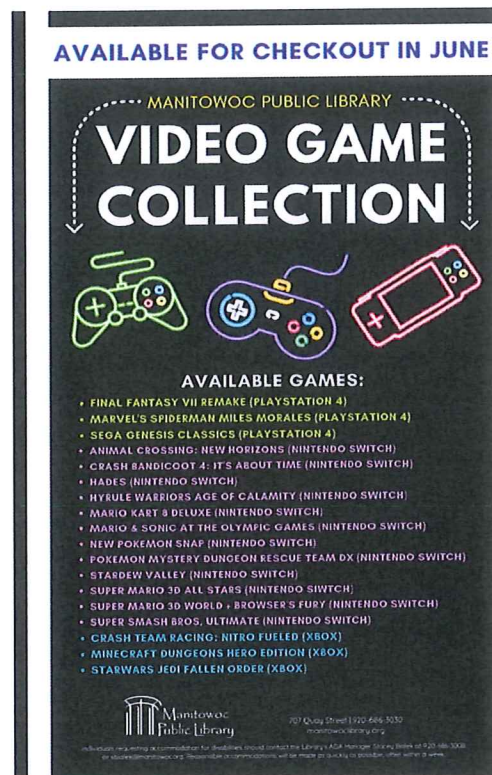


Manitowoc Public Library Now Offering Video Game Rentals

Jun 2, 2021 | 3:00 PM
Local News



The following article was submitted by MPL Associate, Carrie Pearson.

Game on! Video games are coming to Manitowoc Public Library starting in June!

This small collection of video games was funded through a SILLI Grant—which stands for Supporting Innovative Library Leadership Initiatives. These grants, an inner-MPL grant initiative graciously funded by the MPL Foundation, creates opportunities for MPL staff to transform their original ideas into inventive realities within the Library. This particular grant was submitted by myself, Carrie Pearson, the Teen Associate at the time of the application, and Julia Lee, our Youth Services Manager.

These first 18 games are suited for Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4, and Xbox consoles. The games will be available for a 3-week loan period. Holds can also be placed on the video games in case the game you want to borrow is checked-out by another patron. The games will

be kept in locked cases, which staff will have to unlock before patrons can take them home to play. That means that patrons will not be able to check out video games via the self-checkouts at the Library's entrance. People will need to take their games to a staff member at the Main Service Desk next to the front entrance in order to check them out.

The Library wants to pass along a big “Thank You!” to the community members who submitted responses to our video game survey. Their answers helped us to choose the game titles (so many popular games out there now!) for specific consoles to invest in! If this collection of games circulates well, there's definitely a chance that more funding will be put towards expanding the collection.

Among our survey-takers, the Nintendo Switch was the most popular console, so we decided to purchase the most games for The Switch. We also had multiple requests for kid-friendly/family-friendly games, which more often than not lean towards being available for the Switch. With this initial collection, we only focused on games rated “E” for Everyone and “T” for Teen.

You may be asking yourself, “What do video games have to do with a library?” Well, did you know video games help improve literacy? A new research study by the UK's National Literacy Trust linked video games to improved literacy, creativity, positive communication, empathy, and mental well-being in young people, ages 11 to 16. The study also found that 79% of young people who play video

games also read material related to the medium. Additionally, players are more likely to write creatively, with over half of young people who play video games reporting they write about them.

The link between video games and literacy was especially strong for boys and “reluctant readers” according to the study. The interactive element of playing a video game helps players understand a narrative, with 73% of young people who do not like to read reporting that playing video games helps them feel “more part of a story” than reading a book. If you want to find out more about this study, check out the page on [National Literacy Trust’s site](#).

Manitowoc Public Library’s video game collection will temporarily be placed up front and center on a display shelf near our main service desk for interested patrons to find. The permanent home for the collection after its promotional period will be near the Young Adult Collection, next to the Young Adult magazines. So, come June, this video game collection becomes available. To find the most current word on this new collection, head to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary.

