

# Dogs at the library? Kids can read to certified therapy dogs at Manitowoc Public Library

Susan Menk, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 8:05 a.m. CT Jan. 6, 2018



(Photo: Courtesy of Manitowoc Public Library)

Dogs at the library? Really? Yes, Manitowoc Public Library has certified therapy dogs that come in every month for a reading program!

So, the dogs read? No, children read to the dogs. It's a program that got started a few years back to give children a non-threatening, non-judgmental opportunity to practice their reading skills.

How does that work, you ask? Let me tell you!

There are several dogs and their owners who volunteer their time to come to the library once a month and let children read to them, pet them, play with them and learn about the dogs.

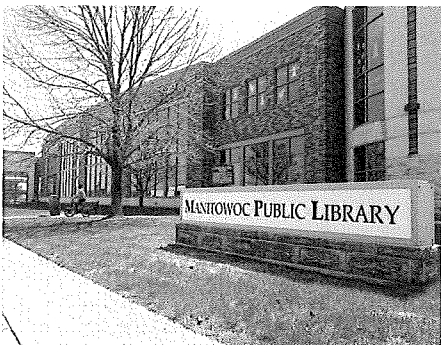
These dogs have completed tests and training to become therapy dogs. They are part of an organization called Alliance of Therapy Dogs, which was founded in 1990 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. For more about the Alliance, head to <https://www.therapydogs.com/alliance-therapy-dogs/>.

Dogs must take tests, get registered and obtain insurance to participate in this group. All dogs that complete the process are defined as animals that provide therapeutic intervention. They are not service dogs.

According to the Alliance of Therapy Dogs handbook, those dogs that want to participate must be "more than 1 year of age, healthy, well-mannered and enjoy human contact."

Since therapy dogs are used in many different settings, each dog has its own unique characteristics. Some dogs are used in hospitals and nursing homes, some in disaster relief areas, and some with special-needs students. More and more, though, therapy dogs are being used in schools and libraries to provide a safe environment for children who struggle with reading.

When children read to dogs, the dog does not correct their pronunciation or help them in any way. The dogs are simply a quiet listener. This makes it a more relaxing atmosphere for the struggling reader. No one is critiquing them, no one is correcting them when they make a mistake, and there are no expectations that need to be met. The child simply reads to the dog.



The Manitowoc Public Library April 25 in Manitowoc. (Photo: Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

Since the pressure is off the child, oftentimes this helps improve the child's attitude toward reading. Instead of being a stressful or dreaded exercise, reading becomes relaxed and fun. This change in attitude for the child can help them by giving them the motivation and incentive to enjoy reading.

Those who enjoy an activity are more inclined to want to continue it, thereby increasing their skills. Children who learn to enjoy

reading are more willing to do more reading, which, in turn, makes them a better reader. All this just from having dogs listen to a child read. Incredible!

Manitowoc Public Library has had certified therapy dogs for the past few years as a part of our Family Activity Nights. On the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., dogs and handlers come to the library and enjoy time spent reading with children of various ages. The children bring their own books or pick books from the library shelves. Then, they find a quiet spot on the rug and read to a dog.

Handlers are great at providing some interaction with the child, if needed, and are always willing to share information about the dog's breed and characteristics. Many of the handlers have information cards, like collecting cards, which show a picture of their dog and details such as how old the dog is, what breed it is and what it likes to do.

The next time you stop by Manitowoc Public Library on the second Tuesday of the month, come up to the Children's Department for an opportunity to have your children read to certified therapy dogs. Lucy, Sophie and Bucky Bear are sure to be there with their heads on the floor, paws stretched out and ears pointed toward the child sitting next to them.

It has often been said that dogs are man's best friend, and this program is proof of that! It is a sight to warm your heart and inspire a lifelong love of reading.

*Susan Menk is Children's Services librarian at Manitowoc Public Library.*

# Friends of Manitowoc Public Library Book Sale Jan. 19-21 features books, CDs, DVDs

Bonnie Loeh, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 6:53 a.m. CT Jan. 13, 2018



(Photo: Provided)

As a former high school librarian who worked at Appleton East for 33 rewarding years, it's fair to say books and media are in my blood.

