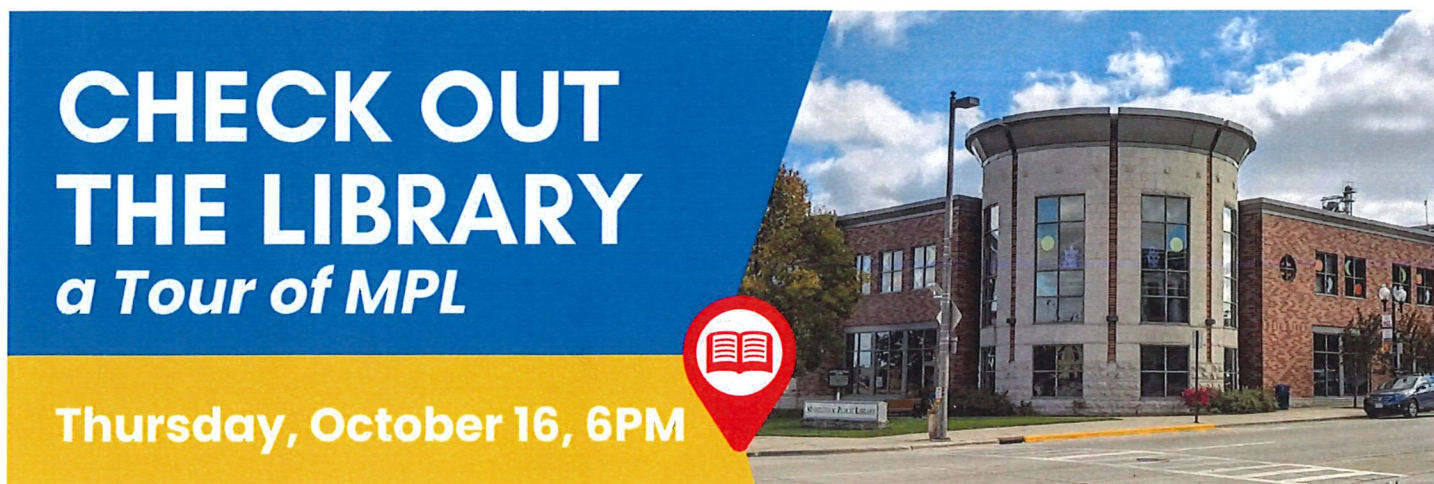


Explore Manitowoc Public Library on Thursday, October 16, During “Check Out the Library: A Tour of MPL”

Oct 7, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by Tony Plekan, a Public Services Librarian at the Manitowoc Public Library.

Manitowoc Public Library’s role in the community continuously evolves as we expand our collection, enhance our amenities, and provide unique programs. You may not even be aware of everything MPL has to offer. Did you know MPL has a Makerspace, a Seed Library, and a Toy Library?

To learn about these resources and others, come to Manitowoc Public Library on Thursday October 16, for “[Check Out the Library: A Tour of MPL](#)”. This guided tour will introduce you to many of the wonderful features of Manitowoc Public Library.

While Books will always be at the heart of what we do at MPL, the collection has expanded to include other materials, such as Videogames, Playaways (personal audiobook players), Cake Pans and much more! Learn how programs like “One-to-One Literacy” and “Homebound Services” are benefiting our community. See firsthand how MPL can help you pursue your educational and recreational interests.

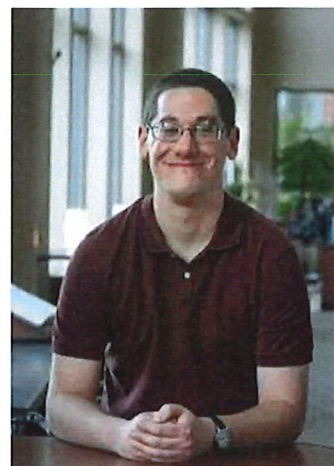
All these magnificent things are available to you just by having a library card. All of this can be a little overwhelming when you try to take it all in all at once, but we’re here to help. Join Library Staff member, Tony, as he guides you around the Library and answers your questions.

