

# Odell Public Library

# OUTREACH



MAY 2026

## SUMMER READING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

With the school year winding down, Odell is gearing up for a busy summer at the library! This year's Summer Reading theme, "Plant a Seed, Read!" explores how things grow with plenty of hands-on activities and special gatherings. Just as fruits and vegetables nourish our bodies, we know reading nourishes our minds!

Summer Reading Club is a FREE 5-week program that encourages kids to continue reading over the summer break by offering fun and educational enrichment activities. Generously sponsored by the United Way of Whiteside County with support from CGH, Kiwanis, and individual donors, SRC is open to children entering preschool through 8th grade. Registration via our [Google form](#) is required by May 31, 2026 so staff can order and prepare enough supplies.



Materials for an art project or science activity will be available for pickup at the beginning of each week. In addition, we'll have a Story Stroll, stuffed animal sleepover, petting zoo, butterfly tents, and a few other surprises planned to keep readers active! The first day for pickup will be Monday, June 8th, or any day that week. If you need to miss a week, that's okay! Come when you are able and catch up. A library card is not required, but it does make reading a lot more fun!

Readers who complete their logs and BINGO sheets receive \*FREE BOOKS\* at the end of Summer Reading Club and are entered into awesome prize drawings. This program is a great way to get your family comfortable using the library and has been shown to help grow or maintain literacy skills that are often lost over the summer months. Come read, play, and explore at Odell! We can't wait to "Plant a Seed" and READ with you!

*Plant a Seed, Read*





## SPRING WINNERS

Two lucky readers won our Spring BINGO reading challenge. Congratulations Brayden T. and Tiffany! Special thanks to the Odell Public Library Friends for sponsoring the contest and providing wonderful prizes. Reading really does pay!



# HOW

is the letter



## LIKE A FLOWER?

Complete our monthly Scavenger Hunt to solve the riddle and win a small prize! Thanks to the Odell Public Library Friends for sponsoring our goodies!



## STILL TIME TO PLANT

Many thanks to the Illinois Master Gardeners, Extension Office, and Morrison Garden Club for sponsoring the Seed Library at Odell! Stop in and select from a wide-variety of vegetable seeds to get your garden started! Available while supplies last.



## HANDS-ON LEARNING

Patrons watched with rapt curiosity last month as 15 painted lady caterpillars made their way into chrysalises. The butterflies emerged this week and have been a joy to watch and release! You never know what you'll learn at the library.



# MAY 2026 | MONTHLY PROGRAMS

**May Storytimes** 

6:30 - 7:00 PM

THURS <b>07</b>	<b>IN THE GARDEN</b> 
THURS <b>14</b>	<b>ALLIGATOR</b> 
THURS <b>21</b>	<b>ICE CREAM</b>  <b>*LAST STORYTIME*</b>
THURS <b>28</b>	<b>HAPPY SUMMER!</b> SEE YOU NEXT SEASON!

Perfect for Preschoolers!  Stories, Songs, Rhymes, & Art

## STORYTIME

Storytime is a 30-minute drop-in program each Thursday evening, designed for families with preschool through early elementary-aged kids (or anyone who still loves a good read-aloud!). Families will enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft each week as they become familiar with the library and meet new storytime friends. Pajamas are always welcome. Come play and learn with us at Storytime!

1ST SATURDAYS

**LEGO CLUB**

**10:30 – NOON**

SEPTEMBER – MAY | NO NOVEMBER MEETING

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY. COME PLAY AT ODELL!



## LEGO CLUB

LEGO Club is FINISHED for the season, but keep your eyes peeled for pop-up LEGO activities over the summer and don't forget: you can always check out our mobile LEGO cart!

2ND SATURDAYS

**POKEMON CLUB**

**10:00 – 11:30**

SEPTEMBER – MAY





## POKEMON CLUB

Whether your Pokemon trainer plays the card game or just likes to collect, Pokemon Club brings fans together to play, trade, and share their Pokemon knowledge! Gotta catch 'em all!