With that in mind, it's probably not a huge surprise I joined the Friends of Manitowoc Public Library at the January Used Book Sale in 2015.

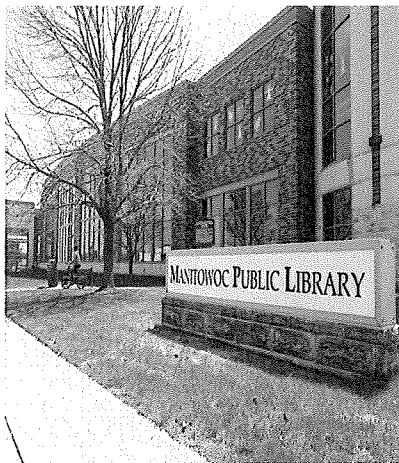
Linda Hunter — a member of the Friends of MPL — can be gently quite persuasive, so at her urging, I attended the annual Friends meeting that February, asked a few questions, and went home.

A week later, Gloria Yealon, the group's president, called to ask if I'd apply to be a board member. I did, and the rest is history.

And it's one of the best decisions I've ever made. I enjoy working with my fellow Friends at various programs MPL sponsors, and it's great getting to know the library staff on a completely different level than I did as a patron.

Now, three years after my fateful trip to that January Used Book Sale, I find myself in the position of vice president of the Friends, which is a privilege, to say the least.

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you about this year's sale. Not only is it one of our most significant fundraisers, it's a wonderful experience that I can invite you to attend without a moment's hesitation.



The Manitowoc Public Library April 25 in Manitowoc. (Photo: Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

The sale takes place from noon to 6 p.m. Jan. 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 20 and noon to 4 p.m. Jan. 21, with a Friends-only pre-sale from 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 19.

No need to worry if you're not already a Friend, as memberships will be available at the door!

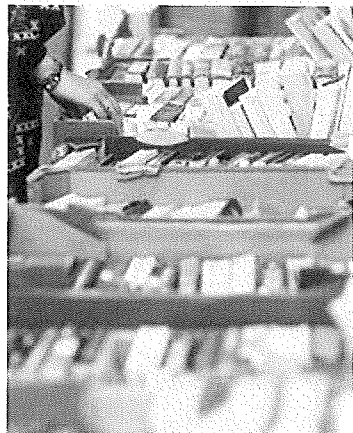
I strongly recommend to become a member of the Friends of Manitowoc Public Library. It's a great group of people who genuinely care about MPL.

Easy-going and fun to work with, I'm constantly amazed and gratified to learn all the different ways the Friends contribute to support MPL programming.

The proceeds from the entirely volunteer-staffed sale go directly back to the library, supporting various library services, such as the popular Great Decisions Lecture Series, Doctor Who Day, and

the purchase of MPL's wireless hotspots, which allow password-protected access to the internet wherever you go in the United States to anyone with a library card.

If you couldn't already tell, I really enjoy being a part of the Friends Used Book Sale. It's wonderful interacting with people and helping them to find materials.



Book sale (Photo: Getty Images/iStockphoto)

I've worked at the past four sales, and I'm continually learning and tweaking, all in an effort to make the process smoother and more enjoyable for those who partake in the sale.

By choice, I'm at the sale all day, every day, ready to help the other volunteers should questions arise and just generally to make myself available. And seeing kids' faces when they find a book they really like and then finding a spot on the floor to dive right in and take a look, well, that's priceless.

Here are a few specifics regarding the sale to tempt you even further ... in addition to books, you'll find magazines, CDs, DVDs and books on CD, many of which have been donated by members of our community. There's something for all ages in a variety of subject matters. And even if you've attended previous sales, it's important to know each sale has different books and media — you never know what treasures you'll find!

When you come right down to it, it makes sense to be a Friend of MPL because it's an amazing institution! It's got great services, abundant materials, and — Hello! — IT'S FREE!

