

# Manitowoc Public Library: 2018 highlights include opening on Thursdays, community mural

Kristin Stoeger, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 8:27 a.m. CT Jan. 3, 2019

## Library grand re-opening of Thursdays



Library director Kristin Stoeger cuts the ribbon at the grand re-opening of Thursdays at the Manitowoc Public Library on Feb. 15, 2018, in Manitowoc. (Photo: Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)



Kari Dickonson from Cycropia swings on the trapeze during the Create Tomorrow Gala at the Manitowoc Public Library on March 10. Alisa M. Schafer/USA Today Network-Wisconsin



David Carpenter and Erin LaBonte work on a new mural in the Manitowoc Public Library on May 25 in Manitowoc. JOSH CLARK/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Another year has rapidly flown by and 2018 has drawn to a close. In the past year, Manitowoc Public Library has shared some great successes with our community — successes that support our mission of "Enriching, Connecting and Inspiring."

Manitowoc Public Library strives to foster a culture of reading and to provide access to information. Through services, our goal is to foster an environment that meets the educational, recreational and cultural needs of the community.

I am so happy to share with you some of our greatest successes over this past year:

- **Library open on Thursdays:** One of the greatest accomplishments we celebrated in 2018 was once again opening on Thursdays. The Library is now open seven days a week for our community. This was made possible through the outstanding collaboration between MPL Board of Trustees, Manitowoc City Council and the mayor of Manitowoc. Through increased funding, this vision was made possible for our community.
- **Mobile hotspots for checkout:** Expanding on the interest shown in 2017, we added 10 more circulating hotspots to our collection for checkout and home use. These hotspots continue to provide access to the internet and encourage digital literacy. Hotspots can be checked out at our front service desk. There are a few available on-demand, while the others need to be reserved.
- **First-floor redesign project:** The fundraiser sponsored by Manitowoc Public Library Foundation and held on March 9 raised funds for our redesign project. I feel so blessed to live and work in a community so willing to help support their local library. This fundraiser secured \$35,000 for the library to begin the



redesign process. Included in this funding is a redesigned public computer area, a fireplace area/conversation nook, coffee cart and redistributed service points. Our first, and main, focus has been on moving collections to make room for these different areas. You will begin to see the biggest changes in 2019. Stay tuned!

- **Community mural:** Gracing the wall above our entrance doors is the most imaginative mural, as designed and painted by David Carpenter and Erin LaBonte. This masterpiece features our local Washington Park with literary characters coming to life within its friendly confines, enjoying all our community has to offer. This mural showcases and supports the belief that libraries are an integral part of every community.
- **Virtual library cards:** Partnerships between schools and the library continued to thrive in 2018. After starting this partnership with MPSD in 2017, it expanded to include six additional schools: Roncalli High School, Lutheran High School, Immanuel Lutheran School, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran School, First German Lutheran School and Bethany Evangelical Lutheran School. If your school is not part of this collaboration, please have them contact MPL to get it set up. Virtual library cards provide unrestricted, open access to MPL's wealth of digital resources including tutor.com, Overdrive and Mango Languages. Best of all, this service is free to all participating students and teachers.
- **Great Decisions:** Our annual foreign affairs series in collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Manitowoc County and other community partners celebrated its 11th year at Manitowoc Public Library. We are excited to continue offering this great educational series.
- **20th anniversary on Quay Street:** MPL celebrated 20 years in our current location on Quay Street this past summer. We celebrated with all of you through a fabulous end-of-summer bash on Aug. 3. I had the great fortune of helping out at the dunk tank in celebration of this.
- **Summer Reading Program:** Also this summer, we had record numbers of adults, children and teens who signed up for our Summer Reading Program. We saw an increase of 74 percent in children participation, 89 percent in teen participation and 165 percent in adult participation. The positive impact of the Summer Reading Program is not only experienced by the participants — our entire community benefits. The more literate a community is, the more successful it is.
- **National Library Week — Libraries Build Strong Communities campaign:** In April 2018, we began our first-ever "Libraries Build Strong Communities" initiative during National Library Week. This week-long series celebrated our local businesses. Purchases made at participating businesses enabled entry into our raffle drawing for fantastic prizes. MPL's goal was to increase awareness and usage of our wealth of local businesses.

As you can easily see from the highlights, we've had a lot of fun and exciting adventures in 2018 — and these are only the highlights!



Kristin Stoeger (Photo:  
Michelle Kaczmarowski)

Manitowoc Public Library continues to find ways to provide access to resources that support our community's educational, recreational or cultural goals. That support comes in many forms, and we remain committed to these ideals.

Look for my follow-up article later in January highlighting some sneak peeks of 2019 at the library.

Happy New Year, Manitowoc!

