. As we age, access to the right services, wellness activities, and community support can make a significant difference in quality of life. The Senior Health & Fitness Fair will connect attendees with local organizations that offer vital services to promote physical, mental, and emotional health. The event will feature informational booths from organizations such as: Cattaraugus County Department of Aging, CASA-Trinity, Alzheimer's Association of WNY, Cattaraugus County Health Department, Total Senior Care, Olean Public Library, HomeCare & Hospice ...and many more!

Calling All Vendors! Join Us in Supporting Senior Health: Total Senior Care is seeking both nonprofit and for-profit vendors who offer products, services, or programs that support senior health and wellness. There is no vendor fee to participate—just a simple request to help spread the word by promoting the event to your clients, customers, and networks. Tables and chairs will be provided, and a vendor registration form is available for those interested.

This event is not only beneficial for seniors aged 55+, but also for family members and caregivers who play a vital role in helping loved ones navigate the aging process. Many caregivers are unaware of the full

range of services available to support seniors, and this fair offers a unique opportunity to discover essential resources that can enhance both physical and emotional well-being. **Join Us!** The Senior Health & Fitness Fair is free and open to the public. Whether you're a senior looking for wellness opportunities, a caregiver seeking resources, or a business interested in connecting with the senior community, this event is for you! For more information or to request a vendor registration form, please contact Total Senior Care at 716-379-8474.



If you have a disability, the Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce Development Board can help you find work! Their Disability Resource Coordinator will work with you to reach your employment goals. Call Marsha today to find out more: 716-806-0060. Or visit us in-library every 3rd Monday from 1pm to 2pm. This month find us May 19th! <https://cawfny.com>



Thank you to the young people of Reality Check for setting up the library's lobby display case in May! Stop by and be amazed at what you learn! Tobacco Free Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany is part of New York State's Advancing Tobacco Free Communities Grant. The focus of the

Outreach

grant is to pass policy to limit young people from starting tobacco use and nicotine addiction and encouraging current tobacco users to quit. The policy initiatives focus on marketing and the sales of tobacco products at retail locations, tobacco free outdoor and smoke-free multi-unit housing to protect community members from secondhand and thirdhand smoke exposure, which the CDC estimates cause 41,000 deaths among nonsmokers a year. The last initiative is how tobacco use causes harm to our environment from litter and chemicals that the discarded products cause to leach into our waterways. Traditional cigarettes are the most littered item in the world and no matter where you go you will see cigarette butts on the ground. Cigarette butts, even though they are wrapped in paper, are made of tiny plastic strands and are not biodegradable. 5 disposable e-cigarettes are thrown away every second in the United States. E-juice and the lithium batteries are hazardous waste, and e-cigarettes should not just be thrown away in the regular trash. We work with young people 13-18 through the Reality Check program to educate the community on the issues of tobacco use and options to make our communities a healthier place to live. For more information email jonathan.chaffee@roswellpark.org



See our display in-library to find out how a Facilitated Enroller for Healthcare offers a Medicaid Assistance application program (MAAP) through Directions in Independent Living. We offer a wide range of services for people with disabilities in Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties. If you fall into the categories of aged (65 or older),

blind or disabled (SSD) the Facilitated Enroller is ready to assist you in applying for NYS Medicaid. This service is free, and we are ready to help you enroll. Contact: Tammy VanEtten, Facilitated Enroller, phone 716-379-8670 Ext. 8819, tvannetten@oleanilc.org.

Summer is Here—Let's Throw!

