

The Voice of the Fond du Lac County Libraries

CHANGES COMING TO YOUR LIBRARY'S CATALOG

Most library users do not realize all the behind-the-scenes work that makes the online catalog, the scanned check-out of library materials, and e-mailed library notices possible. A skilled staff and several computer servers at the Winnefox Automated Library Services (WALS) offices in Oshkosh make these services and others possible.

There are changes coming to the WALS system. After many years of service, our current hardware and software have reached the end of their useful life. This spring we will be replacing the old computer with a larger, more powerful one and switching to a new software package. This change to a new generation of library automation software sets the stage for enhancements to services over the next few years.

The old system has served us well but is showing its age. We have started experiencing maintenance problems and some of you have noticed occasional difficulties in placing reserves and checking your account on the online catalog. The Fond du Lac Public Library is waiting to join the WALS system but the old computer does not have the capacity to add them.

As this is going on there will, of course, be temporary inconveniences. Even though we're not physically moving anything, the effort needed will be similar to packing and moving the entire library to a new location.

Starting February 7 libraries will not be able to add newly purchased material to the catalog. During this time the catalog records will be transferred from the old system to the new system.

Starting February 20 the reserve system will shut down. You will not be able to place reserves on items in the catalog and reserve lists will be "frozen" so you will not receive anything you have on reserve. Your reserves will *not* disappear, however, and you will start getting these items again when we start up the new system.

On March 8 we will shut down the old system and start transferring the circulation and patron record data. The transfer will take until March 17. During that time you will still be able to check items out but any items returned will be unavailable until the startup of the new system; you will however need to have your library



WALS Migration Timeline

Starting 7 February:
No new items added to Library catalog.

Starting 20 February:
Reserve system shut down—you won't be able to place reserves or receive items you have reserved.

8 March:
Old system shut down. You can check out but nothing returned can be checked in.

16 March:
New system starts up. Some libraries closed to test system & check in a week's worth of books.

17 March:
Libraries open and using new system.

NEW FOND DU LAC PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENS SOON!

We're on the move! The temporary Fond du Lac Public Library on Winnebago Drive will close Friday, January 30 at 6 p.m. The new library on Sheboygan Street will open Monday, February 16 at 9 a.m. A total of 12,000 square feet was added to the existing building and the inside was completely renovated. The ground level features a colorful children's area twice the size of the old room; popular adult materials such as DVDs, CDs, paperbacks, books on tape; and fiction books. A comfortable reading area, an art gallery, and a Teen area complete first floor. The second floor has local history, nonfiction books, reference materials, public Internet access, and private study areas. The lower level has a public meeting room, Friends of the Library Bookstore and offices.



The open house for the new library will take place on Saturday, March 13. The dedication ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. Special activities are planned throughout the day: Pat O'Hearn will amaze all with his magic tricks followed by balloon making; Sandra Seefeld, flutist, and Ron Matson, pianist will present a concert. There will also be a roving Barbershop Quartet, Kid's Krafts, refreshments and prize drawings.

Ken Hall, Library Director is looking forward to moving into the new library. "We want the library to be a welcoming destination for the community," said Hall. "We want to promote lifelong learning and keep kids reading."

BRANDON

The Brandon Library begins its 2004 preschool story time on Friday January 30. These programs are open to all area preschoolers. On February 4th we will have a program for school age children. The children love "hands on" projects that relates to the books we've read. Our theme will be "Family and friends."

The library is for the adults in our community, too. We are working with our local Historical Society to develop program ideas. One of their members, Twilah DeBoer, has prepared an index that helps us locate some of those long lost ancestors. We've had many requests lately from patrons doing genealogy research. We are happy to welcome them to Brandon and usually learn a lot by helping them. Local history helps us connect to community and to recognize our place in the world and remember who we are.

February is Black History month so we'll be featuring books on this important topic throughout February in our displays and programs.

Coffee is on and the library is warm, so stop by and check out our newest offerings.

NORTH FOND DU LAC

Local libraries are well used by people of all ages. It is always of great interest to look at the past year's statistics and see how we have served the public. The North Fond du Lac Library has noticed a marked increase in the use of the public Internet computers for instance, as well as the attendance at storytimes growing by leaps and bounds.

The new DVD collection that was started this past year is proving very popular. Our library will also benefit from the settlement of a class action lawsuit against music distributors and retailers who conspired to raise prices of CDs. As part of the settlement, state libraries will be allocated free CDs. It is important to keep in mind that libraries are more than books and offer various formats to meet the different needs of its users.

April 18th-24th is National Library Week. We hold our annual Used Book Sale during this week every year. Our thanks to the many people who donated materials to the library this past year. Sometimes these items are added to the library's collection and other times are offered at the sale. This is an excellent way to recycle books, videos, CDs and DVDs that are no longer wanted. Donations are always welcome so please keep your local library in mind when you are "cleaning house or basements or attics."

Libraries serve their communities in various ways. Our library staff has recently proctored tests for students taking classes through a state technical college; we provide a quiet atmosphere where they may take their tests under required supervision.

We are again making tax forms and instruction booklets available as a public service to area residents.

RIPON

About 70 people attended Senator Russ Feingold's listening session in the Nash Room of the Ripon Public Library on January 5. Among the topics discussed were health insurance, loss of jobs, clean air and water, milk support prices, the Patriot Act, the war in Iraq and terrorism. The session could not have been held at the library if building renovations made in 1999 had not provided handicapped access to the facility.