# ODELL LIBRARY FRIENDS

## BECOME A FRIEND!

The Odell Public Library Friends are patrons who support the library through fundraising, advocacy, and programming. Friends have no age requirement or financial commitment; they are simply a group of people who love and support the library! Does this sound like you? The Odell Public Library Friends are currently looking for members. Email the Friends at [odell.friends@gmail.com](mailto:odell.friends@gmail.com) with any questions or join them at their next meeting!

**Next Meeting:**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
ODELL PROGRAM ROOM  
ALL ARE WELCOME!



## STAFF SIGN-OFF

A familiar face with be leaving Odell this week. Library Aide and Book Processor, Victoria Horn has served patrons with care and insight since 2021. Stop by and wish Miss Victoria well as she starts new adventures in Sioux City, IA!



## NEW FACES

Odell is pleased to welcome John Taylor and Kristina Golden to the Odell staff. Taylor and Golden bring a variety of skills and experience, as well as great attitudes to the library. Be sure to say hello on your next visit to Odell!

## MICROGREENS

Odell is currently growing:

- Broccoli
- Speckled Pea
- Salad Mix
- Radish

**NEW!**

Pop them in salads, smoothies, soups, and more for an extra dose of nutrition, especially during the winter months!



**Self-Serve  
MICROGREEN  
SAMPLES**

Help yourself to samples of our fresh microgreens ♡ Check the mini fridge by the front door!

*Excellent source of nutrients!*



*Grown & harvested at Odell Public Library with support from the Ogle County Health Department*



The latest book orders can be found by scrolling to the bottom of Odell's [website](#) or stopping by the circulation desk. You can "Adopt-a-Book" for just \$15 to ensure the first read!

# PATRON-LED PROGRAMS

*Spring 2026*



## PINOCHLE

**Every Monday**  
**1 - 5 p.m.**  
Odell Program Room

## SCRABBLE

**Every Wednesday**  
**1 - 3 p.m.**  
Odell Program Room



## CHESS



**Every 2nd, 3rd, 4th Monday**  
**10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays 5 - 8 p.m.**  
Odell Program Room

## CRAFTERS



**Every Thursday**  
**5 - 7 p.m.**  
Genealogy Room  
Bring a project & socialize

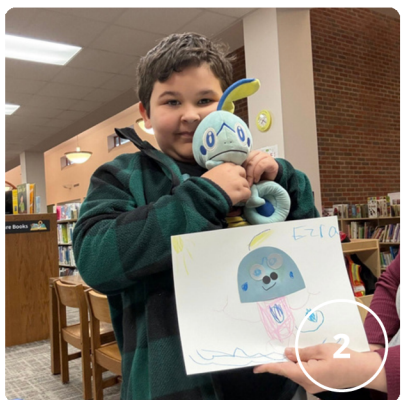
## BOOK CLUB

**2nd Thursday**  
**2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**  
Odell Program Room  
(Let the front desk know if you need  
a copy of the month's book)



### **APRIL BOOK: THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB**

**All programs are free and open to the public. Beginners welcome.**  
**Please note that these programs are not run by Odell Public Library,**  
**though we are happy to host & pass on any questions.**  
**Come together at your local library!**



1) Odell staff member Ava Yates helps two curious patrons release one of our painted lady butterflies. 2) Ezra used his imagination to create a new Pokemon 3) Morrison's Kindergarten classes visited Odell in April and helped decorate the library for Summer Reading. 4) Anakin created a terrific bird at a windblown storytime.

## MUSEUM & ZOO PASSES

Looking to explore locally? Check out Odell's **Putnam Museum**, **Sawmill Museum**, or **Niabi Zoo** passes and enjoy a day exploring on us! Passes are available to adult Odell library card holders on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call us at 772-7323 to reserve your pass!

## ALWAYS AVAILABLE

- Odell Play Kitchen & Puppet Theater
- Discovery Book Packs
- Leapfrog Readers
- Hot Spot checkouts
- Free library cards for kids
- Free wi-fi and public computers
- LEGO cart
- Coloring and activity pages
- Access to Ancestry.com
- Educate Station: K-5 Curriculum