Manitowoc Public Library to Host "What's on Your Plate?" Program

Jun 8, 2021 | 2:00 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was submitted by Meredith Gadzinski, an Adult Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.

A couple of years ago, the Library asked Titus Seilheimer, Wisconsin Sea Grant's Fisheries Specialist, to present a program on the changing ecology of Lake Michigan. That program was eye-opening for me. It actually came in handy over a year later when I was talking with friends about the kinds of fish that our local restaurants offer.

The conversation moved on to discussing how rainbow trout isn't offered at restaurants in our area anymore, because when they were kids it was offered everywhere. We all wondered out loud why? I said, well from what I can remember from our program at MPL, the lake ecology has changed a lot due to invasive species. As such, the makeup of the fish available in our lakes has changed, too, and that could be a reason the local fish offerings at restaurants has changed.

I also told them that, not being an expert on the subject, I didn't know that for sure. However, there's a great book about the Great Lakes that you can read called *The Life and Death of the Great Lakes* that might shed some light on the topic. I don't know if my friends checked out that book, but one of the things I love about being a librarian is that even when I don't know the answers I can always find a reliable resource that can help to reveal the knowledge you need to make an informed choice.

That conversation also got the wheels turning in my head about creating another program. Friday Fish Fries are a huge part of local tradition in Manitowoc County and wouldn't it be nice to know where the fish come from that we are eating whether that's cooking fish at home or eating at our favorite Friday evening eatery. So, I asked Titus to make a return trip to Manitowoc Public Library to talk about the fish we eat in a program called, *What's on Your Plate?: The Pathways of Seafood from Local to the Whole World*.

Titus will be sharing his knowledge on where fish comes from, both wild caught and farm-raised, how our local fisheries have changed, and how we connect with the world through seafood. Being a Fisheries Specialist with Wisconsin Sea Grant, he's more than qualified to speak on that subject. As an aquatic ecologist and fisheries scientist, he studies the ecology of streams, rivers, and wetlands, as well as the Great Lakes.

I have it on good authority from Titus that more than sixty-percent of the seafood Americans eat is imported. Personally, I don't know much about the fish we eat and where it comes from other than standing at the seafood counter trying to figure out if I should pick farm-raised or wild caught fish for dinner. I am excited to learn more and hopefully this knowledge will help me purchase wisely in the future and do more to support our local fisheries.

What's on Your Plate?: The Pathways of Seafood from Local to the Whole World will air on MPL's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary) on Thursday, June 10 at 6 PM. You do not need a Facebook account to watch the program. Just go to [head](#) to MPL's page at 6 PM this Thursday to watch. I am sure that this program will not disappoint us and not only will it be dynamic, but also informative.



Meredith Gadzinski

Manitowoc Public Library Begins Accepting Material Donations Again

Jun 13, 2021 | 9:00 AM

[Local News](#)



The following article was submitted by Therese Horstketter, an Adult Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.

Manitowoc Public Library accepts and greatly appreciates material donations. Due to the pandemic, it's been a while since we've been able to receive these donations from the public at large. However, donations are once again being accepted at MPL!

The majority of items given to us go into our Friends of Manitowoc Public Library Used Book Sales. The funds generated from their sale goes directly back into the Library in a variety of ways—via programs, purchases for book discussions, author visits, and, of course, our fantastic Summer Reading

Program for all ages!

Since so many of us have been cooped-up for a good deal of time over the past year-and-a-half, we've made good use of that time by taking on some extra projects around the house. Which definitely has led to piles of books and other materials being accumulated.

But, this tidying-up has led to many questions regarding our Library's donation policy, both in terms as to what we'll accept and how to go about getting things into our hands. We wholeheartedly appreciate your patience and your willingness to set some great donations aside until we could accept them again.

So, with all that being said, here's some good news: beginning June 8th, we are once again going to accept donations, with some very ****new guidelines**** to help you, as well as our staff, to handle these donations.

