

THE NEWS *of* ORANGE COUNTY

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At the Library: Plenty of places to volunteer at OCPL

*By Erin Hils Shepherd
Orange County Public Library*

OCPL is excited to begin 2014 with an expanded volunteer program for teens and adults.

In 2013, the library adopted its first-ever strategic plan, which includes a component of fostering community connections. The volunteer program is one way OCPL seeks to link up with individuals in the county, create service opportunities and provide enhanced library services.

The plan is available online at www.orangecountync.gov/library/documents/OCPL_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Interested in volunteering at OCPL? Help is needed in the following areas:

- Maintaining the shelves;
- Searching for missing items;
- Processing withdrawn items and preparing them for the Friends of the Library sales;
- Updating displays;
- Pulling holds for library customers;
- Assisting at library events and programs with set-up, clean-up and refreshments;
- Cleaning CDs and DVDs; and
- Repairing books.

Volunteers make a difference by sharing their skills and talents. We currently have volunteers who offer resume review assistance and translation services. Do you have any skills that could be of service to the library and our customers? We'd like to hear more about them.

And parents, volunteering at the library can be an enriching experience for teens. Time spent volunteering can be used toward school service hours, too.

The process to become a volunteer starts with the completion of an application. Applications are available at all three OCPL locations and online at www.orangecountync.gov/library/volunteer.asp

Individuals' interests are matched with jobs after an interview. Volunteers then work with staff to create their schedule, and receive training and supervision in the specific tasks to which they are assigned.

Consider sharing your time and talents with OCPL! For more information, please contact Nitya Fiorentino at nfiorentino@orangecountync.gov or call 919.245.2538.

New Youth Programs Begin This Month

All youth programs resume in January at the OCPL Main Library and the following schedule runs through March 27:

- **Baby Lapsit Storytime:** Mondays at 10 a.m.; 20-minute program with books, rhymes, music and movement for babies and their caregivers.
- **Tiny Tots Storytime:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; 25-minute program for walkers to age 3 and their caregivers.
- **Preschool Storytime:** Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; 30-minute program for children ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers.
- **“Stay and Play”** sessions after the Tuesday and Wednesday storytimes. To expand our commitment to *Every Child Ready to Read*, these free-play sessions are being offered with fun and educational toys, puppets and games to engage your child’s early literacy learning and build social skills.
- **Kids Explore:** Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.; 45-minute program for children ages 5 to 8 years old that promotes discovery of LEGOs, art, science and literature.
- **Tweens Discover:** Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.; 45-minute program for tweens ages 9 to 12 years old. (Parents and younger siblings are encouraged to spend the Kids Explore and Tweens Discover programs outside of the programming room, enjoying the library).

Saturday storytimes at the OCPL Carrboro Branch also return on Jan. 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Teacher Workday Activities

With Orange County schools closed Thursday, Jan. 21, and Wednesday, Jan. 22, come to the library to spend a winter’s afternoon for a movie and crafts.

On Jan. 21, at 1 p.m., we’ll show “Khumba”, an animated family movie about a zebra who teams up with a sassy wildebeest and a flamboyant ostrich and sets out on a daring mission across the Karoo Desert to find the legendary waterhole where the first zebras got their stripes.

Teens, ages 13 to 18 years old, are invited Jan. 22, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. to make Shrinky Dink gear for this month’s Teens Make program.

The OCPL Main Library is located at 137 W. Margaret Lane in Hillsborough. The OCPL Carrboro Branch is inside McDougle Middle School at 900 Old Fayetteville Road in Chapel Hill. To learn about the many services and events at the library go to www.orangecountync.gov/library.