

May 2026 Newsletter



OLEAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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 Monday, May 25th, in observance of Memorial Day.



Dinosaur CSI with PaleoJoe

Thursday June 11th @ 6:00pm



PaleoJoe, award winning paleontologist, author and storyteller, takes you on a trip back in time to learn about the victims and perpetrators, life and death of the prehistoric. Learn the techniques used in the investigation of how these creatures lived and died. See the evidence and discover the stories that are told through Dinosaur CSI.

Ages 10 and up are welcome to attend. There is no registration required.

Olean Public Library 2026-27 Trustee Election & Budget Vote for the 2027 Fiscal Year will be held at the Library on **Tuesday, May 5th.**

Reed McElfresh & Jen Mahar are running unopposed for their second 5-year term for the two vacancies.

Polls open at 9 am and close at 8 pm.



We hope you exercise your right to vote on May 5th!

Mini Flash Used Book Sale!!! Friends of the Olean Public Library

The Friends are pleased to bring back our popular Mini Flash Used Book Sale, running now through May 16. This is a great opportunity to stock up on books, DVDs, CDs, and more at bargain prices. The sale is being held in the library and features our popular “fill-a-bag” option—simply purchase a Friends reusable blue tote bag for \$5 and fill it with as many items as it can hold! Stop by, browse, and buy while supporting the library.



Olean Chapter NSDAR America 250!

Whoop the British Tea Party Friday May 15th, 3:30 – 5:30pm

In celebration of America 250, the Olean Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) will dress the window at the Olean Public Library during the month of May. Entitled *Echoes of Independence*:

Commemorating our Revolutionary Heritage 250 Years Later, the lobby display will include nine vignettes from historic events that shaped our history, including: the Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere's Ride, the Declaration of Independence, Crossing the Delaware, the Siege of Yorktown and others. The display has special surprises for young people from preschool to college with supporting written materials. All dolls are handmade using wrestling and motion picture action figures.

The Olean Chapter NSDAR will also host a *Whoop the British Tea Party* on Friday, May 15, 2026, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Olean Public Library Gallery. Child-friendly activities and refreshments will be available. All are welcome.

The DAR is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education, patriotism and honoring the patriots of the Revolutionary War. Any woman age 18 or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot or participant of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. Interested women are welcome to attend meetings. For more information about membership, please contact Olean Chapter Registrar Cindy Keeley at oleanDAR2016@gmail.com.



Children/Family Programs

Story Times & Big Kid Programs run

4/20/26 - 5/22/26

Registration is requested and can be completed online in addition to calling or stopping by.

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. This program is 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, stretches, and movement.

Investigations 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

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.



Planting Party Tuesday, May 5th at 3:30pm

Decorate a pot and plant a beautiful flower. There will be balloon creations by Wonder Twist Entertainment, face paint by Amy, fun activities, and healthy snacks!



UNEARTH A STORY
Summer Reading Program is right around the corner!
Book Your Summer at the Olean Public Library!
Unearth a Story 2026

- ◆ Read to earn Kid Cash for prizes!
- ◆ Fun Programs and Special Events for all ages!

We are ready for a jam packed, fun filled summer in 2026! Registration for all children's programs and Summer Reading at the Olean Public Library begins June 29th during regular library hours. Come on in to get your reading record. Register for Summer Reading and programs in person, online or by phone. Programs and check ins begin the week of July 13th. **Registration is still required for all programs except special events.**



Come One! Come All!
**Olean Public Library is having our
Summer Kick Off
Carnival !**

Saturday, June 13th from 12:00 - 1:00PM
*** Games! * Prizes! * Face painting! ***
*** Balloon Animals! * Refreshments! ***
*** Magic Show with the Jeffers follows at 1:00PM! ***
*** Fun for all! ***



After School Program (Ages 7-12) / 4:00-5:00PM

May 4th—Star Wars Day!

Come watch a Star Wars movie and make lightsabers.



May 11th— Obstacle Course Building for MarioKart Circuit Cars.



May 18th— MarioKart Live Circuit Car Races

After May 18th After School Club will be on break. Watch Facebook & future Newsletters for a return date.

Teen Programs (Ages 13-18)

Teen Gaming Tournament

Tuesday May 5th
3:30-5:30pm outside the Teen Room

Have you wanted to see what the OPL's teen programs are like but were nervous about just jumping in? Come join us outside the Teen Room for an informal Smash Brothers tournament, board games, small crafts, and information about all the things we have for teens at your library.