New Donation guidelines

****We will accept one grocery bag of materials at our main Service Desk. Items will be quickly assessed by staff for acceptance.**

****For donations larger than one grocery bag, AN APPOINTMENT MUST BE SCHEDULED.** In order to schedule an appointment, please contact Therese at 920-686-3044 or by emailing her at thorstketter@manitowoc.org. Staff will not accept unscheduled donation drop-offs larger than one grocery bag.

**** Please DO NOT put donations into the Book Return slots**

A good rule of thumb is to only donate items you would gift to a good friend.

We love to receive:

- Hardcover and Softcover Fiction
- Paperbacks less than a year old
- Non-Fiction books with current or historical subjects such as biographies, sports, crafts, cookbooks, WWII, and collectible items
- DVDs, Books on CD, Music CDs

All materials must be in good condition and complete, without being marked up, torn, or having been stored in a garage or basement where they picked up a bad odor. Donating items that we cannot use creates work for staff to dispose of them. If you need to set up an appointment with Therese, please have your items in bags or small boxes that do not need to be returned.

We cannot accept:

- Encyclopedias and textbooks
 - VHS tapes
 - Magazines and newspapers
 - Self-help books such as computer books, office skills, legal guides, medical guides
- We reserve the right to reject items that are not acceptable. Please check with your local refuse hauler for recommendations on recycling or check with local thrift shops for donation options.*

We will provide a donation receipt for tax purposes. We do not assign a value to your donation.

To find this information on our website (www.manitowoclibrary.org), please go to the "How Do I?" tab and scroll to the words "Donate Used Books".

Again, thank you for your patience with our donation process as we navigated through these unprecedented times. We look forward to seeing what you've decided to part ways with in your new donations to Manitowoc Public Library!

Woodland Dunes Education Coordinator Talks Bird Watching

Jun 15, 2021 | 3:00 PM

[Local News](#)



This article was submitted by Jessica Johnshrud, the Education Coordinator and Assistant Director at Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve.

It's that time of year, when I slowly amble around my neighborhood with my binoculars strapped to my chest. I regularly walk the area, looking and listening for birds. I may stand in one area for a half-hour if there's a lot of action. I have been birding since my teens and enjoy this activity solo, as well as sharing it with others.

One thing I love about bird-watching is that it requires me to be in the present moment.

Peering at a bird through my binoculars, I am focused, watching the bird flit about to find an insect snack. There is no time for me to listen to the busy chatter in my head—only time to move my binoculars as the bird swiftly moves from branch to branch. It truly is a form of mindfulness that I find relaxing.

After the relative quiet of winter, I appreciate observing my “first of year” or FOY species. These are birds that migrated in the fall, but are now returning to their nesting grounds and are the first of a particular species I have seen that year. It feels hopeful and exciting to see these old friends again.

Spring and early summer is an excellent time to also listen for birds or to “bird by ear.” Love is in the air and male birds are very vocal, advertising to females with their mating song. Each species has their own specific mating song, as well as a series of other calls for communication. Even if the bird is not visible, it's still possible to identify the species if it is singing.

As I take my daily walks, I love the challenge of closely listening to the bird chatter and trying to decipher a new bird song. I have found that using mnemonics has been a very helpful tool. Mnemonics are phrases that sound similar to the bird's song. For example, the Black-capped Chickadee says, “Cheeseburger!” and the Eastern Towhee says, “Drink your tea!” These phrases do not work for all bird songs, but it does apply to many.

Bird-watching is enjoyable and definitely good for your health. Research has shown a link between observing birds and a decrease in overall stress. Birding increases happiness and can create a sense of awe and appreciation. People bird as they walk, but many people also bird by bike or kayak and canoe—all excellent forms of physical activity.

If you are interested in increasing your happiness, learning a few tidbits, and observing some beautiful feathered friends, join me on a Bird Walk at Woodland Dunes Nature Center! We are partnering with the Manitowoc Public Library to offer a guided bird walk on Friday, June 25th at 8:30 AM (weather-

permitting). Bring a pair of binoculars and be prepared for a multisensory experience courtesy of Mother Nature!

