

# UFOs in Wisconsin: 1968 Roswell-like incident, more tales in Manitowoc library event

Meredith Gadzinski, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 7:00 a.m. CT June 7, 2019



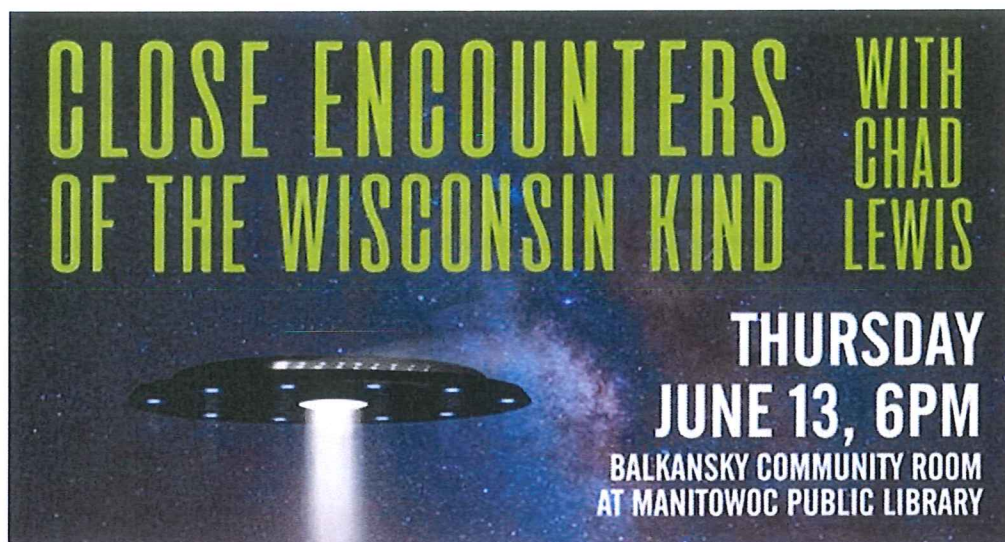
After a number of reports of unauthorized or unidentified aircraft being reported in recent years, the U.S. Navy is updating its UFO protocol. Buzz60, Buzz60

On Jan. 21, 1968, more than 25 people saw a round, dark-gray object about the size of a hot-air balloon in the sky. One witness claimed the object appeared to drop sparks and debris as it moved through the air. Ultimately, the object landed at Berge Farm, which is in the Madison area. Already at the farm was a sheriff's deputy and three kids from the neighborhood. A witness recalling the event said someone saw something on the ground on the Berge Farm. The farmer recovered a piece of metal from the UFO crash and gave it to an investigative journalist called, mysteriously, "Mr. S" in the story.

The investigative journalist was staying at the local Holiday Inn while he was putting his piece together. A bit later, the farmer telephoned the journalist to inform him that someone claiming to be a fertilizer salesman came snooping around and was especially inquisitive about that piece of metal he had passed along. The farmer was becoming increasingly very nervous and wanted to see the investigative journalist in person again. The investigative journalist, now feeling a bit more nervous himself, hid the piece of metal in the back of the TV set in his motel room instead of carrying it with him, as he had been doing previously.

As a precaution, "Mr. S" asked the hotel staff to keep an eye on his room while he while he was away meeting with the farmer. Not completely surprisingly, a maid would later report seeing two men rifling through the belongings in his room. At his meeting with "Mr. S," the farmer told him he wanted the metal chunk returned to him. After his conversation with the so-called fertilizer salesman, he now thought this metal object might be a national security risk. "Mr. S" returned to the Holiday Inn feeling a little disappointed he had to return the object.





Manitowoc Public Library presents 'Close Encounters of the Wisconsin Kind' at 6 p.m. June 13. (Photo: Emily R. Ellerman)

Upon his arrival, he found the two men waiting for him in his room. They told him he had something in his possession that they wanted him to hand over. Naturally, they were referring to the chunk of metal the farmer had given him and that it was their job to pick it up. "Mr. S" wisely asked to see some ID. They responded by asking him which agency ID he would like to see and that they would gladly produce it. Eventually, after more conversation, "Mr. S" was persuaded to give the piece of metal to the two men.

Afterward, the investigative journalist called a friend, Mr. Steiger, who helped him track the license plate of the two men who had come to the Holiday Inn in to pay him a visit. Turns out the car was owned by a gentleman with links to the CIA.