The Twin Tiers Disc Golf Club is thrilled to kick off another exciting summer season! Weekly leagues at Gargoyle Park begin in May and will be held every Wednesday night—perfect for players of all levels to get in the game. We've got a full tournament lineup this year, including the Gargoyle Classic on September 20, the always-wild Screwapalooza on July 12, the 2nd Annual Rotary FunRaiser Doubles Tournament on July 20, and the Collegiate Tournament on October 18-19! For younger players, we're continuing our youth league and Youth Splash tournament at Franchot Park, so keep an eye on our Discord or Facebook page for updates. New to disc golf? No problem! The Olean Public Library has loaner discs available, and UDisc is a great free app to help you find and navigate local courses, track your score, and improve your game. Behind the scenes, work is also underway on the highly anticipated Pro Course at Highbanks Campground, following a site visit from world champion Avery Jenkins in early April. And don't forget our club offers disc golf clinics for schools, organizations, and community groups. Reach out to rich@twintiersdiscgolf.org to learn more. Let's make this the best season yet! More info and disc golf sets for borrowing on display in-library through May.



YOU DESERVE AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE.

LawNY Healthcare Navigator available in-library Mondays, May 5, 12, 19 and Tuesday May 27 from 10am until 1pm.

Gallery: May 2025

Olean City School District Juried Art Exhibit

Visit the Olean Public Library's Gallery throughout the month of May to see some of the best art created by students enrolled in the Olean City School District. Artists are students at East View Elementary, Washington West Elementary, Olean Intermediate Middle, or Olean High School.

An open reception will be held Saturday, May 10th, in the Library from 11am–1pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Interested in showcasing your art in our gallery? Contact the library by phone or by emailing programming@oleanlibrary.org to learn more. Please remember: artwork must be appropriate for a general library audience (i.e.: suitable if children see), and you must be able to fill the entire gallery with your pieces. Any 2D medium is welcome to submit!

Olean City School District Art Show





Visit with Safe Point Lighthouse staff on May 6th and 20th from 9:00am to 11:30am. Safe Point is an integrated outpatient clinic that provides care to those who struggle with substance use in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus County. We educate about harm reduction and addiction in general. We also provide free harm reduction supplies such as NARCAN, drug testing strips, and bags of goodies for people experiencing homelessness. Call for more info: (716) 413-4661.

Connect with our integrated services today!

- Housing
- Primary Care
- Mental Health
- Addiction
- Treatment
- Employment
- Education
- Arts & Culture
- & More!

Tribute Gift Book Plates April 2025

Honor or Memorialize or Acknowledge

In Memory of: Michael Taylor

Donation by: Southern Tier Quilt Guild

Library Programs—May 2025

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Adult programs in black Teen programs in blue Children/family programs in red Community outreach programs in purple</p>			1 Stories & Stretches 11am	2	3 Knit & Crochet 11:30am Silent Writing Group 2pm
5 LawNY 10am-1pm After School: Mother's Day Craft 4pm Poetry Collage 6:30pm Container Planting 6pm	6 Safe Point Lighthouse 9-11:30am OTAB Meeting 3:30pm Investigation Stations 6:30pm Reading Can Be Ruff 6:30pm	7 Stories & More 10am Investigation Stations 3:30pm Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Team A DnD 6pm	8 Stories & Stretches 11am Teen Art Club 3:30pm	9	10 OCSD Art Reception 11am-1:00pm
12 LawNY 10am-1pm Torn Paper Landscape 6:30pm	13 DnD 6pm Investigation Stations 6:30pm Reading Can Be Ruff 6:30pm	14 Stories & More 10am Investigation Stations 3:30pm Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Teen Gaming Club 3:30pm	15 Stories & Stretches 11am Safe Kids Staying Safe 6pm	16 Jackbox Games 3:30pm	17
19 LawNY 10am-1pm Brown Bag Book Club 12:30pm Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce Development Board 1-2:00pm	20 Safe Point Lighthouse 9-11:30am Investigation Stations 6:30pm Reading Can Be Ruff 6:30pm Cooking Club 6:30pm	21 Stories & More 10am Investigation Stations 3:30pm Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Race Unity Book Club 1pm Board Meeting 5:30pm Team B DnD 6pm	22 Stories & Stretches 11am Stained Glass Propagation Station 6:30pm	23	24 Mushroom 101 2pm
26 CLOSED 	27 LawNY 10am-1pm	28 Anime Club 3:30pm	29 Bite-Sized Book Club 6:30pm	30 Jackbox Games 3:30pm	31