The tour includes:

- An overview of the various collections for Adults, Teens, and Kids
- A preview of upcoming programs and available resources
- A walking tour of the building*

**The tour will consist of public areas only. It will not include administrative offices or processing areas.*

You will need to be able to withstand walking/standing for about an hour to partake in “[Check Out the Library: A Tour of MPL](#)”.



Tony Plekan

Whether it's your first time at Manitowoc Public Library or you're a lifelong Library user, I guarantee that you'll discover something new about MPL. The tour begins in the Library Board Room on the Second Floor at 6 PM and no registration is required.

If you are interested in learning more about your local library, join us on Thursday, October 16, at 6 PM for "[Check Out the Library: A Tour of MPL](#)".

It's Going to Be a Scary-Good Time at MPL during Trunk or Treat & the Spooktacular Costume Contest!

Oct 14, 2025 | 3:30 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by Manitowoc Public Library Youth Services Manager, Sharon Verbeten, and Public Services Associate, Lisa Devins-Horohoe.

A wizened old witch. A teeny tiny giraffe. Bluey. And a live chicken. You never know what you'll see at Manitowoc Public Library's annual [Trunk or Treat](#)—but these were just a few of the great costumes we saw during last year's much-anticipated annual event.

This fall, join us Tuesday, October 21, from 5:30-7 PM in the Briess Parking Lot across Quay Street from the Library this for this Spectacle of Spectacles—car trunks delightfully (and spookily!) decorated; kids wearing crazy costumes; parents toting around those kids; and metric tons of candy and swag. Isn't that what this season is all about?

Well, actually, there's quite a bit more to focus on. It's about the more than 25 local organizations and non-profits who open their trunks and share their time to celebrate this autumnal rite of passage. It's a safe, family-friendly alternative to traditional Trick or Treating—presented in a controlled environment with invite-only groups handing out goodies.

There are a few other similar events in the area this fall, but don't miss one of the biggest—and then stop inside the library for a costume contest and maybe even to check out a few spooky stories to read while counting all that loot!

Hold on! Did someone say Costume Contest? Get ready for a chillingly good time at the 2025 [Spooktacular Costume Contest](#) at Manitowoc Public Library! Join us while you are out [Trunk or Treating](#) and swing by the Teen Hangout on MPL's First Floor—also taking place on Tuesday, October 21, from 5:30-6:45 PM—to sign up for the most fang-tastic contest of the year!

We have three spooky categories waiting for your creativity:

- **Youth:** Kids aged 0-12! Let your imaginations soar and have fun!
- **Teen/Adult:** Ages 13 and up! It is your time to shine!
- **Group:** For families or a fun-themed crew of three or more!

Our MPL team will conjure up some magic and choose five finalists from each category based on creativity, originality, authenticity, and presentation that dazzles!

But, wait—there's more exciting news! We will post the finalists on MPL's Facebook page on Wednesday, October 22. The costumes that receive the most reactions will win spooktacular prizes in each category!



Sharon Verbeten



Lisa Devins-Horohoe

So, grab your capes, wigs, and wands—ghosts and goblins of all ages are welcome! Remember, we love family-friendly costumes, so make sure to keep it fun!