*Kristin Stoeger is director of Manitowoc Public Library.*

# Manitowoc adult literacy program volunteers help change lives; next training Jan. 19

Jo Ann Dent, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 7:30 a.m. CT Jan. 10, 2019



To view video go to web link:

[https://media.gannett-cdn.com/wisconsin-mobile/201605/1318/41823025001\\_4893087872001\\_4892874571001.mp4](https://media.gannett-cdn.com/wisconsin-mobile/201605/1318/41823025001_4893087872001_4892874571001.mp4)

Lee Vang and Mary Jo Stangel share their story as a pair of tutor and learner at the One-On-One Adult Literacy Program through the Manitowoc Public Library. Yi-Chin Lee/USA TODAY Network-Wisconsin

A recent national survey by ProLiteracy Voices revealed that while 81 percent of people are aware adult literacy is an issue in the United States, only 13 percent are aware of local organizations in their community that provide adult literacy services.

In other words, while most of us know adults who lack basic skills in English literacy are at a significant disadvantage when it comes to education, employment and overall quality of life, not very many of us actually know where to go in our own community for help.

Fortunately, here in Manitowoc County we have trained community volunteers who provide free tutoring for adults through the One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners program of Manitowoc Public Library. This one-to-one, individualized tutoring is designed to help adult learners develop and improve their skills in reading, writing, comprehending and speaking in English.

One of the best things about my job as coordinator of the One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners is hearing from tutors about the milestones — big and small — that their learners achieve each month. One learner has been writing stories to improve her English literacy skills, another adult finished reading a book for the first time, and another learner is working on reading and comprehending menus and nutrition labels.

Many of our adult learners juggle jobs and families or attending classes at Lakeshore Technical College, while still making time for their tutoring sessions.





Luz White and Jean Rausch share their story as a pair of tutor and learner at the One-On-One Adult Literacy Program through the Manitowoc Public Library. Yi-Chin Lee/USA TODAY Network-Wisconsin

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The heart and soul of the One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners program is our volunteer tutors, who truly make a difference in the lives of the adults who gain literacy skills. With the help of their tutors, the adult learners in our program have achieved important goals like getting a job or promotion, reading to their children, enrolling in technical college and obtaining a GED.

Volunteer tutors also make a difference in the lives of children. Edutopia.org and ProLiteracy, among others, have reported parents are children's first teachers and children with low-literate parents are more likely to read below their grade level. Helping parents improve their literacy skills also helps improve educational outcomes for children.

Literacy has the power to change lives. This year, why not resolve to make a difference by becoming a volunteer tutor with One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners? You will find a meaningful volunteer experience that makes a real difference in someone's life!

Registration is now open for our January training for new volunteers. The training will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Manitowoc Public Library. The training is free and all materials will be provided; registration by Jan. 16 is required to attend.



Jo Ann Dent (Photo: Courtesy of Manitowoc Public Library)

The mission of One-to-One Literacy Partners of Manitowoc Public Library is to provide adults in Manitowoc County with goal-oriented, individualized literacy tutoring to develop and enhance their skills in reading, writing, comprehending and speaking in English. We train community volunteers who provide free tutoring for highly-motivated adult learners who want to improve their English literacy skills.

To learn more, contact Jo Ann Dent, One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners, at [jadent@manitowoc.org](mailto:jadent@manitowoc.org) or 920-686-3026. To fill out a volunteer application and register for the Jan. 19 Tutor Training, visit <http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/alp/>.

I look forward to meeting our new tutors on Jan. 19. I hope this article has inspired you to make a difference in someone's life, and I'll see you there!

*Jo Ann Dent is coordinator of One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners at Manitowoc Public Library.*

# Manitowoc library shares top 5 money savers

Kristin Stoeger, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 10:44 a.m. CT Jan. 15, 2019

The holiday season has once again come and gone. It was a wonderful time for merrymaking with family and friends. However, all that celebrating can take a quite a bite out of one's budget. Thankfully, Manitowoc Public Library can help you with a bit of fiscal recovery while also helping your kids save themselves from extra stress.

Here are my Top 5 Money Savers available through MPL:

## 1. Private tutoring through Tutor.com

Private tutoring and tutoring centers are expensive, but for many students, the one-to-one attention a tutor provides can make a huge difference in their school performance and their confidence. Give your students a leg up without spending an arm and a leg by introducing them to Tutor.com through MPL.

Tutor.com provides on-demand, live-time, real person, one-to-one tutoring in an online classroom for students in kindergarten through college in more than 60 academic subjects and test preparation areas, including the ACT and SAT.

The Tutor.com Learning Suite also includes practice quizzes, skills drills, video lessons and The Princeton Review Essentials test preparation.

Tutors are available daily from 4 to 11 p.m. To access the service, students should visit [www.manitowoclibrary.org/databases/](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/databases/) and find Tutor.com under Homework resources. If accessing the service outside of the library, a library card is required.

