

## The Voice of the Green Lake County Libraries

### 8 WAYS LIBRARIES ARE GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY

Libraries are here when they are needed, ready to enrich our minds and defend our right to know, just as other institutions protect our safety and property. Without sound minds, however, the American dream of safe streets and secure homes will never be fulfilled.

Libraries safeguard our freedom and keep democracy healthy. It will take all of us, in a spirit of pride and freedom, to maintain libraries as



#### 1. Libraries inform citizens.

Democracy vests supreme power in the people. Libraries make democracy work by providing access to information so that citizens can make the decisions necessary to govern themselves. The public library is the only institution in American society whose purpose is to guard against the tyrannies of ignorance and conformity, and its existence indicates the extent to which a democratic society values knowledge, truth, justice, books, and culture.

#### 2. Libraries make families friendlier.

The American family's best friend, the library, offers services guaranteed to hone coping skills. Homework centers, literacy training, parenting materials, after-school activities, summer reading programs—like the families they serve, libraries everywhere are adapting to meet new challenges.

#### 3. Libraries return high dividends.

What do Gallo wines, the I Can't Believe It's Yogurt chain, and billboard-sign giant Metromedia have in common? Libraries made millionaires out of each of these companies' owners by

providing crucial start-up information when they were no more than wannabe business titans. Libraries are there to help people with more personal goals, too. The seed money expended for these and other success stories? Less than \$20 per capita per year in tax dollars.

#### 4. Libraries build communities.

Libraries validate and unify; they save lives, literally and by preserving the record of those lives. Community-building means libraries link people with information. Librarians have become experts at helping others navigate the Internet. Before there was cyberspace, there were libraries, paving the way for the superhighway.

#### 5. Libraries value the individual.

Library doors swing open for independent thinking. Libraries offer alternatives to the manipulations of commercialism, from the excellence of public-television productions to the freethinking of renegade publishers and the vision of poets and artists outside the mainstream business of art and literature.

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## PRINCETON

**Season's Readings from the Princeton Public Library.** You're always invited to stop by to give yourself and your family the gift of good books, movies, and music—all at absolutely no cost. You're also invited to look at the library's holiday calendar of events and add some to your calendar.

For starters, the **reader's theatre cast and crew have put together a Holiday Medley.** They will present O. Henry's *Gift of the Magi* along with a humorous update of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, holidays a la *X-Files*, and more. The first performance will be Friday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the library; the second on Sunday, December 12, 2:00 p.m. at the Fox Note, 516 Water Street next to Bull Moose Mercantile. Refreshments will be served and performances are free and open to the public. Special thanks to Joe and Phyllis Tondou from Fox Note, Sherm's Piggly Wiggly, and the Princeton Library Friends.

Speaking of the Friends, December finds them busier than Santa's elves as the **Friends bake and organize for their annual cookie walk and silent auction on Sunday, December 12 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.** If you love to have cookies and other goodies on hand for the holidays, but your stove blew up in the last lightning storm, your new puppy shredded your favorite recipes, or you're simply too busy to shop and bake—the Friends cookie walk is the event for you. Select from dozens of delicious varieties, fill your cookie jars, and no one will ever know that your mixer is covered with cobwebs! While you're stocking up on baked goods, be sure to browse through the numerous and varied items from the Friends' silent auction. This fundraiser is a great opportunity to support the Friends and to do some easy gift shopping! Items may be viewed and bid on in advance; final bids must be made by noon Sunday.

The **library will host a book signing** during the cookie walk, as well. Mary Ross, whose story is included in a collection called *The Rocking Chair Reader: Coming Home*, will be on hand from 9:30 - noon to sign and sell copies of this book. Ross' story is titled *Home Harbor* and is set in old New England. Ross is from Markesan, along with another author featured in this anthology, Jan White. White's story is called *Gatherings Remembered* and is set in Grayslake, Illinois and Green Lake, Wisconsin. Information will be available at the book signing on a future mini-workshop by these authors for other writers.

The library will serve as an **Angel Tree** site for Green Lake County Human Services. If you would like to purchase a gift or gifts to brighten someone's winter holidays, simply select an angel from the tree in the library's entry. Gifts, with their respective angel tags, should be returned to the library on or before December 14, if possible.

Holiday movie releases included two based on popular children's literature: *The Polar Express* and *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. In celebration, the library will sponsor an after-school children's program featuring a reading of the *Polar Express* and related crafts on Friday, December 10, from 3:30 - 4:30. Library patrons are invited to enter a drawing December 13 -17 for copies of Lemony Snicket's books and related materials.

**January is National Soup Month.** And that means it's time to round up your favorite soup recipe to enter in the library's fourth annual soup recipe contest. Winning recipes will be each be served for a week in February at the Country Café. All recipes will be printed in a souvenir booklet distributed to all entrants. Bon Appetit!

The **First Tuesday Book Discussion** group will be on holiday in January. The February title is *Orchard*, by Wisconsin author Larry Watson. Copies of the book will be available at the library for pick-up after January 1. The group will meet Tuesday, February 8, at 5:30 p.m. starting with a potluck supper. All are welcome.

Finally, several reminders: The library offers free access to the Internet. There are now four stations available for public Internet access and new for patrons who bring their own laptops—wireless access. We are grateful to the Winnefox Library System for the staff and other support making this possible. Speaking of access, please remember that the library has volunteers who will happily pick up and deliver materials for those who are unable to visit the library. Snowy roads and icy sidewalks need not keep you from enjoying the many, many things the library offers.

