

The Voice of the Waushara 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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COLOMA

COLOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY REACHES 20,000 CHECKOUTS!!!

Well, surprise was the word for Vicky Deery. She checked out the 20,000th item from the Coloma Public Library this year. She came in expecting to pick up a book she ordered and was greeted with fan fare.

She was presented with candy, flowers, Chili Supper tickets and a certificate from Lavoires On The Hill Restaurant. Congratulations to Vicky.



WILD ROSE

The Patterson Library had two building fundraisers in November. On Nov. 11, 100 people attended the annual banquet held at the Lion's Building. A wonderful dinner was catered and DONATED by Main Street Station, a silent auction was held, and everyone enjoyed the musical entertainment of Grace Froelich. The VolunTeens, once again, proved themselves to be capable servers. On Nov. 20th a Christmas craft and rummage sale was held along with a Christmas Bake sale provided by the Wild Rose Woman's Club and others.

We will soon erect a thermometer as a measure of our fundraising efforts. We are continuing to sell our engraved bricks for the patio area outside the community center addition. Anyone wishing more information may contact the library.

HANCOCK

Business has stepped up this month as patrons come in seeking holiday-themed materials. People are also pleased to have a music CD collection in their community library, thanks to the WCTS enrichment grant.

For the next six weeks, we are trying out a relatively new program called "Paws for Reading". Carl Merola, of Therapy Dogs International, brings his specially trained dog, Shadow, up to our second floor on Wednesday afternoons. Reluctant readers were chosen to spend 10-15 reading to Shadow. Shadow also visits nursing homes to provide companionship to residents. The new reading program has shown some positive results in other communities. Kids are more apt to practice their reading skills and are able to gain confidence because Shadow doesn't judge them. If you have a reluctant reader at home and would like to be in this program at the Hancock Library, call Marie at 715-249-5817.

The library will again hold its December craft program and story time in conjunction with "Breakfast with Mrs. Claus" on December 11th. Children may come into the community center hall to participate in holiday craft making at no cost, even if they do not purchase breakfast. Stories will be read from 10-11. Craft hours will be 11-2 PM

POY SIPPI

This past month, students from the Poy Sippi Elementary School spent part of their day raking the leaves at the library. It was quite a sight to see a bunch of fourth graders busy with their rakes! Raking leaves is just one of the many signs that tell us winter is on its way! Along with the upcoming holiday celebrations, winter is a wonderful time for you to catch up on all the new books you didn't have time to read or listen to this past summer! Visit your local library to find out what materials are available.

BERLIN

The month of October was an extremely busy one for the Berlin Public Library. "Teen Read Week" was celebrated by visiting the Middle School and the High School and doing book talks.

Third graders from Clay Lamberton Elementary School visited the library and had a tour of the "historical" collection. 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.

REDGRANITE

Children visiting the Redgranite Public Library during Halloween week were tickled to receive one of the imaginatively hand-painted pumpkins created by the inmates at the Redgranite Correctional Institute.

Wireless Internet is now available at the Library for anyone using a laptop or notepad computer.

A scheduled visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus has been postponed until the library repairs are done.



This is the interior of the Redgranite Library after a driver crashed through the north side of the building. The library closed for a week to clean up and make sure the building was structurally sound. The wall has now been repaired and the shelves for large print books and music CDs should soon be in place. The major project now will be to move the shelving and books to replace the carpeting that was torn in the accident. The carpet replacement will cause some disruption for a few days. Shelves and books will need to be moved to one side of the building.

PLAINFIELD

The Pre-School Story time made Christmas ornaments out of natural materials for the state capitol Christmas tree.

This year we are asking our customers to decorate the Christmas tree. When they read a book they can write the title on a mitten and put it on the tree. We hope the tree will be filled with mittens by Christmas.

Our large display case will be decorated with I-Spy Christmas. Come in and see how many items you can find.

