

Manitowoc library offers prizes during National Library Card Sign-Up Month in September

Kristin Stoeger, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 8:33 a.m. CT Sept. 4, 2019

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month; although, really, every day at the library is sign-up day for library staff. We love getting new patrons signed up for a library card, and sharing the immense value you receive with this little card.

In September, to celebrate this national initiative, MPL is offering prizes to those patrons who sign up for a new library card or renew their current library card. Each renewal or new card gets a spin on our prize wheel. There's a winner every time!

The prize wheel is just the tip of the value iceberg you receive with this card. A library card gives you access to so much more. But there are still many people — even those who LOVE to read — who don't have a library card. Normally, they cite they don't need a library card because "they can get everything they need online." If that might describe you or if you may have heard something similar, please read on, and let me see if I can change your mind.

1. It's free. Now, I know we get free cards all the time for reward programs and discounts and incentives for any number of businesses. If you're anything like me, you may have a pile of these free cards laying around somewhere in your house. The difference with a library card is that it gives you access to everything for free. A free library card doesn't give you partial access. It gives you exclusive access to ALL the resources the library has to offer. In fact, in 2018, the library provided \$10,139,690 worth of services and resources to our community through physical materials, programming, research assistance, online databases, etc. There is no catch — all these resources are free and waiting for you to take advantage of them!



September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month at Manitowoc Public Library. (Photo: Emily R. Ellerman)

2. You can access library resources from anywhere in the world. While we definitely encourage you to visit us at MPL and say hi, it's absolutely not necessary. You can access a multitude of resources at your fingertips from our website, www.manitowoclibrary.org. Your library card gives you access to:

- a. Electronic books and audiobooks for your viewing pleasure through Libby;

- b. The latest magazines through RBDigital;
- c. Second language learning through Mango Languages and Transparent Languages;
- d. Professional training and tutorials for the crafters through Creativebug;
- e. Early literacy support and learning through Tumblebooks; and
- f. MORE! All these resources and more can be found at www.manitowoclibrary.org/databases/.

3. Complete your to-do list. Not only does the library offer a multitude of books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, games, etc., for take-home checkout, we also help you accomplish those items on your to-do list. Is your printer out of ink? Stop by the library to take advantage of our public computers and printing. Wi-Fi losing signal or just not working? Use our free wireless internet or public computers to get your work done. We even have small study rooms to accomplish your work in private. Having technology issues or received a new device for your birthday? Our staff have been trained in assisting with technology troubleshooting and training of new technology. We also have meetings rooms that can be reserved; documents can be notarized at the library; tax documents are available during tax season; complete your family tree with our genealogy resources and technology; reserve a study room for a meeting or an interview; or utilize our research librarians on staff for those pesky questions that need some in-depth research.

4. A wealth of information at your fingertips. Let's play a little game of "Did you know?" Did you know ...

- a. Your library has books you can check out? (Most people know this!)
- b. Your library has audiobooks, large print, music CDs, audiobooks and DVDs for checkout?
- c. MPL has hotspots for check-out so you can take the internet with you wherever you go?
- d. There are games and toys available for check-out for your next sleepover?
- e. You can meet an artist at one of our author programs; attend a Book and a Movie at Lakeshore Cinema; attend a library escape room; learn about 3D Doodlers; expand your knowledge of local history and more at one of our 660 yearly programs for all ages?
- f. Gain access to local museums through our circulating Adventure Passes, such as Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center, Rogers Street Fishing Village, Wisconsin Maritime Museum and Pinecrest Historical Village?
- g. Make preparing for a family even easier without travel packs? Your local MPL librarian puts together a backpack with travel-friendly games, books and activities for your children to make your next trip even easier!



Kristin Stoeger (Photo: Michelle Kaczmarowski)

5. Support kids in your community. Visiting and using Manitowoc Public Library supports children in your community. Individuals from birth through every age is welcome at the library with a wealth of resources available to them. Manitowoc Public Library strongly supports early literacy in our community, and our youth librarians have been extensively trained in supporting and developing literacy in our children. Supporting early literacy is accomplished through our baby lapsits, 1,000 Books before Kindergarten campaign, story times, collections, interactive play elements, music and movement series, and, of course, our Summer Reading Program. Summer read helps to set your children up for success for the next school year and prevent what academics refer to as the “summer slide” between one school year into another.

Manitowoc Public Library is very passionate about our community. Our main goal is to provide access to information and foster an environment that meets their educational, recreational and cultural needs. So, whether you're a frequent library user or you haven't tried us yet, stop down during September National Library Card Sign-Up month to get your card (or renew it) to get access to this wealth of resources for FREE! I guarantee there is something for everyone here!