*Big guy, big heart, big gifts!  
Jeff Hafemeister, Winnefox  
Library System van driver,  
knows that it's better to give  
than receive. He is shown  
with an Angel Tree gift for  
the Green Lake County  
Human Services program.  
Thanks, Jeff!*



## GREEN LAKE

The Caestecker Public Library celebrated **Children's Book Week** with a craft program and story time for children. In the craft, children made their own books to take home. The storytime featured lots of giggles with silly animal stories.

The library will be participating in **Christmas in Green Lake** with a special Christmas story time on Saturday, December 4th at 10:30 am. Santa will be listening to stories along with us, so make time to stop by and fill up on holiday cheer!

The **Artist of the Month** program has reached the end of another year. The library wants to thank all of the artists who made this such a successful year filled with all sorts of art. If you are an artist and would like to participate in the Artist of the Month program, contact the library at 294-3572. We can accommodate a wide range of art types and are willing to work with artists to show their work to the best effect.

Look for more adult programming in December and the winter months. We will again be filling the library with **Music by the Fireside**. Exact dates and times are not set yet, but by mid-December we will have bookmarks with the details. If you are a musician who would enjoy performing at the library solo or with a group, please contact us at 294-3572.

## BERLIN

The month of October was an extremely busy one for the Berlin Public Library. In addition to the events surrounding the countywide read, "**Teen Read Week**" was also celebrated by visiting the Middle School and the High School and doing book talks. The most popular book reviewed was *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson. *Son of the Mob*, by Gordon Korman, an updated Romeo and Juliet story was also popular. Over 500 students took part in this annual program. Because of block scheduling in the high school, the remainder of the freshman students will have the program repeated in December.

The third grade students of **Clay Lamberton Elementary School** visited the library and had a tour of the "historical" collection, including the microfilm files and old yearbooks. The students were left wide-eyed by the prices in the advertisements from 50 years ago. Recently, The Berlin Journal Office donated 20 years of bound *Berlin Journal* to our historical collection.

Our **Outreach Program** was extended to another area. There is now a cart of large print books at the Berlin Senior Center to be rotated as needed. We have a cart of audios, travel books and large print at Brown-Wilcox and do home delivery to many homebound patrons.

## WORLDWIDE LIBRARY CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Have you ever tried to find a book that's not in our local catalog? Library users in the Winnefox Library System now have another option for finding that item.

*OCLC's FirstSearch WorldCat* is the world's largest, most complete, and most consulted library catalog, listing 56 million items owned by over 50,000 libraries around the world. The catalog includes information in all formats—books, full text, electronic books and journals, Web-based articles, and audio and video recordings—from the full range of recorded history.

Once you've found what you're looking for print out the page and bring it to your local library. If it's owned by a library in the United States there's a good chance that the Winnefox Library System's interlibrary loan staff will be able to get it for you.

You can get to WorldCat from your local library's [Electronic Resources](#) page; it's listed under [Library Catalogs](#).



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**6. Libraries level the playing field.** Economists have cited a growing inequity in America, with the gap between the richest and poorest citizens becoming wider. By making all its resources equally available to all members of the community the library helps level the playing field. Once users have access to the library's materials, they have the opportunity to level the playing field outside the library by learning to read, gaining employment, or starting a business.

**7. Libraries open kids' minds.** Bringing children into a library can transport them from the commonplace to the extraordinary. From story hours for preschoolers to career planning for highschoolers, librarians make a difference because they care about the unique needs of every individual who comes to them for help. Children learn personal responsibility by holding a library card of their own, a card that gives them access to new worlds in books, videos, audiotapes, computers, and more.

**8. Libraries preserve the past.** Libraries preserve the record; a nation, a culture, a community that does not understand its own past is mired in its own mistakes. Libraries enable us to communicate through distance and time with the living and the dead. It is a miracle kept available by the meticulous sorting, storing, indexing, and preservation that still characterizes library work—work that will carry, in the electronic environment, challenges and a price tag yet unknown.

Adapted from "12 Ways Libraries Are Good for the Country," *American Libraries* (Dec. 1995): 1113-19.

## Green Lake County Libraries

### BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

121 West Park Avenue Berlin, WI 54923  
 920-361-5420 [www.berlinlibrary.org](http://www.berlinlibrary.org)  
 Monday 9-8  
 Tuesday 9-8  
 Wednesday 9-8  
 Thursday 9-8  
 Friday 9-6  
 Saturday 9-5 (Summer 9-1)

### CAESTECKER PUBLIC LIBRARY

518 Hill Street Green Lake, WI 54941  
 920-294-3572 [www.greenlakelibrary.org](http://www.greenlakelibrary.org)  
 Monday 9:30-6:00  
 Tuesday 9:30-7:00  
 Wednesday 9:30-6:00  
 Thursday 9:30-7:00  
 Friday 9:30-6:00  
 Saturday 9:30-12:30  
 Sunday 1:00-4:00

### MARKESAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

75 North Bridge Street Markesan, WI 53946  
 920-398-3434 [www.markesanlibrary.org](http://www.markesanlibrary.org)  
 Monday 10-7  
 Tuesday 10-6  
 Wednesday 10-6  
 Thursday 10-7  
 Friday 10-6  
 Saturday 9-12:00 (Summer - closed)

### MILL POND PUBLIC LIBRARY

151 North South Street Kingston, WI 53939  
 920-394-3281 [www.millpondlibrary.org](http://www.millpondlibrary.org)  
 Monday 1-6  
 Tuesday 1-6  
 Wednesday 9-11 & 1-6  
 Thursday 1-6  
 Saturday 9-11

### PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

424 West Water Street Princeton, WI 54968  
 920-295-6777 [www.princetonpublib.org](http://www.princetonpublib.org)  
 Monday 10-5  
 Tuesday 10-5  
 Wednesday 10-8  
 Thursday 10-5  
 Friday 10-5  
 Saturday 10-1

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