

THE NEWS *of* ORANGE COUNTY

This column originally appeared in *The News of Orange County* on August 20, 2014. Reprinted with permission.

At the Library: Library Card Sign-Up Month starts soon

*By Erin Hils Shepherd
Communications Specialist
Orange County Public Library*

Is a trip to the library long overdue? Do you have a library item that's past its due date? Fall back into the library routine this September.

A library card is the smartest card you can carry. In Orange County, it literally gives you free access to more than 100,000 books, movies, CDs, audiobooks, newspapers and magazines, not to mention Internet and WiFi access and a multitude of online resources.

Orange County Public Library wants you to bring back a book, bring back yourself, and is celebrating National Library Card Sign-Up Month by:

- Offering free replacement library cards during the entire month of September; and
- Not charging fines on overdue materials returned between Sept. 15 and 28.

Whether you've lost your library card or it's simply seen better days and you'd like a new one, come to any of the three OCPL locations. Receive a keychain and wallet-sized card combination that makes using your library card simple and handy.

From Monday, Sept. 15, through Sunday, Sept. 28, OCPL will waive fines on any overdue materials returned to the library. This includes items for which a customer has already been billed. This promotion does not include waiving replacement fees for items not returned to the library or any previous fees on an account.

The library is a welcoming place where beloved classics and new titles are waiting to be discovered. There are also storytimes, family movies, weekly afterschool activities and friendly librarians happy to assist with homework, research or school projects.

So, whether it's been awhile since you last visited the library, you have a book or movie that's long overdue, or you can't find your card, come to the library to get and use the smartest card in your wallet.

OCPL library cards are free to:

- Residents of Orange, Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Durham and Person counties, and the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro;
- All local government employees; and
- All employees of public, private and charter schools.

Orange County Public Library serves the community from three locations. The OCPL Main Library at 137 W. Margaret Lane in Hillsborough is open seven days a week and can be reached at 919-245-2525. The OCPL Carrboro Branch Library inside McDougle Middle School at 900 Old Fayetteville Road in Chapel Hill and the OCPL Cybrary inside The Century Center at 100 W. Greensboro St. in Carrboro offer complementary hours to

serve southern Orange County. Call the Carrboro Branch at 919-969-3006 and the Cybrary at 919-918-7387. Visit OCPL online at www.orangecountync.gov/library or www.facebook.com/ocnclibrary.