

Library Report to the City Council – August 2020

Rightfully Hers

The Oelwein Public Library will host a new popup exhibition from the National Archives, ***Rightfully Hers***, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. ***Rightfully Hers*** contains simple messages exploring the history of the ratification of the 19th amendment, women’s voting rights before and after the 19th, and its impact today. This exhibit runs through the month of August.



Rightfully Hers is organized by the National Archives and Records Administration. The exhibition is presented in part by the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission and the National Archives Foundation through the generous support of Unilever, Pivotal Ventures, Carl M. Freeman Foundation in honor of Virginia Allen Freeman, AARP, and Denise Gwyn Ferguson.

Toward a Universal Suffrage

A new exhibit documenting the contributions of African American women to the suffrage movement in Iowa will be on display at the Oelwein Public Library from August 24-28.

A product of a collaboration between the Iowa Department of Human Rights’ Office on the Status of Women, the Central Iowa Community Museum, and the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University, ***Toward a Universal Suffrage: African American Women in Iowa and the Vote for All***, highlights the contributions of African American in Iowa to the suffrage movement and reminds us that access to the ballot remains as important today as it was in 1920.



African American women played a crucial role in this struggle, advocating for women’s suffrage along with civil rights, the end to lynching, and other forms of systemized discrimination. Among these activists in Iowa were Gertrude Rush, Sue M. Wilson Brown, Helen Downey, and Vivian B. Smith.

Funding for ***Toward A Universal Suffrage*** is provided by the Iowa State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Humanities Iowa, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Chrysalis Foundation.

