

# Three Oaks Township Public Library

## Director's Report: March 11, 2025

February 2025 circulation statistics:

- 804 physical items checked out
- 502 e-items checked out (Libby, hoopla, Kanopy)
- 53 items borrowed via inter-library loan, 51 items lent via inter-library loan
- 48 people used public computers
- 72 people attended library programs (including passive programming)

Upcoming Events:

- Every Tuesday:
- Story Time, 10:30 – 11:00
- Every Tuesday: Drop-In Play Doh Play Date, 11:00 – 12:00 noon.
- Every Wednesday: Knitting and Crocheting Circle, 10:30 – 11:30. Individuals of all skill levels are invited to bring their projects.
- Every Thursday: Lego Club @ the Library all day. Projects will stay on display for one week.
- Every Thursday: Adult Drop-In Color Me Happy Hour, 1:00 – 2:00.
- Every Thursday: Story Time, 4:30 – 5:00.
- Saturday, March 22, Coastline Children's Film Festival presentation of "Harold and the Purple Crayon," 11:00.
- April 1-30, Michigan Financial Literacy Month. Free online financial literacy events at: <http://www.mifinancialwellness.org/>
- Saturday, April 26, SW Michigan Writer's Conference at Lincoln Township Public Library, 9 – 3.

We had 12 children plus adults here when court members from Three Oaks/River Valley Pageant were here for Read with Royalty StoryTime on February 27.

Peggy and I went to the RV Elementary Fun Fair on March 1. We gave away about 100 shamrock coins. When children bring these coins to the library, they can choose a new free book to keep. So far we have had 10 coins make their way back to us.

We are again partnering with Chikaming Open Lands for StoryWalk. It will be March 21 to May 26 at Robinson Woods Preserve on East Road.

We are doing a Peeps Diorama Contest – forms are in your folders. We are having two evening workshops for anyone who wants to come try it out.

Some information about online resources for e-books and audiobooks (downloadable items, not physical items in the library). We currently provide Overdrive/Libby, hoopla, and Kanopy. Each one is slightly different and operates through apps the patron needs to download and then log-in with their library card.

- Overdrive/Libby is a shared digital library with all the libraries in our co-op who choose to pay to participate. We all agree to the same rules – a patron may have 7 items on hold and 7 items checked out at once. The libraries individual cost is based on the number of patrons they have – we pay a base of \$2000 per year for Libby and larger libraries pay considerably more. Some libraries choose to allocate more money to Libby, Lincoln Township Library spends an additional \$20,000 on Libby annually. I usually spend an additional \$1000 per year on Libby requests from our patrons. E-books and audiobooks are extremely expensive – most bestselling new books are \$85 and more and are limited to a certain number of checkouts (usually 26) and/or a certain number of time (12 months is typical) – they do not last indefinitely. As a result, there are long wait times for most bestselling books (could be several months). Libby now offers over 1000 magazines that are all simultaneous use with no holds or waits.
- Hoopla is an app that patrons can download and log-in with their library card to access. Hoopla has e-books, audiobooks, movies, TV series, and Binge Passes. Our patrons each have 6 borrows per month (we choose this amount). Since hoopla is a cost-per-usage there are no holds or wait times on hoopla. Each item costs between

\$.99 and \$4.95 and the library receives a monthly bill. Hoopla does not have the same selection of authors and materials as Libby and is heavier on small-house publishers and non-fiction.

- Kanopy is an app that patrons can download and sign in with their library card to access. Currently our patrons get 18 “tickets” per month (we choose this amount) to spend on checkouts (roughly equivalent to \$1 per ticket) and items are between 1 and 4 tickets each. Kanopy has films, TV shows, and documentaries. Kanopy promotes itself as “thoughtful entertainment” and is heavy with foreign films, indie films, artsy award-winning films, and concerts. There is little to no overlap in content between Libby and hoopla with Kanopy.

We have about 50 patrons using Libby each month and a different group of about 50 patrons using hoopla each month. There is very little overlap between the two sets of patrons. We have an additional group of 5-15 different patrons using Kanopy each month and they are different than the Hoopla and Libby users. We are one of only a handful of libraries in our co-op that offer Kanopy – Bridgman, New Buffalo, Buchanan, and Galien do not.

Our co-op Overdrive/Libby consortium is considering joining the state-wide Overdrive/Libby consortium. This would make many more titles available to our patrons but could also affect our purchasing as patrons from other consortiums would have access to the titles we purchased. In order to do this, all libraries in our co-op would need to opt in so I don't think this will be happening quickly.

Many libraries locally and nationwide are dropping Hoopla because of the cost; Otsego District Library and Lincoln Township Public Library have both dropped hoopla recently. I think we can afford to continue as we are. If more of our patrons start to use hoopla and our costs climb considerably we can lower the limit of checkouts per month from six for a cost reduction before eliminating the product entirely.

Being able to offer all three of these well-known platforms is something no other library in southwest Michigan does. This allows us to expand our reach beyond patrons who walk in the library doors because the vast majority of digital readers do not check out physical items and we rarely see them.