We wish each of you a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

WAUTOMA

We've had some big changes at the Wautoma Public Library this month. New shelving for the non-fiction collection was installed recently; one of our volunteers, Ed Stelmachowski, shifted the whole collection by himself. We were in dire need of more room and we contracted with a local carpenter to build shelves that could sit on top of the existing shelves and be bolted into place. Our non-fiction collection really looks nice now and it's easier to find the books, now that they're not so jammed together on the shelves.

We also had our carpet cleaned, and we are waiting for two new signs to be installed on the east and west sides of the building. They will be ten-inch tall plastic letters that say "Public Library" and they have a lifetime guarantee. Perhaps people won't confuse us with the WWII war memorial building, once the letters are installed!

Our Friends of the Library group is hosting their annual Christmas Tea on Wednesday, December 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is always a special day for the library patrons and this year Santa Claus himself will be paying us a visit from 2:00 - 4:00 in the afternoon to greet all our small patrons who come in that day. The Friends group is also purchasing a digital camera for the library, so that it will be easier to put pictures in the local paper and in *Shhhout*.

Since this is our last edition of *Shhhout* for the year, we want to thank everyone for their support of the Wautoma library this year, and wish all a happy and healthy holiday season!

PINE RIVER

The Leon-Saxeville Library wishes to pay tribute to our patrons. Library Director, Valerie Husom, part-time assistant, Kimberly Wilson, volunteers; Pat Bahr, Joan Larsen, Diane Meyer, Grace Froehlich, Barbara Williams, Linda Forseth, the Board of Trustees, and the many members of the Friends of the Library are proud to serve the Townships of Leon and Saxeville and surroundings areas. We would like to recognize, and show our appreciation for the outstanding community support that we receive, with a Holiday Greeting Customer Appreciation event. Please join us on Thursday, December 23, 2004 for cake and coffee during our regular open hours. When you check something out at the circulation desk, your name will be entered in a drawing. Come join us! It's all about you!

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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.

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Shhhout! is published bi-monthly 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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920-236-5222 Email: arend@mail.winnefox.org



Waushara County Libraries

BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

COLOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

155 Front Street Coloma, WI 54930
715-228-2530 www.colomalibrary.org
Monday 10-2
Wednesday 10-5
Thursday 10-7
Friday 10-5
Saturday 10-1

HANCOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

114 South Main Street Hancock, WI 54943
715-249-5817 www.hancocklibrary.org
Monday 12-5
Wednesday 9-12 & 1-5
Thursday 1-6
Friday 1-6
Saturday 10-12

LEON-SAXEVILLE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

N4715 County Road E Pine River, WI 54965
920-987-5110 www.pineriverlibrary.org
Tuesday 2-7
Wednesday 10-12 & 2-7
Thursday 2-7
Friday 2-7
Saturday 10-1

PATTERSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

500 Wisconsin Avenue Wild Rose, WI 54984
920-622-3835 www.wildroselibrary.org
Monday 10-6
Tuesday 10-6
Wednesday 10-6
Thursday 10-9
Friday 10-8

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

126 South Main Street Plainfield, WI 54966
715-335-4523 www.plainfieldlibrary.org
Tuesday 10-5
Wednesday 10-5 & 7-8
Friday 10-5
Saturday 9-12

POY SIPPI PUBLIC LIBRARY

W2251 Commercial Street Poy Sippi, WI 54967
920-987-5737 www.poylippilibrary.org
Monday 10-7
Wednesday 10-7
Thursday 2-6
Saturday 9-12

REDGRANITE PUBLIC LIBRARY

135 W. Bannerman Avenue Redgranite, WI 54970
920-566-0176 www.redgranitelibrary.org
Monday 10-6
Wednesday 10-6
Friday 10-6

WAUTOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

410 West Main Street Wautoma, WI 54982
920-787-2988 www.wautomalibrary.org
Monday 9-6
Tuesday 9-6
Wednesday 9-6
Thursday 9-6
Friday 9-6
Saturday 10-3

Winnefox Library System
106 Washington Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901-4985
www.winnefox.org