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 Clipper City Co-op, The Haven, InCourage among groups that need volunteers

Therese Horstketter, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 8:13 a.m. CT Sept. 11, 2019

What do you plan to do with your free time this winter?

You could relax and read a book. The library would certainly support that!

You could get outside and enjoy the beauty of wintertime in Wisconsin and indulge in our winter sports.

You could cheer on the Packers, or another favorite team.

You could take a vacation to a warm spot, and then come back to winter.

And you could donate your free time to one or more of the organizations that greatly need volunteer help. Manitowoc Public Library is here to help you find those organizations! And to do so, we're providing a huge, in-person, one-stop volunteer information area specifically for that purpose!

Come to the Manitowoc Public Library for our Volunteer Resource Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 19 in the second-floor Balkansky Community Room.

More than 20 groups are looking for volunteers to help out! Here is a current list of the groups that will be available to discuss their volunteer opportunities:

- Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore
- American Red Cross
- Aurora at Home
- Be the Match/Community Blood Center
- Clipper City Co-op
- The Crossing
- Curative Connections
- Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center
- Grow It Forward
- The Haven
- Holy Family Memorial
- Homecare Health Services and Hospice
- InCourage
- Lakeshore First Robotics
- Manitowoc Area Visitor & Convention Bureau
- Manitowoc County Historical Society
- Manitowoc Public Library
- Pink Heals Manitowoc County
- Planned Parenthood of WI
- QPS Employment
- Sharon S. Richardson Community Hospice

- Two Rivers Senior Center
- United Way



Michael Etheridge, associate director of The Haven, stands in one of the resident bedrooms at the emergency shelter for homeless men, which opened last April. (Photo: HTR Media file)

You can sign up on the spot if an organization or specific cause immediately connects with you. If not, take some information home and mull it over.

As MPL's volunteer coordinator, I can tell you from personal experience that I've had some volunteers contact me months later to say they're ready to start volunteering. Perhaps it'll be even longer than a few months. Maybe after you retire or as kids or grandkids head off to school you'll find that you have some spare time to give elsewhere. At that point, you may choose to reach out and share your talents and time with a group that's very much in need.

Some groups need help occasionally, some need help daily. Manitowoc Public Library, for example, has volunteers who provide daily help, but we also have volunteers who like to help out with specific projects or only for special events. Every organization really tries to make volunteering a good fit for their volunteers.

And what do people gain by volunteering? Volunteers really do work for the sake of others. However, you may develop new talents and find some new things to enjoy that you'd never even considered. Also — and perhaps most significantly — it's an opportunity to develop new friendships. At MPL, I see our volunteers brighten up when they run into other volunteers and staff. They find the projects they work on to be fun and relaxing, and at the end of the day, they can actually see all they've accomplished.

But MPL is just one of the possibilities that you'll encounter at the Volunteer Resource Fair. From driving people to appointments, stocking pantry shelves, helping individuals, families and animals with a variety of needs, assisting with clerical duties, helping at fundraisers, and keeping facilities clean, the list of needs is practically endless.

Bottom line: volunteers are needed! Please join us on Sept. 19 at Manitowoc Public Library at the Volunteer Resource Fair and find your place as a volunteer!

Therese Horstketter is volunteer coordinator for Manitowoc Public Library.



Therese Horstketter (Photo: Provided)

Judges are losing their independence — and it's not Trump's fault, retired judge writes

The Hon. Charles B. Schudson, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 8:39 a.m. CT Sept. 17, 2019

Editor's note: Charles B. Schudson, author of this column, will be appearing at Manitowoc Public Library at 6 p.m. Sept. 26 in the Balkansky Community Room to discuss the judiciary issues addressed in his recently published book, "Independence Corrupted."

"Under some [state] constitutions the judges are elected and subject to frequent reelection. I venture to predict that sooner or later these innovations will have dire results and that one day it will be seen that by dismantling the magistrates' independence, not judicial power only but the democratic republic itself has been attacked." — Alexis de Tocqueville, 1835, "Democracy in America"

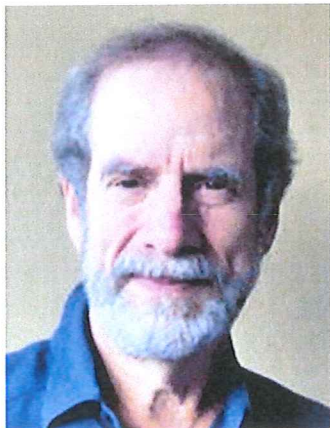
America's judicial independence is dying, but not because of Donald Trump. Most court-watchers just don't get it. Focusing on the U.S. Supreme Court nominations of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh and other federal judges these last two years, they have failed to see the much bigger picture — the transformation of America's state judges,

Their independence is dying. The reasons are complicated, but culminate in *Republican Party of Minn. v. White*, the Supreme Court's 2002 decision striking down the "announce clause" of the Minnesota Code of Judicial Conduct.

