



FIVE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Recently the opinion research organization Public Agenda surveyed cross-section of civically-active adults and national and community leaders on their attitudes towards public libraries. In June, their findings were released in a report: [Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public Attitudes About Libraries in the 21st Century.](#)

Among their key findings:

Libraries Are Highly Valued.

Libraries received the best grades of any of the community institutions covered in a national survey. Nearly half the public gave libraries an “A” – higher than public schools, the police and the local news media. More than 6 in 10 “strongly agree” that public libraries are essential for “maintaining a productive community.”

Libraries Are Important 21st Century Resources.

The public considers having computers and Internet access in libraries essential, and many also want libraries to provide other multimedia resources. Almost two-thirds of Americans say that having enough computers and online services should be a high priority for libraries.

Voters Love Libraries.

Those who vote in nearly every local election, and who volunteer and donate to charities, are big fans of libraries. Nearly three-quarters have a local library card. Six in 10 of these civically-engaged folks would favor a tax increase to cover library needs, compared with about half of less-engaged citizens.

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Libraries Use Tax Funds Wisely.

More than three-quarters of library users believe libraries spend tax dollars well. Even among non-users, 6 in 10 say they believe libraries use their funds wisely.

The Public Welcomes a Greater Role for Libraries.

Interviews with nearly three dozen national and community leaders and an in-depth public opinion survey highlighted four specific opportunities for public libraries to integrate themselves more fully into the life of their communities and to position themselves as positive ‘community players.’

The four areas are:

A safe and engaging place for teens

Nationwide, there are excellent examples of teen programming at public libraries, but funding is a challenge.

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WINNECONNE

After a successful 2005 year, it appears 2006 is following along. Many township and village residents are taking advantage of the library as a warm, friendly information resource that is serving a growing population.

The summer reading program “Paws, claws, scales and tales” is a fun theme and a great drawing card to library activities. We have balloon art and a black light show scheduled along with musicians and storytellers, and last week had 97 people watching performing dogs.



This year we added a “favorite pet photo” contest in June and a “decorate your dog dish” contest in July. Kids can also win a free book by turning in six activity sheets that have them explore the outdoors or write a poem and read it to the librarian.

The adult reading program is as popular as ever since they have as much fun digging in as the kids do. All summer performers and materials are paid for by the Friends of the Library and Winnefox Library System.

We were fortunate to receive a \$10,000 bequest in April which the library board has deposited for future expansion. Our new “site license” will allow us to have an occasional “movie night” at the library too.

Winnefox and WALs continue to provide the special services and care we need to run our business and keep people happy and we cannot say enough about them.

OMRO

The long awaited summer has finally gotten here and the Carter Memorial Library is looking forward to the summer reading programs.



“PAWS, CLAWS, SCALES and TALES” is the children’s program which will start July 12th. This program is designed to encourage children to enjoy reading and keep their reading skills sharp over the summer months. We are committed to helping the young readers learn to love books and our other library resources. The requirements for a summer reading certificate are to read or be read to for 20 minutes a day and keep track of those minutes on a reading card. When a card gets full, it will be turned in and a new card given out. An achievement certificate will be earned by turning in 5 completed cards before August 16th. The activity part of this year’s program will feature the many exciting presentations listed below:

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|-----------|-----------|---|
| July 12 | 1-2 pm | Zolkowskis’ Soda Pups |
| July 19 | 1-2 pm | Green Bay New Zoo
Zoomobile |
| July 25 | 1-2 pm | Fun with Crafts Day |
| August 2 | 1-2 pm | Mikael Rudolph, mime artist |
| August 9 | 1-1:45 pm | Stuart Stotts, musician and storyteller |
| August 16 | 1-2 pm | Achievement Day Party |

The older teens and adults are not forgotten this summer either in the “**GET YOUR PAWS on a GOOD BOOK**” reading program. The participants read a book, rate it and possibly make a comment about the book. Each filled out coupon gets put in for a weekly drawing.

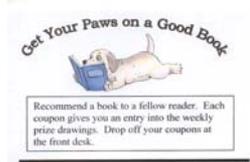
Our Friends of the Omro Library would like to extend a THANK YOU to all the generous donors who have given us their old cell phones, empty ink jet and lazer cartridges for recycling. Over the last 3 ½ years those donations have given the Friends group \$1672 for the purchase of children’s books, audio books, the new children’s board book storage rack and adult books on CDs. This recycling project/fund raiser not only helps the library but it helps the environment. These items can be brought to the library and deposited in the collection box by the entry door. The Omro Elementary school also has a collection box in the PTO after school room.



August 2 1:00 - 1:45 pm
Mime Artist Mikael Rudolph
An experienced professional mime artist, Mikael Rudolph will perform several original and classic mime pieces.
Sponsored by the Friends of the Omro Library.



July 19
1:00 - 2:00 pm
Zoomobile
The new Zoomobile from Green Bay will provide an exciting and fun way to see the animals at the zoo. Includes an educational presentation about the animals and a chance to see the Zoomobile.
Sponsored by the Friends of the Omro Library.



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Literacy skills for a strong workforce
Survey data about adult literacy and workforce development show a clear opportunity for synergy and community improvement. More than half of the public believes communities should emphasize job search assistance, and almost as many believe this should be a high priority for public libraries.

*From a new public opinion research study. 'Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public and Leadership Attitudes About Libraries in the 21st Century' published by Public Agenda June 2005.

The complete report can be found at http://www.publicagenda.org/research/research_reports.cfm

Center for community information

The public sees an opportunity for libraries to fill a gap as a "hub" for improved access to government information and services, including making public documents and forms quickly and easily available.

Greater access to technology

The public says this is a community need that is currently not being met and one it sees as a high priority for libraries.

CARTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY - OMRO

405 East Huron Street
Omro, WI 54963
920-685-7016
www.omrolibrary.org
Monday 10-7
Tuesday 10-5
Wednesday 10-5
Thursday 10-7
Friday 10-5
Saturday 9-12

WINNECONNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

31 South 2nd Street
Winneconne, WI 54986
920-582-7091
www.winneconnelibrary.com
Monday 10-6
Tuesday 10-6
Wednesday 10-6
Thursday 10-6
Friday 10-6
Saturday 10-1

Shhhout! is published quarterly by the Winnefox Library System to provide news for and about its member libraries in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago counties. Direct comments and inquiries to:

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