Registration is required and space is limited. For more information or to register, head to the "Events" page at www.manitowoclibrary.org and click on our June 25th Bird Walk!

Manitowoc Public Library Hosting Virtual LGBTQIA+ Program

Jun 23, 2021 | 2:00 PM

[Local News](#)



Belonging

LGBTQ+ People in Small American Communities
A Community Conversation

Thursday, June 24, 6PM

This event will be streamed on MPL's Facebook page (facebook.com/manitowoclibrary) and MPL's YouTube channel.



The following article was submitted by Megan Marchant, Vice President of PFLAG Manitowoc County through the Manitowoc Public Library.

June is Pride Month. And it's in June that we remember the history, reflect on the challenges, and celebrate the achievements of the LGBTQIA+ community.

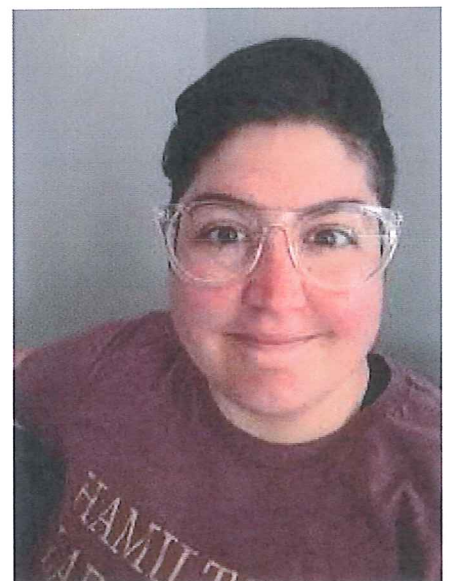
Pride Month was established to commemorate the events and people surrounding the Stonewall Uprising in June of 1969. The Stonewall Uprising was a

series of demonstrations born out of the legal, economic, and cultural disparities in the LGBTQIA+ community, and further pushed by unjust treatment from the police. In the early hours of June 28, 1969, after decades of harassment and injustice at the hands of authorities, citizens fought back. On that morning, the Stonewall Inn—a popular LGBTQIA+ bar in [New York City](#)—was violently raided by police. LGBTQIA+ people and their allies stood up for their right to live, gather, and love, sparking the LGBTQIA+ movement in the United States.

In the decades after the Stonewall Uprising, local and regional pride celebrations began popping up in June to commemorate the Stonewall Uprising that served as the catalyst towards equality. Pride Month was first acknowledged on a national level in 1999 by then President Bill Clinton. Since its inception, Pride Month has grown in popularity and continues to bring awareness, advocacy, and community to LGBTQIA+ people and their allies.

PFLAG is a national organization that was founded in 1972 by a mother whose son was gay. Jeanne Manford walked with her son in New York's Christopher Street Liberation Day March, met other families and allies, and realized the need for a support group. Today, PFLAG is the largest LGBTQIA+ support group in the country. PFLAG's mission is to provide support, advocacy, and education to LGBTQIA+ individuals, their friends, their families, and their communities.

PFLAG Manitowoc County understands that a community thrives when it provides a welcome, diverse, and safe environment for all of its residents. The organization is a diverse group of grandparents, parents, families, friends, and LGBTQIA+ people. The founders of PFLAG Manitowoc County understood the reality of living in a world where acceptance could be wanting and safety could be precarious. They're committed to PFLAG's mission "...to build on a foundation of



loving families united with LGBTQ+ people and allies who support one another, and to educate ourselves and our communities to speak up as advocates until all hearts and minds respect, value and affirm LGBTQ people.”

PFLAG Manitowoc County has been providing in-person and virtual support for LGBTQIA+ individuals, their families, and friends since 2008. They advocate for legal, cultural, and economic equality for LGBTQIA+ people. PFLAG Manitowoc County is passionate about educating their community to cultivate a more inclusive, affirming place for everyone.