What's an announce clause, what did the Supreme Court decide, and why is its decision fatal to America's judicial independence?

Like all states, Minnesota has an ethics code for its judges. While differing in details, many codes, until 2002, prohibited judges and judicial candidates from "announcing" their positions on legal/political issues during their campaigns — campaigns for election in 39 states, and for appointments in all 50. Why did these codes bar such statements?

History explains. Declaring America's independence in 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote that revolution was required, in part, because King George had "made Judges dependent on his Will alone" for "the establishment of an absolute Tyranny." Thus, explicitly, America declared independence to gain judicial independence.



Charles B. Schudson (Photo: Provided)

Judges, said Jefferson and the founding fathers, must be impartial, untethered from a king or president or anyone who might try to control them. Judges also must preserve what ethics codes call "the appearance of fairness." They must not pre-judge. They must never declare pre-conceived opinions that could compromise or appear to compromise their judgments. Thus, until hearing all parties in open court, judges must never "announce" their beliefs.

We judges complied. So, for example, seeking a gubernatorial appointment and later campaigning for election, as both a trial and appellate judge, I could not offer my opinion on any issue likely to come before me. If I did, I could be disciplined. Thus, although I campaigned at churches, labor halls, county fairs and even partisan

meetings, I said nothing about abortion, gun control, same-sex marriage and other hot-button issues.

Voters understood. Civically schooled to expect judicial candidates to deflect political questions, voters had come to trust that campaign silence helped prepare judges to base their decisions on the merits, not campaign promises.

But things changed. A few judicial candidates balked. Driven by personal beliefs and political ambitions, they campaigned on controversial issues; they offered opinions and forecast decisions. Soon, they found themselves in court, fighting disciplinary prosecutions.

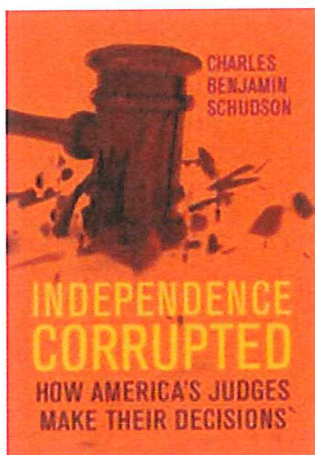
One of them, a Minnesota attorney who had run for the state supreme court criticizing its abortion rulings, tried to enjoin the ethics board from disciplining him for “announc[ing] his ... views on disputed legal or political issues.” The Minnesota Republican Party joined his cause; together, they argued that the ethics rule breached the First Amendment by denying the candidate’s free speech and depriving voters of information they needed.

The Supreme Court agreed in a 5-4 vote. Therefore, since 2002, state judges and judicial candidates have been free to declare their positions on any issue.

Although ethics codes never had guaranteed the integrity of every judge in every case, the “announce” prohibitions had fortified fairness and the appearance of fairness. Now, however, voters and interest groups may ask, “How would you rule ...?” Now, judicial candidates, calibrating opinion polls, endorsements and dollars, can answer.

Thus, state judicial elections have morphed from low-financed yawners to high-financed screamers. In countless campaigns, false advertising is grotesque; pandering candidates win.

State judges always had touched almost every aspect of our lives — abortion to child custody to commerce, medical malpractice to multi-million-dollar disputes, drunk driving to homicide. Now, more than ever before, they are touched by political influence.



Independence Corrupted — How America’s Judges Make Their Decisions’ (University of Wisconsin Press, 2018) (Photo: Provided)

The Supreme Court’s 2002 decision wasn’t easy; the 5-4 split reflected the court’s difficult First Amendment dilemma. And no one suggests that the majority intended to destroy judicial independence. But even in states where positive peer pressure and best practices support judicial integrity, unprincipled candidates challenge incumbents whose constitutionally correct rulings upset powerful donors.

In the federal courts, “Trump judges,” appointed for life, will evolve; most will find their foundations in the Constitution, not the president. Federal judicial independence will survive. But state judicial independence will not. It’s now on life support. Absent legislative reform or Supreme Court reconsideration of its decision, state judicial independence will die.

Today, from China to Hungary to Russia to Venezuela, despots attack independent judiciaries. In America, a president, perhaps uninformed about America’s revolutionary commitment to judicial independence, condemns federal judges and

distracts us from the withering independence of their state counterparts.