The Fond du Lac County Board approved the appointment of Library trustee Deanna Boone to the Winnefox Library System Board. Mrs. Boone is one of six Fond du Lac County representatives on the system board.

Mayor Kramer has appointed Jody Thiel of Ripon to serve on the Library Board of Trustees; Mrs. Thiel completes the term of John Roesch, which expires in June.

About 60 children and adults attended a performance of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* at the library on December 5. The performance by the Magic Lantern Theatre Company was part of Ripon's "Dickens of A Christmas" weekend. The library program was funded by the Friends of the Ripon Public Library.



CAMPBELLSPORT

Record Year at the Campbellsport Library

The Campbellsport Public Library had another great year. 2003 ended with an increase in circulation by 2,152 items from 2002. The year-end total was 38,292 items. Computer usage also was up dramatically. In 2003 4,812 people logged on, an increase of 1,486 people over 2002.

The Book of Names

The Book of the Names of donors during the Construction project was finally hung on the wall recently with the help of the men from Fox Lake Correctional Institute. The Book contains the names of those who generously supported the Library during the construction project. The Library Board would like to encourage everyone to stop in and take a look. There may be a few names that have inadvertently been forgotten and we would like to make sure that all who contributed are included.



Winter Story Hour

The Campbellsport Library will be starting Winter Story Hour on Wednesday January 21st at 10:30 am or 6:30 pm. The program will run for six consecutive weeks and is open for children ages 3 to 6 years old.

Plans Being Made for Library Basement Open House

With the Basement of the library 98% complete, we are planning an open house at the end of March. The entire community is welcome to attend.

OAKFIELD

Happy 2004 from the staff and board of the Oakfield Public Library. We hope the year ahead will be a happy and healthy one for all of you.

Important dates to keep in mind as we begin the New Year: Our "Book Review" group meets the third Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m.. Some of the previously discussed books are *Population 485* by Michael Perry, *Jefferson's Children* by Lanier and Feldman, and *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. We welcome young and old to join the group.

On Monday January 26th at 6:30p.m. quilt artist Pat Ehrenberg from rural Ripon will be here to tell the story of the award-winning book, *The Quiltmakers Gift* by Jeff Brumbeau. After reading the book Pat was moved to create a quilt that tells the story of love and giving through quilts. All ages will find this presentation interesting. Pat will also be giving information on the history of quilting. Plan now to attend; you will not be disappointed!!

Just a final thought—curling up with a good book could be even better than medicine for whatever ails you!!!!

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card with you. Other services you've come to expect—such as being able to renew or to place reserves on items, replace your library card, and check your own account online—will also be unavailable. You will still be able to search the online catalog but since it will not reflect items checked out since March 7 it may say that an item is available when it is really checked out. Internet service will not be disrupted during the changeover to the new system.


On March 16 your library may be closed so staff can finish testing the system and check in items returned since March 8.

On March 17 libraries will go live on the new system. You will not notice much change but the staff at your local library will. Staff at all WALS libraries will have received two days of intensive training on the new software during February and March but will still be learning the new system. Initially, it may take a little longer to check items out, record fine payments, and register new users. We will be working hard to give you the same great service that you have come to expect.



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:

Winnefox Library System
Attn: Carla Basiliere
106 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901
920-236-5211 Email: basiliere@mail.winnefox.org



WINNEFOX LIBRARY SYSTEM

Fond du Lac County Libraries

BRANDON PUBLIC LIBRARY
117 E. Main Street Brandon, WI 53919
920-346-2350 www.centurytel.net/brandonpl
Monday 2-7
Wednesday 2-7
Friday 10-5
Saturday 9-12

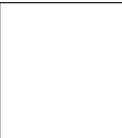
CAMPBELLSPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
220 North Helena Street
Campbellsport, WI 53010
920-533-8534
www.campbellsportlibrary.org
Monday 10-8
Tuesday 10-8
Wednesday 10-8
Thursday 10-8
Friday 10-5
Saturday 9-12 (Summer -closed)

FOND DU LAC PUBLIC LIBRARY
32 Sheboygan Street Fond du Lac, WI 54935
920-929-7085 www.fond-du-lac.lib.wi.us
Monday 9-9 (Summer 9-8)
Tuesday 9-9 (Summer 9-8)
Wednesday 9-9 (Summer 9-8)
Thursday 9-9 (Summer 9-8)
Friday 9-6 (Summer 9-6)
Saturday 9-5 (Summer 9-12)
Sunday 1-4 (Summer -closed)

SPILLMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
719 Wisconsin Avenue North Fond du Lac, WI 54937
920-394-3281 www.northfonddulaclibrary.org
Monday 12-8
Tuesday 10-5
Wednesday 10-5
Thursday 12-8
Friday 10-5
Saturday 10-1 (Summer-closed)

OAKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
130 North Main Street Oakfield, WI 53065
920-583-4552 www.oakfieldlibrary.com
Monday 1-8
Tuesday 9-12
Wednesday 1-8
Thursday 1-5
Friday 1-5

RIPON PUBLIC LIBRARY
120 Jefferson Street Ripon, WI 54971
920-748-6160 www.riponlibrary.org
Monday 10-8
Tuesday 10-8
Wednesday 10-8
Thursday 10-8
Friday 10-8 (Summer 10-6)
Saturday 10-4 (Summer 10-1)
Sunday 1-4 (Summer -closed)



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