That's right, folks — a Roswell-style incident took place right here in Wisconsin. That story came from a book, titled "UFO Wisconsin: A Progress Report," by Noah Voss. This story was from 1968, but in April of this year alone, 355 national UFO sightings were reported to the National UFO Reporting Center. Now, not every UFO sighting produces a story as intriguing as this one, but this one is particularly mysterious and fascinating. It makes me want to pay more attention to the night sky. Maybe I'll get to bear witness to my own UFO sighting!



Video footage was provided by the Alert Tahoe system of cameras. Brian Duggan, [bduggan@rgj.com](mailto:bduggan@rgj.com) To view video footage, visit web link: [https://media.gannett-cdn.com/28911775001/28911775001\\_5981829357001\\_5981826228001.mp4](https://media.gannett-cdn.com/28911775001/28911775001_5981829357001_5981826228001.mp4)



There's a perfectly logical explanation for these clouds that look alien motherships. Buzz60 T

If you like stories such as this or have any interest in unidentified flying objects, either ones to which you've born witness or heard about that other people have seen, "Close Encounters of the Wisconsin Kind" is the program for you. None other than Chad Lewis, who incidentally wrote the forward to Noah Voss's book the above story came from, will be giving a presentation on UFO sightings in Wisconsin at Manitowoc Public Library.

MPL is excited to welcome Chad back to speak on yet another weird topic in Wisconsin's history. "Close Encounters of the Wisconsin Kind" takes place at 6 p.m. June 13. Come early! You won't want to miss any of this free presentation sponsored by the generosity of Friends of Manitowoc Public Library.

*Meredith Gadzinski is adult services associate at Manitowoc Public Library.*

There's a perfectly logical explanation for these clouds that look alien motherships. Buzz60



# Hissing roaches, owls, outer space art workshop among upcoming fun at Manitowoc library

Tim Gadzinski, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 7:36 a.m. CT June 12, 2019

T minus 5-4-READ-2-1! We have liftoff! Launch into summer with the Summer Reading Program — “A Universe of Stories” — at Manitowoc Public Library. While the official start of MPL’s SRP took place on June 8, registration is still open and ongoing through the final date of the program, Aug. 18.

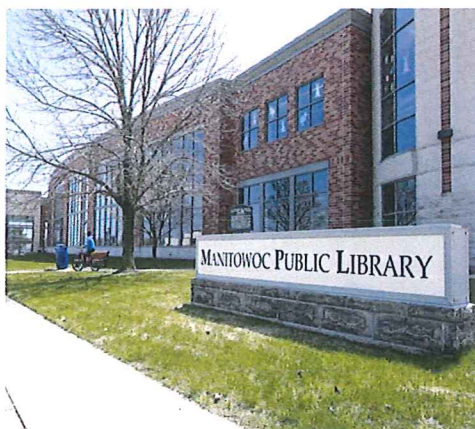
The Summer Reading Program is an incredibly popular and fun time to be at MPL. This summer was the first year we utilized online pre-registration for the SRP in an attempt to more easily manage the initial rush of people who blast into the library to sign up. 950 individuals utilized that option! Needless to say, it’s going to be another phenomenal summer at MPL.

And remember — it’s absolutely free for everyone to participate in “A Universe of Stories”! While this summer program provides an excellent opportunity for school-aged folks to avoid the “summer slump” that can arrive when the focus shifts from school and studying to fun in the sun, it’s important to remember that the SRP delivers free fun to everyone: kids, teens and adults. Whether you’re 2 months old or 92 years young, the Summer Reading Program is for you! Fill your summer with reading, prizes, raffles, activities and events.

So many amazing things are happening at MPL this summer. However, it’s literally impossible to cram everything into one article. With that in mind, we’re going to focus on a few of the super cool events happening for kids in our community in the immediate future. And remember — these are just some of the activities happening for one group of people during one week at the library. I’d encourage you to attend one or more of these, not only because they’re incredible programs, but for you to discover what else will be happening during the two months that follow these events. Honestly, the scope of it is breathtaking!

But, for the moment, let’s get back to the immediate future with our younger patrons in mind:

- Zoozort — 11 a.m.-noon Friday: It’s gonna be a real ZOO in MPL! Zoozort will be bringing some outrageous animals to the library like a wallaby, kinkajou, coati, hissing roaches and more! Come meet some new animal friends at this interactive family program! This program made possible by a generous donation in memory of Emily Oliphant.