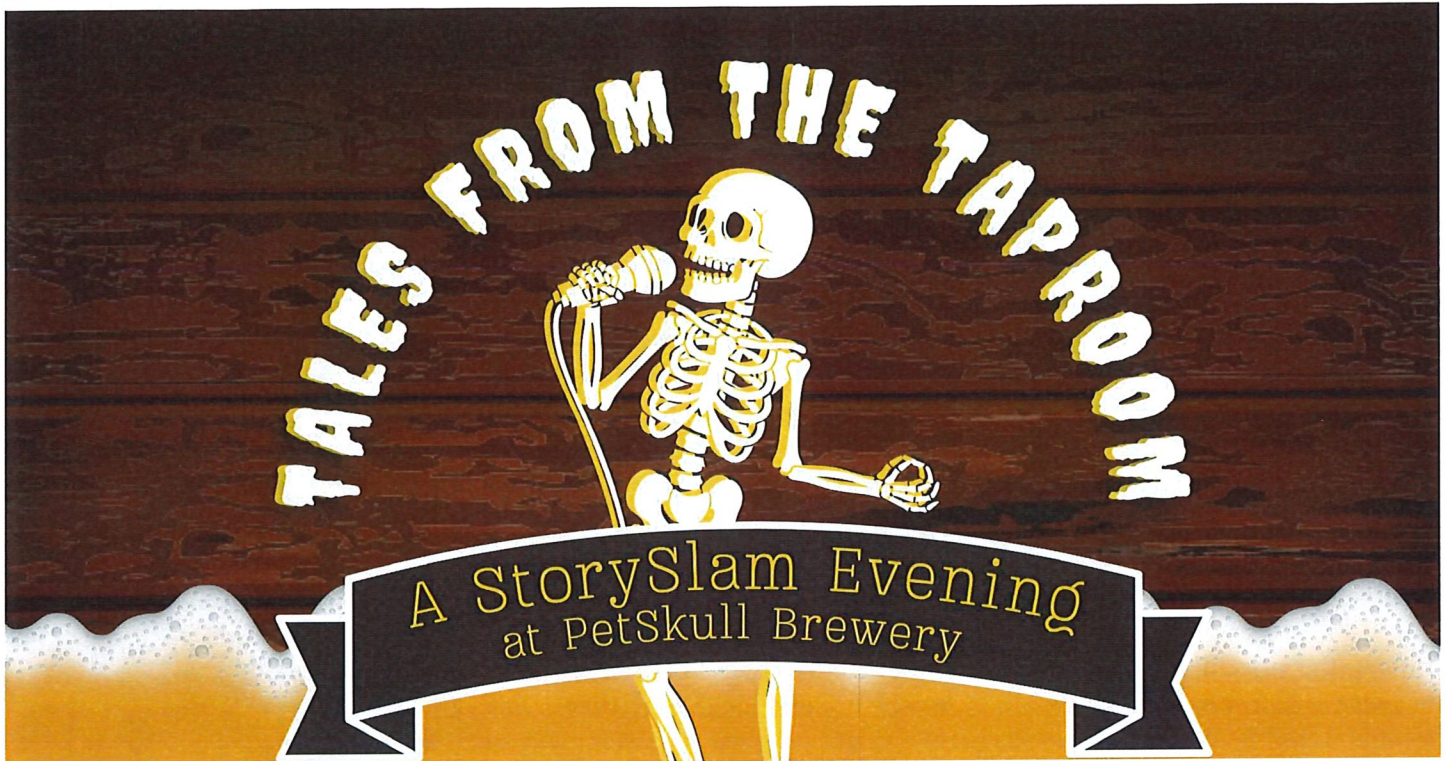
Get ready to celebrate! We'll be announcing the winners on Tuesday, October 28. Don't let this chance to show off your Halloween spirit pass you by! Can't wait to see you there!

The terrifyingly wonderful bottom line? It's going to be a scary-good time at the Library the early evening of Tuesday, October 21!

Terrifying True Tales Takes Center Stage on October 30 at MPL & PetSkull's "Tales From the Taproom 4!"

Oct 21, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by Tim Gadzinski, the Programming Coordinator at the Manitowoc Public Library.

As is the case with any scary story worth its salt, this one starts on a dark and stormy night.

My mom and dad had been married for a relatively short period of time—somewhere between six months to a year—when the following events transpired. It was definitely during the Pre-Tim Era. And it was, indeed, a blustery, rainy-soaked autumn night. I don't know for certain, but my bet is that if they had been able to see it, the moon would've probably been full.

My parents had turned in early and for all intents-and-purposes, everything pointed to it being an uneventful, snooze-filled evening. However, that's when the my mother got caught-up in a dream.

In it, she became aware that she was about to transform into a werewolf. As she described it, the whole thing played out much in the manner of a classic Hammer Studios horror film, with her residing in a manor house in a remote, pastoral, yet gloomy locale and decked-out in a lovely turn-of-the 20th-Century gown. But, something wasn't right in her dream. And she knew that the "something" was her.

Her hand was perched on the parlor's mantle and through the window, she could see that the clouds had parted. As a result, a bright, huge, full moon beamed-down into the house. And as it did, she could see her arm-and-hand combo begin to transform. She was classic-cheesy-horror-movie-stop-motion-action turning into a hairy, wicked beast. She was becoming a *loup-garou*—a werewolf.