Wake up, people! This is your tax dollars at work! You don't even need your own internet account to get free online access to tons and tons of material! Not to mention the fact that the welcoming, knowledgeable, and helpful staff is there to help you locate whatever it is you're looking for.

I'm proud to be a Friend of Manitowoc Library!

That's my story, and I look forward to meeting you at the Friends' January Used Book Sale to hear yours!

*Bonnie Loeh is vice president of the Friends of Manitowoc Public Library.*

# Manitowoc library to open on Thursdays starting Feb. 15 — and other big plans for 2018

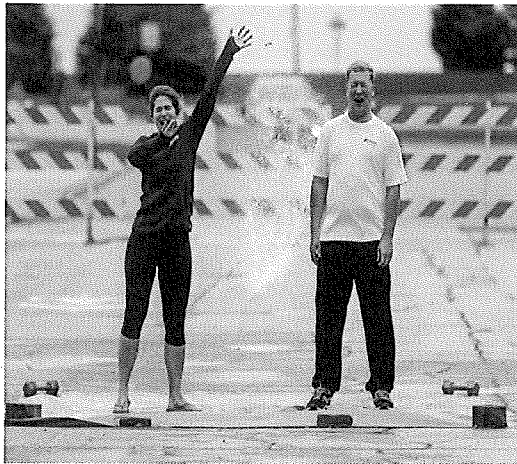
Kristin Stoeger, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 7:38 a.m. CT Jan. 20, 2018

## Library Carnival Day



Addison Spindler, 9, of St. Nazianz gets ready to launch a water balloon at her target during Manitowoc Public Library's first-ever Carnival Day Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, in Manitowoc, Wis. Carnival Day is a free family event that celebrates the end of the library's Summer Reading Program. Bubble blast, a dunk tank, water balloon catapult, face painting and a tie dye station were some of the activities offered at the carnival.

Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin



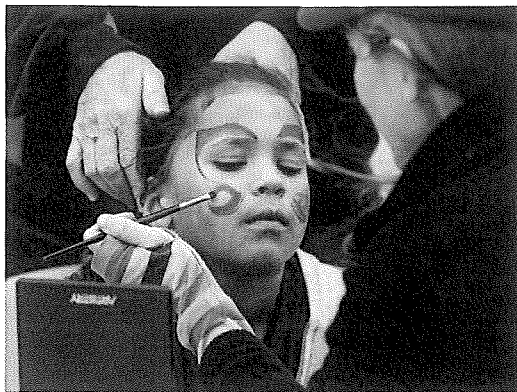
Manitowoc Public Library Director Kristin Stoeger and Mayor Justin Nickels get hit with a water balloon launched from a water balloon catapult at the library's first-ever Carnival Day Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, in Manitowoc, Wis.

Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin



Library volunteer Margaret Iannitello paints tiger stripes on Boden Beilfuss, 6, at the library's Carnival Day Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, in Manitowoc, Wis.

Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin



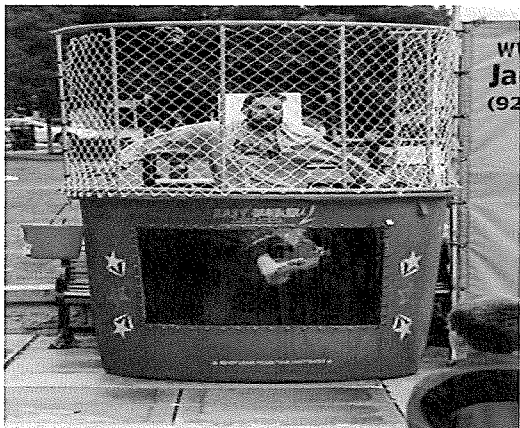
Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

Manitowoc Public Library hosts its first ever Carnival Day Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, in Manitowoc, Wis. The event celebrates the end of the library's Summer Reading Program.