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

- Art Attack! LEGO Movie Maker — 1-3 p.m. June 17: Lights, camera, action! Learn how to build and direct your very own stop-motion movie with the LEGO Movie Maker App. Registration required, as space is limited.

- All About Owls with Wildlife of Wisconsin — 6:30-7 p.m. June 18: Owls aren't just in books and movies! Meet some of the owls that live around us, learn about these magnificent silent hunters, and find out what brings owls to Wildlife of Wisconsin. A very special Family Activity Night, an MPL program that allows parents and children to participate together in a variety of activities.



Tim Gadzinski (Photo:  
Courtesy of Tim Gadzinski)

- Out of This World Art Workshop — 2-3 p.m. June 19: Join artist Mary Tooley and explore the wonders of outer space through art! This hands-on workshop will include a variety of fun activities, including making your very own Starry Night pop-up picture! Geared toward children 6-12 (grown-ups welcome to make art with their little ones). Adults must remain with children younger than 8 at all times. This program made possible by a generous donation in memory of Emily Oliphant.

And that's actually less than one week's worth of creative fun! See why we say the Summer Reading Program at Manitowoc Public Library is out of this world?!? We can't wait to see you at the library!

*Tim Gadzinski is marketing associate at Manitowoc Public Library.*



# Manitowoc Public Library: Midway through 2019, fireplace, coffee cart among new things

Kristin Stoeger, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 7:34 a.m. CT June 19, 2019

And just like that, we are halfway through 2019. It feels like a short while ago I was sharing with all of you the great things we accomplished in 2018 and looking forward to 2019's adventures.

As you may recall, at the beginning of this year I mentioned some of the exciting things being planned at MPL throughout 2019. I'm excited to share with you how those initiatives are going and others we have on track.

- **Fireplace:** A new addition we made available in March was our fireplace. Underneath the main staircase to the second level, you will find a beautiful new fireplace. This replaced the old seating area that used to be in this area. We will be shifting magazines and newspapers into this area throughout the summer. Already, we see so much use in this area for reading and quiet conversations.
- **Coffee cart:** We continued to transform Manitowoc Public Library even more into a community center by rolling out our new coffee cart to foster communication and engagement. So, come on down, grab a cup of coffee, relax by the fireplace and stay for a while.
- **Makerspace and redesign of first floor:** In case you haven't been to the library in recent months, we are in the midst of several changes to our first floor. We're moving the majority of our collections to provide better access and flow. We are putting all the fiction and large-print materials near the front, and designating a teen area near their collection by the first-floor turret. In addition, through a generous West Foundation grant, we are able to expand, improve and enhance our makerspace area. The old Manitowoc History room is being transformed into The Idea Lab. This lab will provide state-of-the-art technology for the public to engage with, learn from and get creative with. And the new Manitowoc History area will be along the Franklin Street side of the library to provide more protection for these historical documents from the damaging effects of the sun. This information barely scratches the surface of all that is going on — find out more details about these moves at <http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/shifting/>.
- **Picture Book City:** I am happy to share that we have completed this project! Our picture books have been reorganized from author's last name into "cities." These cities are based on subjects. For example, we grouped all of our princess books together and truck books together to make it easier for parents and children to find the materials they're seeking. It's a great way for our youngest readers to find what they are looking for!
- **Strategic planning for MPL:** Strategic plans help to provide a direction for several years for the library as we continue on our journey to meet your educational, recreational and cultural needs. Last fall, we put out surveys and organized focus groups to engage with the community and learn what you are looking for in a public library. Through that data, additional research and engagement with library stakeholders, the MPL Board of Trustees has approved the latest strategic plan for MPL. This plan sets the path for the library through 2023. Please read more here: [www.manitowoclibrary.org/budgets-and-reports/](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/budgets-and-reports/).

- Adventure passes: Through partnerships with our area cultural institutions, you are now able to check out passes to some of our local treasures, such as Manitowoc County Historical Center, Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Rogers Street Fishing Village, Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center and Rahr-West Art Museum. Yes, that's right! MPL seeks to provide even more access to our community's resources and access to information. Passes are available for checkout on a first come, first served basis at our front service desk. New passes will be released the first of each month.
- Summer Read 2019: School has ended, and summer has begun. What better way to celebrate summer than to engage in MPL's Summer Read program, which is FREE and built for ALL ages. Registration is open all summer long. There is nothing that makes for a better recipe than one that combines fabulous prizes with reading at absolutely no cost. You don't want to miss out on this! Find out more at [www.manitowoclibrary.org/srp](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/srp).