Please join Manitowoc Public Library and PFLAG Manitowoc County on Thursday, June 24, at 6 PM, for “Belonging: LGBTQ+ People in Small American Communities,” a discussion panel and community conversation about living in a small community as an LGBTQIA+ person, loved one, or ally. This event will be livestreamed on MPL’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary) and their YouTube channel. It’s the intention of MPL and PFLAG that this panel discussion be an uplifting, affirming, and respectful conversation that helps Manitowoc move forward together as a stronger, more equitable community. We hope that you’ll join us.

Manitowoc Public Library Continues to Offer Walking Tours of Historic Downtown Manitowoc

Jun 29, 2021 | 2:00 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was submitted by Meredith Gadzinski, the Adult Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.

As some of you may know, a few of the public services staff at Manitowoc Public Library enjoy local history. We've helped numerous people indulge in their passion for researching local history. We love to empower people to learn how to research and use the local history and genealogy tools that MPL has at our disposal for our community.

In 2019, MPL first offered its "Historic Manito-Walk" walking tours, which highlighted some of the buildings in the 8th Street Historic District. I mean, who doesn't love a walking tour? Maybe I'm in the minority, but usually when I am traveling, I love taking-in a walking tour or two. I may be nerdier than some, so that might influence why I think they're fun (by the way, they ARE fun!). You meet people that you normally wouldn't while learning fun and interesting facts about both the community you're visiting and its history.

What buildings will we be highlighting in the tour, you might ask? Well, we are going to start with a more recent historic structure—the current Manitowoc Public Library building—before moving north on 8th Street and across the bridge to the O. Torrison Building.

From there, we'll go a little farther down North 8th to cover the Dempsey Building. For those who don't know which building that is, it's the building that now houses the Flower Gallery on its main floor. It has beautiful glazed terra cotta on the outside, which make this building unique from the other ones on the tour.

After that we'll head back to South 8th Street to share some knowledge about one of the oldest jewelry stores in the state of Wisconsin, which for many years was known as Fehrs' Jewelry Store and then Modern by Meagan. Now, unfortunately, it stands empty.

We'll continue south to the Historic Schuette Building, now owned by Doneff Companies and then it's onward to the Manitowoc Savings Bank, which now houses Manitowoc County Human Services. Next, we'll share the history of the Manitowoc County Courthouse with you before starting to move north again on 8th Street to the Williams Block, also known as the Odd Fellows Building. That's the building with the Hearty Olive in it.

Next, we'll stroll to the second oldest building on the tour—the Henry Berner Hardware Building, where currently you'll find Mad Hatter and the Dead by Dawn "Dead & Breakfast." Last, but certainly not least, we move on to the oldest building in the 8th Street Historic District—now known as Stage Door Pub, but for a long time it was the residence of Fred Schultz and the Schultz Family.

In a nutshell, those are the buildings we will be covering in our in-person walking tour this summer. Registration is required and space is limited. Secure your spot by heading to the "Events" page of the MPL website (www.manitowoclibrary.org). We are offering the tour four times in the months of July and August. The first tour is on July 1 at 3 PM. If you're off a day early for the 4th of July Holiday Weekend, take a walking tour in Thursday afternoon at 3 PM! The second tour is being offered on Saturday, July 17 at 9 AM. Registration opens July 1 for this tour. Tour Number 3 takes place on Saturday, August 14 at 9 AM. Registration opens on August 2 for this tour. The final Manito-Walk for the summer strolls-out on Saturday, August 28 at 9 AM and registration opens on August 16.. We are excited to be offering these tours in-person this summer and look forward to sharing some of our community's story with you.



Meredith Gadzinski

Weird Manitowoc to Host a Two-Part Series on Weird Food

Jun 30, 2021 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



The following story was submitted by Carl Sieracki, a History teacher at Lincoln High School and local history aficionado through the Manitowoc Public Library.

The United States of America. The Melting Pot or the Salad Bowl? This is one of the questions that has vexed me over the years. If we were truly a melting pot, wouldn't we all be of the same mish-mash of ideas? Well, that certainly is not the case, but we aren't quite a salad bowl either. If we were, then we would not be Americans, but simply a collection of various nationalities guarding our separate ethnic cultures. No, I think we are more like a stew or a soup. Flavors of so many cultures mixed together with chunks of specific and unique morsels of each sticking out, like beans or potatoes.