Team A, Teen DnD

Wednesday May 6th
6:00-8:30pm in the Gallery

A city has disappeared from the material plane, and it's up to our new group of heroic adventurers to make things right. Join us as our new group of adventurers embark on their new adventure! **Email**

programming@oleanlibrary.org
or scan the QR code.



Teen Art Club: Free Paint

Thursday May 7th
3:30-4:30pm in the Gallery

We'll provide the supplies; you supply the vision and talent. We will have canvases, rocks, and small wooden boxes available to paint.

Teen Jackbox Games

Fridays May 8th & 22nd
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 your answers must remain library appropriate throughout the program.

Olean Teen Advisory Board (OTAB) Meeting

Tuesday May 12th
3:30pm in the Conference Room

Want a say in what happens in our teen programs? Teens ages 13-18 are welcome to join OTAB, where OPL teens work with the programming librarian to brainstorm new programs and reflect on any challenges or concerns from previous ones.

Teen Gaming Club

Wednesday May 13th
3:30-4:45 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.

Team B, Teen DnD

Wednesday May 20th
6:00-8:30pm in the Gallery

A city has disappeared from the material plane, and it's up to our new group of heroic adventurers to make things right. Join us as we create our new group of adventurers to embark on a new quest! **Email** programming@oleanlibrary.org or scan the QR code.



Teen Cozy Crafty Corner

Wednesday May 27th
3:30-4:45pm in the Gallery

Bring a craft like crocheting or drawing to work on while we enjoy some snacks and a chill movie. We will also have some simple crafts available to try out. For May, we'll be watching *Inside Out 2*. Do you have suggestions for a movie or short series to watch? Let Cherish or an OTAB member know!

**The teen room is open
weekdays 3—6pm.**

Adult Programs

May the Fourth Be With You!

Monday May 4th
5:30-8:00pm in the Gallery

Join us in a gathering strong with the Force. Step into a galaxy far, far away and don your finest attire from across the stars for our costume contest. Test your skills in activities worthy of a Jedi, and immerse yourself in holofilms playing throughout the spaceport. Capture a moment in time with the mighty Wookiee, Chewbacca, and forge memories that will echo across the galaxy.

The Force awaits—will you answer its call?



Adult Programs

Book Bingo

Tuesday May 5th

6:00-8:00pm in the Gallery

Spring into a book bingo!

Hey friends! You've been asking!

Book Bingo is back! Join us for spring items and books in the Gallery once again! You can pop in anytime while we're doing bingo!



Knit & Crochet Club

Saturday May 9th

11:30am 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.



Container Planting with Stephanie Pikulski

Monday May 11th

6:00pm 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 Volunteer Stephanie Pikulski! This class will be geared towards gardeners of all skill levels and abilities!

Adult Dungeons and Dragons

Tuesday May 12th

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.



Bringing a snack to share, though not required, is appreciated. Email programming@oleanlibrary.org for any details prior to the program.

Cooking Club

Thursday May 14th

6:30pm in the Gallery

May's Cooking Club theme will be Pizza! Bring any kind of pizza to share, and we'll try each other's dishes and discuss food and cooking. You can get creative with this: it can be a kind of pizza, something pizza-flavored, or some other interpretation of "pizza"! Home cooks of all skill levels are welcome to join us. New members are always welcome!



OPL Short Story Writing Contest May 2026

May 1st–May 31st

That's right, we're doing another short story contest for adults! This time the word limit is 750 words, and the theme is simply *Weather*. Writers are free to interpret the theme as they see fit; we only ask that weather (of whatever kind) features in the story.

The top 5 stories will once again be published in a small zine, and the winners will receive small prizes. Winners will be announced near the beginning of June and a celebration/reading will be held later that month.

Go to oleanlibrary.org/short-story-contest for a full list of formatting guidelines & submission rules.

Craft Programs

Pop-In: Wine Cork Succulent Magnet

Tuesday May 5th

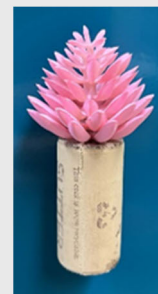
9:00am–8:00pm at the

Information Desk

Come to the information desk and make a cute little succulent magnet while supplies last.

One per person!

Craft Level: Beginner
Ages 18 & up.



Cross Stitching Flowers with Allison Braun

Monday May 18th

6:30-8:30pm in the Gallery

Come join us and stitch cute little flower patterns for Spring. Cross stitching is a delightful craft for any skill level. All supplies will be provided for this workshop.

Craft Level: Beginner
Ages 12 & up.