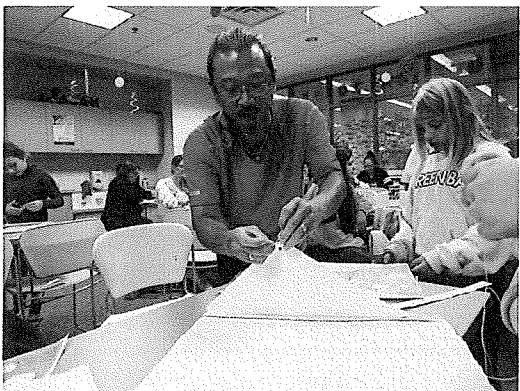
Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

Lucas Spindler, 10, of St. Nazianz hits his target and sinks Alderman Jeremiah Novak in the dunk tank at Manitowoc Public Library's first-ever Carnival Day Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, in Manitowoc, Wis.



Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

Alderman Jeremiah Novak gets sunk in the dunk tank during Manitowoc Public Library's first-ever Carnival Day Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, in Manitowoc, Wis. The event celebrates the end of the library's Summer Reading Program.



Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

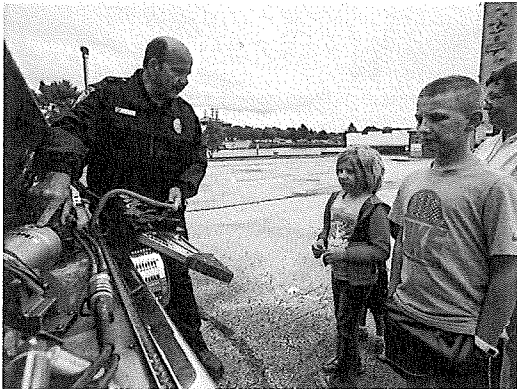
Chow Chong, owner of Unique Flying Objects, helps Max and Olivia Hermann string their kites during his "Build a Kite" class at the library Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, in Manitowoc, Wis.





Kids take their homemade kites out to the parking lot across from the library to give them a test flight during the library's Carnival Day Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, in Manitowoc, Wis.

Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin



Firefighter and paramedic Kevin Hoffman, left, shows kids the Jaws of Life on the Manitowoc Fire Department's rescue pumper truck during the library's Carnival Day Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, in Manitowoc, Wis.

Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin



Leyla Al-Ghetta, 5, plays with bubbles during the Manitowoc Public Library's Carnival Day Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, in Manitowoc, Wis.

Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin



2017 has been packed away in our memories and 2018 is filled with our hopes for the future.

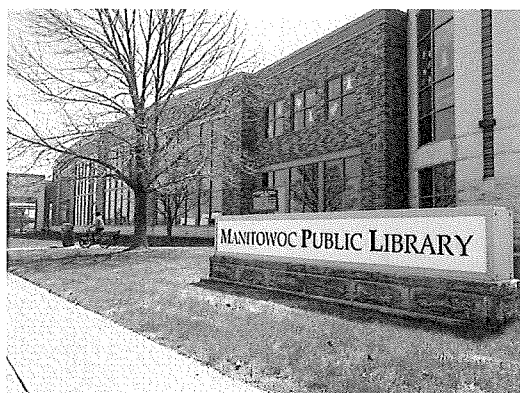
As always, forefront in our minds is the goal of continuing to provide outstanding service to our community every day. We dedicate ourselves to accomplishing this through our front-line services, which very shortly will be made available again to you seven days a week.

(Photo: Michelle Kaczmarowski)

Regardless of whether it's been an hour, a day, a week or years since you visited us, we look forward to welcoming you back into the library.

Looking ahead to 2018, we have so many exciting projects waiting in the wings. One of the most exciting of these, obviously, is that we will be opening our doors again on Thursdays. Our first open Thursday will be Feb. 15. We'll even have a ribbon-cutting and cake to celebrate.

The library board and I were happy to work with the mayor and city council on a feasible way to make this happen in 2018. I am overjoyed to be able to see this come to fruition in February.