She knew that she needed to warn her husband that he needed to flee. That soon she wouldn't be a loving wife, but a ravenous monster unable to contain her desire to feast upon human flesh. He needed to go and to go now! So, in her desperate state, she tried to speak this warning, but instead could only emit a mournful howl. What a terrible turn of events.

Meanwhile back in the real world of South 14th Street in Manitowoc, my mom had apparently assumed a kneeling position atop their sheets with her hands held paw-like to her bosom and was howling away. She awakened, somewhat in a disoriented state, by the thudding sounds of my dad throwing open the door to their second floor apartment and beating a hasty retreat down the stairs, out the front door, and into the night.

Not because he was afraid that my mother was becoming a werewolf, mind you, but because unbeknownst to her, my father was deathly afraid of dogs. He had been awakened by her howls and he never even saw her kneeling on the bed. All he heard was the howls and his flee-mentality kicked into high gear. Because it was obvious to him that somehow a dog had broken into their apartment and that dog was coming to get him!

You may wonder why I'm telling this weird slice of family history. Primarily, it's to illustrate that not every scary story has to be exclusively terrifying—it can be pretty dang funny, as well. Also, I'm passing this insidious tale along to illustrate that practically everyone has some sort of scary story to tell. And that's precisely what we're looking to have people do at the next [Tales From the Taproom 4: A Scary Storyslam for Adults \(21+\) at PetSkull Brewing Company—What Was That?!?](#) taking place from 6-8 PM on Thursday, October 30—All-Hallows Eve Eve!—sponsored by Seehafer News.



Tim Gadzinski

In fact, the story that I just told couldn't be told by me at PetSkull on October 30 because it didn't happen to me—it would be my dad's tale to tell if he was still around to tell it. We're looking for people to tell their true terrifying stories, things that actually happened to them that left them shocked and troubled, perhaps even questioning reality itself! It doesn't even have to be something that ultimately made sense—just something that gave them the creeps!

As this is an Adults-Only event, nothing is off limits—if you're willing to tell it, it's a story worth hearing. Keep in mind that this is an evening for people to get together to share their true stories. It's a true story zone—no props and no notes. Just five minutes and a true, personal favorite spooky story. And once again, this installment of [“Tales from the Taproom”](#) is going to be cohosted by Distressing Steph Peters, Director of Community Engagement at the YMCA.

You don't have to come to “The Taproom” to tell a story—you can come to just listen, enjoy, and, potentially, cower in fear for a bit. However, should you want to step up to the mic to share an unnerving story, sign-up begins at 5:30 PM and we'll fit in as many stories as possible during the allotted time. We'll have a timekeeper who will cut people off at five minutes, so knowing your story well is a necessity.

We can't wait to hear your disturbing story at our Halloween installment of [“Tales from the Taproom!”](#) It's going to be a terrifyingly good time!!!

Chilling Stories & Frankentoys Featured During MPL's "Eerie Tales & Handmade Horrors" Teen Event

Oct 23, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by Sharon Verbeten, the Youth Services Manager at the Manitowoc Public Library.

It's the night before Halloween. Treats aplenty will be coming . . . but not for another 24 hours. What's a Tween/Teen to do? Manitowoc Public Library is setting the stage for a spooky night-before-Halloween with [Eerie Tales and Handmade Horrors](#).

Preteens and Teens (ages 11-17) are welcome to enter our Cave (*OK—meeting room*) of Doom (*OK—darkness*) for chilling ghost stories and a ghastly treat (*gummy body parts, anyone?*).

Stick around to create your own handmade horror—better known as a Frankentoy. Using our box of misfit toys, toy parts, and other random accoutrements, kids will use their creativity (and glue) and spookitivity (and more glue) to craft either cute, creepy, or downright wacky creations to take home. Scare your friends and family in a safe, semi-spooky way!

No registration is required, but costumes are encouraged to help set the tone.

Don't forget—[Eerie Tales and Handmade Horrors](#) on Thursday, October 30—All-Hallows Eve Eve—from 6-7 PM in the Bookansky—I mean, Balkansky Community Room at Manitowoc Public Library. Dare to Scare!