Kristin Stoeger (Photo: Michelle Kaczmarowski)

It has been an exciting year already at Manitowoc Public Library. Thank you to our community for your continued support. 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.

Manitowoc Public Library was the recipient of the 2018 Non-Profit of the Year Award through The Chamber of Manitowoc County! We are proud to serve each of you.

*Kristin Stoeger is director of Manitowoc Public Library.*



# Manitowoc librarian: 'Capsized!' a good summer read for youth on S.S. Eastland sinking

Lisa Pike, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 7:52 a.m. CT June 27, 2019

An important part of public library service is helping patrons to discover new and exciting books through the practice of readers' advisory. Librarians use this tool to help assess an individual's taste in books by asking a variety of questions to make suggestions and match possible titles each patron will find satisfactory.

Each month this summer, I will write a short review as part of readers' advisory for three different youth and young adult titles that can be found at Manitowoc Public Library. This month's review is of a fantastic nonfiction book for middle graders titled "Capsized! The Forgotten Story of the S.S. Eastland Disaster," by Patricia Sutton.

July 24 will mark the 104th anniversary of the S.S. Eastland capsizing disaster in the Chicago River. Since this tragedy happened a short three years after the Titanic disaster and just 10 weeks after the sinking of the Lusitania, it is often forgotten among the larger disasters at sea. This is an interesting point, given that its loss of 844 passenger lives is much greater than either the Titanic or Lusitania disasters. But, there are three main reasons why collective memory often overlooks the Eastland. First, the fact that the accident did not happen at sea, but in a river in the heartland of America. Second, the passengers were mostly immigrant factory workers from the Western Electric Company. Third, and saddest of all, many families were totally decimated, leaving no one to notice or even grieve their loss.



The S.S. Eastland lies on its side in the Chicago River after slowly rolling over on July 24, 1915; 844 people drowned. (Photo: Chicago Tribune)



In her book, Sutton expertly sets the stage for the impending accident by delving into the Eastland's history as a passenger vessel from its construction to previous close calls related to listing from ballast problems. At this point, Sutton provides the reader with a lesson in the anatomy of a ship and nautical navigation terms. She uses a labeled diagram and also defines more technical terms such as "ballast" and sticks to basic language so the definitions do not become ridiculously technical, which is definitely a plus for younger readers.

Then, the reader dives into the lives of families and friends — all with ties to the Western Electric Company — who planned to take part in the company picnic festivities. Sutton narrates the story with their firsthand accounts of the tragedy, investing the reader in the ultimate outcome for each person. She intensely illustrates the chaos and terror of the ship capsizing by using a selection of real quotes from survivors and bystanders. With these quotes, Sutton paints a vivid picture of the scene with fantastic description and pacing, which creates tension when the story calls for it. This style of writing makes the book read much more like fiction than nonfiction and would probably be popular among those who enjoy reading the "I Survived Series" by Lauren Tarshis.

After the commotion settles, Sutton handles the tough subject of death with a deft hand. She shares details without being excessively graphic, but still conveys the emotions of those involved and the horrific conditions that followed the disaster, such as makeshift morgues and unidentified victims. Sutton then discusses the mourning customs of the time to relate the trauma the survivors went through and how it is not much different from the grief process today.

Sutton employs a great collection of historic photographs of the people, downtown Chicago, the Eastland and the aftermath of its accident. The photos of the accident are tasteful, only showing the Eastland rolled on its side, rescues of survivors, and the post-accident clean-up. Sutton shies away from sharing more graphic photos of the victims, which is a smart choice for the younger audience.



Lisa Pike (Photo: Provided)

For younger readers, this is definitely a book adults should discuss with them while they read because of some of the deeper subjects that lie within. Altogether, "Capsized! The Forgotten Story of the S.S. Eastland Disaster" is a great read that introduces the magical era of passenger steamers to young readers alongside an unfortunate event and its impact on a community for years to come.

"Capsized! The Forgotten Story of the S.S. Eastland Disaster" was published in 2018 by Chicago Review Press, Inc. (ISBN- 978-1-61373-943-3). At 155 pages in length, it's a right-sized read for those in grades 4-6.

*Lisa Pike is a teen associate at Manitowoc Public Library.*