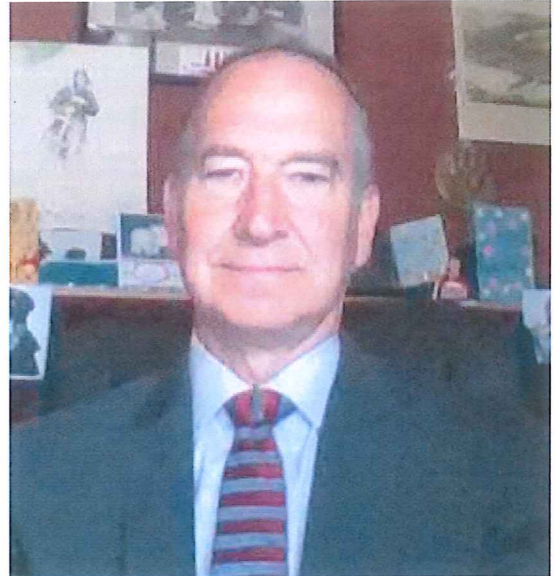
Matt Kadow and I have had the pleasure of sharing the offbeat history of Manitowoc through a Public Library program known as "Weird Manitowoc" over the past year. Recently, we were asked to do a new program based on the odd or different foods present in this town entitled, "Manitowoc Bites: A Weird Manitowoc Foodstravaganza." While searching out the unique and/or odd, Matt and I came to an interesting reality—Manitowoc's food scene has gone through two distinct phases. First, there was the European, or settler, phase. These would include such things as smoked Chub, Cannibal Sandwiches, and Cherry Bounce. Items which have become staples in many people's holiday traditions. They are familiar to us for their comfort qualities.

The second phase is largely based on our "newcomers" to Manitowoc. These would include things like Kimchi, curries and traditional Mexican. Each possessing a bit of punch into the diet, adding the spice to life.

So, Matt and I have set forth to find a good sampling of these culinary delights and we have attempted to find the history in their roots. While we delighted in meeting with various personalities of individuals who prepared these delicacies, the most amazing part was the tasting. Some were sweet, some were intoxicating, but the most impressive part of the venture was not knowing before we bit into each one. Many dishes brought back wonderful memories of Grandma, or Omi, or Bobcia. Other experiences were not as positive.

It was with the newest offerings that the world of two European descended guys was blown to bits. Did you ever have your mouth explode with flavor, so much so that you had to stop eating to allow your mind to catch up to your taste buds? I have. Brought up on warm and rather comfortable items, these Near-Eastern, Asian, and South of the Border treats reminded my palette of all the different tastes and aromas there were to be had. Vibrant smells and flavors—along with varying degrees of heat—had each of us happy to have our culinary worlds expanded.

Following all of our extensive research, Matt and I were able to reflect back and see what our beautiful country is all about. Our ancestors came here and carved a life out of a wild frontier. As they did, they brought with them recipes and ingredients to remind them of home. Over time, many of those recipes were lost or combined with others and cultures with similar backgrounds blended. They melted into our pot and created a base for our stew. The “potatoes” of a few distinct items remained. They seem to be specially reserved for times when larger groups—families—get together.



Carl Sieracki

Then, the new dishes enter into this dinner. The old population finds them peculiar, exotic, separate. But, to our newest cooks, these are the reminders of their homes. Added to your old tired stew, these ingredients bring spice, which only enhances our stew recipe. Are they scary? Maybe, but without a little anxiety, growth rarely happens.

Join Matt and me as we expand our minds and have the melting pot meet the salad bowl to create a delicious stew that is Manitowoc.

“Manitowoc Bites!” will air in two episodes—July 1 and 15, both Thursdays at 6 PM—on Manitowoc Public Library’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary). See you then!