Basket Braiding

Wednesday May 27th

6:00pm in the Gallery

Come and join Cheryl for a fun evening making a No Sew Braided Basket that can be used in so many ways. **Must know how to braid and use a hot glue gun.**

You will have the choice to make a round basket or an oval basket. There will be several colors and patterns of fabric strips to choose from.

Craft Level: Beginner
Ages 18 & up.



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

*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.

Book Clubs



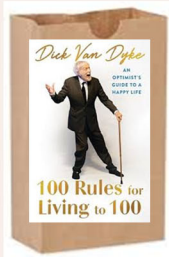
Brown Bag Book Club



Monday May 18th
at 12:30pm in the Gallery

You bring your lunch, and we'll supply some treats and good company!

Join us as we discuss 100 Rules for Living to 100 by Dick Van Dyke.



Multiple copies of the book are available physically and digitally throughout the library system.

Want to read ahead? For June, we will be reading Do You Still Talk to Grandma? by Brit Baron

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

Wednesday May 20th at 1:00pm
in the Conference Room

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



May Selection:

A Raisin in the Sun a play by Lorraine Hansberry.

Outreach



Are you 60 or older and looking for an opportunity to learn how to stay healthy and meet new people?

Join us, and bring a friend! Sign up by calling the library: 716-372-0200. The WISE educational program offers lessons that cover a wide range of topics.

Session Dates:

May 6th 10:30a-12:00p
May 13th 10:30a-12:00p
May 20th 10:30a-12:00p
May 27th 10:30a-12:00p

Join us for this fun program, where you'll meet new people and:

- Learn about the aging process and how to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Celebrate this exciting stage of life and all the benefits that come with it
- Discuss risk factors and behaviors you should avoid to stay healthy
- Examine how alcohol, prescription medications and over-the-counter medications affect seniors differently and how you can avoid problems
- Learn how to use simple tools to help you feel more empowered about your health and the healthcare you receive

For questions, please contact Erica Sebastian at Esebastian@casa-trinity.org
Phone: (716) 373-4303 ext. 521.

Gallery: May 2026

Olean School District's 2026 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, and/or Olean High School. Thank you to the Olean City School District's Art Department for sharing their students' work with us!

An open reception will be held **Saturday, May 16th** in the Library from **11 am - 1 pm**. 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!

Tribute Gift Book Plates April 2026

Honor ☞ Memorialize ☞ Acknowledge

In Memory of: JoAnn A. Samuelson

Donation by: Susan Hamed

Library Programs - May 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Adult programs in black Teen programs in blue Children/family programs in red Community outreach programs in purple				1	2
4 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am-1:00pm Star Wars Day 4:00pm May the Fourth be with you! 5:30-8:00pm	5 Budget Vote & Trustee Election 9:00am-8:00pm Pop-In: Wine Cork Succulent Magnets 9:00am-8:00pm Planting Party 3:30pm Teen Gaming Tournament 3:30-5:30pm Book Bingo 6:00-8:00pm Investigation Stations 6:30pm	6 Stories & More 10:00am Wise 10:30am-12:00pm Investigation Stations & Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Team A DnD 6:00pm	7 Stories & Stretches 11:00am Teen Art Club 3:30pm	8 Teen Jackbox Games 3:30pm	9 Knit & Crochet 11:30am
11 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am-1:00pm Obstacle Course Building 4:00pm Container Planting 6:00pm	12 OTAB Meeting 3:30pm DnD 6:00pm Investigation Stations 6:30pm	13 Stories & More 10:00am Wise 10:30am-12:00pm Investigation Stations & Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Teen Gaming Club 3:30pm	14 Stories & Stretches 11:00am Cooking Club 6:30pm	15 Whoop the British Tea Party 3:30-5:30pm	16 Olean School District Juried Art Exhibit Reception 11:00am-1:00pm
18 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am-1:00pm Brown Bag Book Club 12:30pm MarioKart Live Races 4:00pm Cross Stitching Flower 6:30pm	19 Investigation Stations 6:30pm	20 Stories & More 10:00am Wise 10:30am-12:00pm Race Unity Book Club 1:00pm Investigation Stations & Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Board Meeting 5:30pm Team B DnD 6:00pm	21 Stories & Stretches 11:00am	22 Teen Jackbox Games 3:30pm	23
25 CLOSED 	26 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am-1:00pm	27 Wise 10:30am-12:00pm Teen Cozy Crafty Corner 3:30pm Basket Braiding 6:00pm	28	29	30