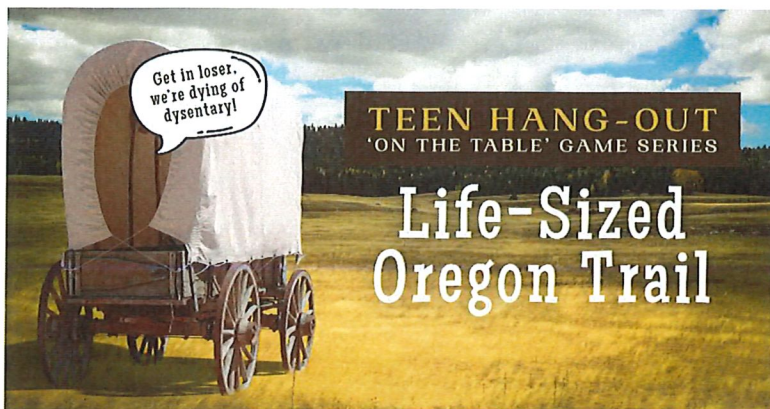


Sharon Verbeten

Teen Hang-Out at MPL Featuring Life-Sized Oregon Trail – This Time It's Not Green Pixels That'll Get You!

Oct 28, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by Kristin Keck, a Teen Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.

You have to understand up front: I've always been a fantasy, sci-fi kind of girl. My favorite books include the *Chronicles of Narnia*, the *Dragonriders of Pern*, *Ender's Game* and Barry Longyear's *Infinity Hold*. I watch *Star Trek* on repeat and I'm a *Doctor Who* fan from way back when there were only five Doctors.

To all my friends, that's who I am. I know the Three Laws of Robotics and the coordinates of Gallifrey. And I keep very quiet about my guilty pleasure—Westerns.

I watch *The Lone Ranger* and *Bonanza* and *Maverick* and—oh, the shame!—*The Rifleman*. *The Wild Wild West* I can rationalize as a historical *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, and Zorro is the OG Batman, but there really was no defending my absolute favorite, *The Big Valley*. It was just cattle drives and railroad barons and snakebites from top to bottom.

So, in high school, was I a secret Oregon Trail fan, sneaking away from classes to die of dysentery somewhere between Fort Laramie and Independence Rock?

Well, no. My high school didn't go in for educational computer games much and the ones we did have focused on typing skills. I didn't get a chance to break a wagon wheel until much later, after college. The original Oregon Trail had disappeared into a dust storm by then, green pixels and all, but the free version was available and I could finally lose half my party to typhoid.

Now that I have the chance to offer a life-sized version of the classic game as a program, you had better believe we're going to hitch up some metaphorical oxen and set out from (a picture of) Westport, Missouri, on an adventure across the plains. Teen explorers can gather their parties and strike out on Thursday, November 13, at 6 PM in the Balkansky Community Room. Get more information at [Teen Hang-out: On the Table – Life-sized Oregon Trail](#) on the Library website. Hats and boots are encouraged, but not required. If parents want to fill out a party, they are welcome. It's not just dangerous to go alone—it's impossible.*

We're not going completely life-sized, of course. The Oregon Trail runs from Westport to the Willamette Valley in Oregon, some 2,170 miles. It took the wagons 4 to 6 months, traveling 12 to 15 miles a day, to get to Oregon. We don't have that kind of time or budget.

It doesn't sound like the trail was a barrel of laughs, either. Of the 350,000 to 500,000 emigrants that traveled west, an estimated 20,000 to 30,000—6 to 10 percent—died, mostly of diseases like cholera and measles and, yes, dysentery. Some historians



Kristin Keck

reckon that, if evenly spaced along the length of the Oregon Trail, there would be a grave every 50 yards from Missouri to Oregon City. The graves are still there, along preserved portions of the wheel ruts and ground beaten flat with many hooves and feet hoping for a new start and a new home.

So, let's set off into the wilderness, rolling the Big Foam Dice™ to discover our fates. It's not exactly *Little House on the Prairie* out there!

*Dangers could include fictional drowning, snakebite, dysentery, typhoid fever, cholera, measles, broken limbs, broken wheels, hypothermia, dehydration, robbery, and starvation. The Library is not responsible for any/all fictional deaths.