History is emphatic — without fiercely independent judges, nature is plundered; tribes are marched away, peoples are enslaved, interned, exterminated. Democratic republics die.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Thurgood Marshall once declared, “the greatest scourge an angry Heaven ever inflicted upon an ungrateful and sinning people, was ... a dependent judiciary.” In 2015, deciding whether state judicial candidates could solicit campaign donations, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg both declared, “Judges are not politicians.”

If only that still were so.

Charles B. Schudson, a Wisconsin Reserve Judge Emeritus, served as a state and federal prosecutor, a trial and appellate judge, a law professor, and a Fulbright Fellow at law schools abroad. He is the author of “Independence Corrupted — How America’s Judges Make Their Decisions” (University of Wisconsin Press, 2018).

At Manitowoc library, 'Close to Home' series focuses on crime, organ donation and suicide

Tim Gadzinski, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 8:03 a.m. CT Sept. 25, 2019

Even if you're not an avid follower of the 24-hour news cycle, it would be difficult to ignore the fact that we live in turbulent, challenging times. On local, national and global levels, confusion, hardship and chaos are inserted into our daily lives.

I'm not "crying wolf" or trying to convince anyone the sky is falling, however. Far from it. What I'm attempting to do is call attention to the fact that, all too often, we tend to remain silent — to keep our thoughts and concerns to ourselves and allow them to percolate — when what we should be doing is openly discussing these issues. And when discussions are on the table, creative solutions tend to emerge. Because ultimately, it's important to remember that knowledge is power.



Manitowoc Police
Department Crime
Prevention Sgt. Andrew
Trilling (Photo: Flashback
Photography)

Manitowoc Public Library is extremely proud to be able to offer two distinct programs that focus on these bigger issues to our community. One takes place in February and March and is called "Great Decisions." "Great Decisions" is a geopolitical discussion series, exploring how foreign policy and global affairs impact our lives on both an international and local level.

The other takes place throughout October. This one is called "Close to Home." It focuses specifically on domestic issues happening in our own back yard that have the potential to impact the daily lives of our friends and neighbors. They're not always the easiest things to talk about — and that's precisely why these discussions need to take place.

In the past, we've focused solely on panel discussions to address topics that have ranged from guns in schools to freedom of speech. This year, we're branching out a bit and making it more inclusive for a broader participant age-range.

Here's the full "Close to Home" slate:



Susan Angel Miller (Photo:
Provided)

- Family Activity Night: Storytime with Manitowoc Police Department, 6:30 p.m. Oct. 1 — Getting our children to comprehend that when the uniform comes off, our police officers are people, too. What better way to convey this than having representatives from the Manitowoc Police Department — in their regular, everyday civilian clothes — read stories with the kids?
- Crime Prevention Committee Meeting with Sgt. Andrew Trilling, 6 p.m. Oct. 3 — The Crime Prevention Committee works in the community to assist law enforcement agencies in their duties. They do this by cooperating with law enforcement in community events and crime prevention activities. The committee listens to public input and discusses what the group is proactively doing, receives updates from school resource officers, and hears from student representatives. They also discuss current scam trends.
- Neighborhood Watch Meeting with Sgt. Andrew Trilling, 6 p.m. Oct. 17 — In 2019, Sgt. Andrew Trilling updated the Neighborhood Watch list and mapped out where we have block captains and

where we could use a few more. He will be giving a presentation and answering questions from the community about Neighborhood Watch and other safety topics.

- Family Activity Night: Junior Police Academy, 6:30 p.m. Oct. 22 — Having addressed that police officers are regular people like everyone else earlier in October with “Storytime with Manitowoc Police Department,” this program aims to get our kids comfortable with officers while they’re doing their job. To get this across, we’re playfully having them take on some “training” to help them to better understand their duties.
- Understanding Organ Donation with Susan Angel Miller, 6 p.m. Oct. 24 — Susan Angel Miller, a Milwaukee-based career volunteer whose life changed as a result of a traumatic event in her family, brings this panel discussion to MPL. Panel members include a transplant nurse, an organ procurement coordinator, Susan herself, and, it is hoped, a donor recipient.
- It’s OK To Not Be OK with Jeff Ditzenberger, 6 p.m. Oct. 28 — Jeff Ditzenberger — who long ago set fire to an abandoned structure with the intention of never leaving — now speaks to groups about the importance of de-stigmatizing mental health issues and talking about suicide, most especially in our rural communities, where stress and anxiety are at all-time highs in the farming industry.



Jeff Ditzenberger (Photo:
Provided)

The full list and descriptions can also be found at
www.manitowoclibrary.org/closetohome/.

We hope to see you at “Close to Home.” It’s time to get the conversation started!

Tim Gadzinski is marketing associate at Manitowoc Public Library.