The Manitowoc Public Library April 25 in Manitowoc. (Photo: Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

All of the staff at MPL is excited to be able to offer services to our community once again seven days a week in the very near future. However, the fun doesn't stop there. Here are a few more sneak peeks for 2018 at MPL:

- Create Tomorrow: A Fundraising Gala — Keep your eyes open for an article in the upcoming weeks about our 2018 fundraiser on March 10. We will have an aerial dance performance, music, food and more. Tickets are on sale now on our website at <http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/gala/>.
- First-floor Re-Organization — A timeline and implementation of our first-floor redesign process will take place in 2018. In this new layout, we hope to offer community creation spaces for art, music, engineering and more. We also hope to create a dedicated computer and business area in this space. Finally, we hope to raise sufficient funds to add a fireplace area with coffee and conversation spaces. We'll also make sure to have plenty of room for our collections, meeting rooms, study rooms and all the other favorites in our library.
- Picture Book City: The picture books in our Children's Department are being reorganized from author's last name into "cities." These cities will be based on subjects. For example,



we will group all of our princess books together in one "city" and truck books together in another to make it easier for parents and children to find materials.

- Starlings for Checkout: Never heard of these devices? That's not a complete surprise, as they're pretty cutting edge. It's a wearable educational device for infants that allows parents to have a better understanding of the impact of conversation on the early literacy needs of their child.
- 20th Anniversary Celebration: MPL celebrates 20 years on Quay Street in 2018! To mark the occasion, we will have a grand celebration on Aug. 4. It will be a fun-tastic event for all ages with jugglers, a bounce house, food, games and more! Come join us!
- Superhero Saturday on April 28: It's a bird ... it's a plane ... NO, it's Superhero Saturday! This all-day, all-ages event focuses on exciting activities revolving around superheroes — both real-life local ones, as well as fictional. It's sure to be a spectacular event you won't want to miss.
- Seed and Grow: We're offering this new initiative in spring 2018 with our circulating seed library. Details are still being worked out, but what we aim to accomplish is the ability for a patron to "checkout" seeds, take them home, and share their progress with us as they grow. We'll also have educational programming to go along with this.

If at all possible, 2018 looks to be an even better year at MPL than 2017. A huge thank-you goes out to our community for your continued support! Our No. 1 goal is to provide outstanding services to you, so stop on down to be part of the fun happening at your MPL!

*Kristin Stoeger is library director at Manitowoc Public Library.*

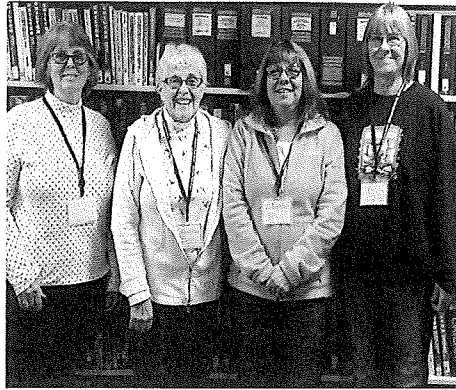
To see the video that was attached, please copy and paste the link below into your web browser.

<http://www.htrnews.com/videos/life/2017/04/25/making-manitowoc-|-genealogy-tells-'who-we-why-we're-here'/100895070/>

Manitowoc Public Library offers an array of resources for those interested in tracing their roots. A specialist from the Genealogy Society is available every Tuesday from 2 to 5 p.m. to assist. Josh Clark | USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

# Manitowoc Public Library volunteers share their inspiration, experiences

Therese Horstketter, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 7:50 a.m. CT Jan. 27, 2018 | Updated 8:55 a.m.



(Photo: Provided)  
[CONNECT](#) [TWEET](#) [LINKEDIN](#) [COMMENT](#) [EMAIL](#) [MORE](#)

"When I retired and thought about volunteering, I never thought of anywhere else. I wanted to volunteer at the library. I have always loved books, and love to read."

This is a quote from Paulette, one of our newest volunteers at Manitowoc Public Library.