## 2. Virtual Library Card gives unrestricted access to library resources — no fees!

A Virtual Library Card is accessible through partnerships between your school and the public library. It gives your student online access to all of the digital resources Manitowoc Public Library provides (including Tutor.com) and those that may become available in the future, as long as they remain a student in that school or school district.

The Virtual Library Card also provides access to the library's in-house computers, internet, materials and equipment (excluding those for which there are fees or charges).

The Virtual Library Card links directly to the student's account in their school. More information can be found at [www.manitowoclibrary.org/vlc/](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/vlc/).

Don't see your school listed there? Ask your school administrator to contact MPL to get this set up for your child(ren) today!



### 3. Improve reading, math and literacy with Tumblebooks

Tumblebooks is an online collection of more than 1,100 animated talking picture books that teach young children the joys of reading in a format they'll love.

TumbleBooks are created by taking existing picture books, adding animation, sound, music and narration to produce an electronic picture book you can read or have read to you.

TBL also includes National Geographic videos and games.

Find more information at [www.manitowoclibrary.org/databases/](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/databases/).

### 4. Take the hassle out of research with Badgerlink

Badgerlink is a fantastic resource provided by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) of Wisconsin.

Badgerlink gives access to numerous websites, magazines and journals, like Explora, which are invaluable for research projects.

You can narrow your searches using facets and keyword searching. You can find the link at [www.manitowoclibrary.org/databases/](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/databases/), or see a librarian today to learn more.



Kristin Stoeger (Photo:  
*Michelle Kaczmarowski*)

### 5. Ahoy, Matey! Learn a new language today or build skills in a current language

Starting a new language this year? Whether it's Spanish, French or Japanese, Mango Languages can help.

Mango provides learning modules for more than 70 languages that help the user practice both written and verbal skills. It's a great way to practice outside the classroom!

Looking for some fun in your free time? Mango languages also offers the ability to learn Pirate!

Let us take the "work" out of homework. Check out [www.manitowoclibrary.org](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org) to find these resources and many more designed to help you be the best you can be. All of these resources are provided free to you by Manitowoc Public Library.

Together, we can make second semester fantastic!

*Kristin Stoeger is director of Manitowoc Public Library.*

# Manitowoc library: 2019 will see fireplace, coffee cart, Pinecrest passes for checkout

Kristin Stoeger, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 7:40 a.m. CT Jan. 23, 2019

As 2018 fades gently into our past, 2019 begins to unfold in all its splendor around us, full of breathtaking potential.

Continuing to build on 2018's successes, Manitowoc Public Library hopes to enrich, connect and inspire our community through its resources and services.

Every day, our staff is committed to providing resources and services of value to our community. We would love to help you on your journey to meeting your cultural, recreational or educational needs.

Additionally, keep your eyes peeled for these upcoming 2019 projects at Manitowoc Public Library:

- **2019 fundraiser:** Manitowoc Public Library Foundation's 2019 fundraiser — "Bet on the Library!" — will be from 6 to 10 p.m. on March 2. Registration is open now! This year's fundraiser supports the expansion of our technology and economic development services. Our goal is to encourage the learning of new skills through trial and error, the exploration of possible alternatives and setting our community up for success.



Manitowoc Public Library building exterior. (Photo: USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

- **Fireplace and coffee cart:** In the beginning of 2019, we hope to transform Manitowoc Public Library even more into a community center to foster communication and collaboration. We hope these elements help set that tone.

- **Picture Book City:** Our picture books are reorganizing 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 and truck books together to make it easier for parents and children to find materials. This project began in 2018, and will be completed in 2019.

- **Strategic planning for MPL:** Our current strategic plan for MPL concludes at the end of 2018. You can read more here: <http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/budgets-and-reports/>. The MPL Board of Trustees is currently developing the new strategic plan based on your feedback from our fall survey and focus groups. This strategic plan will provide an informed direction for MPL to pursue for the next several years as we continue on our journey.

- **Pinecrest Historical Village Museum passes for checkout:** In 2019, library card holders will be able to check out passes to explore everything our local Manitowoc County Historical Society has to offer at Pinecrest Historical Village. Yes, that's right. We hope to provide even more access to our community's resources in the future. Passes will be available for checkout on a first come, first served basis at our front service desk. This collaboration was made possible through MCHS and MPL.



Kristin Stoeger (Photo:  
Michelle  
Kaczmarowski)

• **National Library Week Libraries Build Strong Communities campaign:** In April 2018, we began our first-ever “Libraries Build Strong Communities” initiative during National Library Week. This week-long series celebrated our local businesses. Purchases made at participating businesses enabled entry into our prize raffles. MPL’s goal was to increase awareness and usage of our wealth of local businesses. This will be our second annual collaboration with Lester Public Library on this campaign.

We are excited about these upcoming projects, and we hope you are, too. Thank you to our community for your continued support of your library. Our No. 1 goal is to provide outstanding service to you. So, stop on down to be part of the fun happening at your local library.

*Kristin Stoeger is director of Manitowoc Public Library.*