As the volunteer coordinator for Manitowoc Public Library for just more than a year, I have had the pleasure of working with, and getting to know, many wonderful volunteers. I would like to share some of their thoughts regarding the library, and volunteering.

A 24-year employee of the library, Phyllis has volunteered for about 16 years now. She searches our shelves for "misplaced" items weekly, and says, "Staff is wonderful and welcoming. I can set my own hours, and it is a quiet place to volunteer."



Linda, a volunteer at Manitowoc Public Library.  
(Photo: Provided)

Linda, a volunteer at Manitowoc Public Library. (Photo: Provided)

Peg came to the library when a life change brought her to us. She's helped in the youth department for about 30 years, and feels it has been a godsend for her. She loves the staff and interaction with the kids.

Linda, a former library employee, retired after 14 years because of health issues. She came back to us and has been volunteering for two years. Why? As she said: "I loved the work, the building, the staff, and the patrons. I missed being here. This is also an outlet and change of pace for me. I am thrilled to be able to be back here!" And we are thrilled to have her back. Linda mainly sets up carts to be shelved by our pages.



Judy, a volunteer at Manitowoc Public Library.  
(Photo: Provided)

An eight-year volunteer, Judy loves that she can pick her own hours and feels she is a part of the library, even if she is not a paid employee. "The library has always been a second home for me," she said. "Very comfortable, and the people are very receptive."

Kathy, Gladys, Barb and Sue — all retired — have started volunteering in the past year. They work on a variety of projects, including cart set-up, cleaning, plant care, stamping books and envelopes, straightening shelves, and assisting at special programs, such as last year's Wizarding

World and MPL Foundation's upcoming fundraising gala, Create Tomorrow, which takes place March 10.

Not surprisingly, our volunteers are avid readers, from a young age onward.

Kathy and Barb both fondly remember a parent walking them to the library, with their siblings, every week. They couldn't wait to get home to read!

And Sue happily received books from a cousin who worked at Little Golden Books, the publisher of the popular children's books that celebrated their 75th anniversary in 2017. Their book, "The Poky Little Puppy," is the top-selling children's book of all-time.

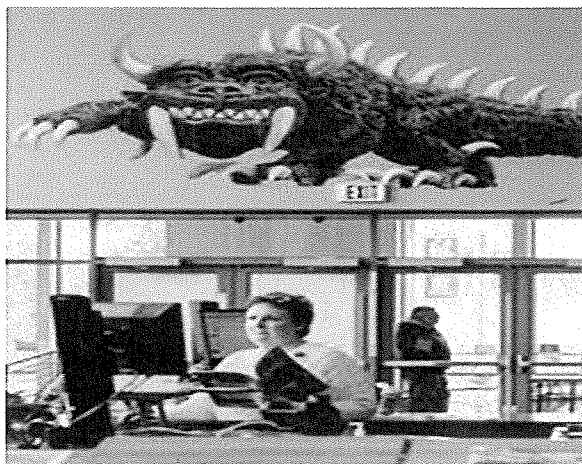
Several of our volunteers, including Gladys, stressed they want to give back to the library for all they have gotten from it for so many years.

Shalice, a high school volunteer who has helped out in several departments and hopes to someday be a writer, shares: "I love the library and everything about it. I practically lived here as a child and grew up to fall in love with Shakespeare and Edgar Allen Poe. There are so many opportunities here, I am so thankful I got the chance to work with everyone and allow myself to grow as a person. Thank you all for an amazing experience!"

Our general volunteers put in more than 1,300 hours in 2017. I can't say enough good things about their generosity with their time and talent. They are treasured!

If you are interested in volunteering, go to MPL's website and submit an application. Just go to the "How Do I ..." tab, scroll down to "Volunteer," fill out the simple, easy-to-follow form and click "Submit"! We will be happy to hear from you!

*Therese Horstketter is public services associate/volunteer coordinator at Manitowoc Public Library.*



A cutout of the beast Hodag hangs above the entrance doors of the Manitowoc Public Library April 19, 2017, in Manitowoc. (Photo: Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)