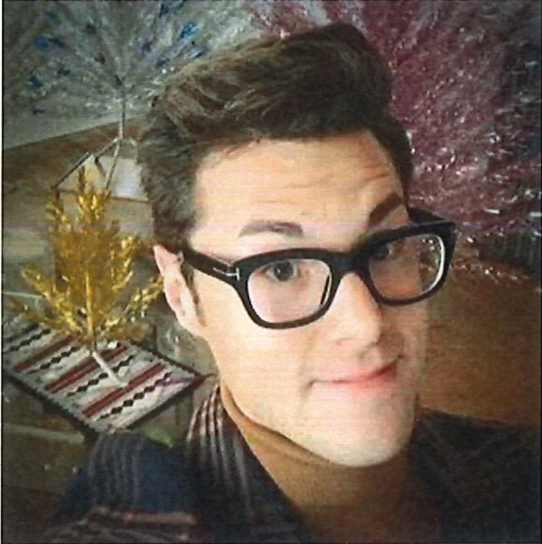


# Indulge in the “Sparkle” of the Enchanted Evergleams at Manitowoc Public Library

Dec 2, 2025 | 5:28 PM

[Local News](#)



*Article submitted by Jordan Kabat, Vice-President, Manitowoc Aluminum Kitschmas Inc.*

‘Tis the season, as they say, and this year marks the tenth such season for Evergleam aluminum Christmas trees being featured in windows throughout Downtown Manitowoc.

Since the event was first devised in 2015, “Evergleams on Eighth” has evolved and grown—more businesses participate than ever before and a whole group of collectors now has the chance to showcase their trees, with nearly 200 on display this year. Much of this success can be directly attributed to a partnership formed with Manitowoc Public Library, which affords opportunities for large-scale displays and greater public engagement.

Over the years, programming on pertinent topics was added to compliment the displays—first [Sparkle!: The History of Aluminum Trees](#), then a virtual version during the 2020 COVID pandemic. Sometime after I joined up with the “Gleam Team,” a restoration clinic called “Paging Dr. Evergleam” came into being. And the [Virtual Sparkle Event](#) turned into a sort of interview show where the hosts—Barb Bundy-Jost and myself—interviewed individuals with first-person accounts of factory life at Aluminum Specialty Company during the years of tree production (1959-1972) . . . sort of an original cast reunion.

If you know me, you know I always try to keep things fresh. Every season, I play a primary role in planning-out what all of the window displays at each of the businesses will look like. And every year, I try to make them look a little bit different. The same can be said for the library displays, and maybe now the programming, too.

Since we’ve done the same sort of format for our virtual “Sparkle” interview show for several years now, we thought we would shake things up a little for our Ten-Year Anniversary. The displays in Downtown Manitowoc highlight trees mostly supplied by six collectors. We do, however, have *many* friends who also have trees and collections of their own that, due primarily to proximity reasons, don’t get to participate in our event.



Thus, we thought, why not show off more trees and hear some collector stories during our virtual show this year? By going in this direction, we would be able to showcase trees in their “natural environment”—the homes of their owners. We’d also get to hear all sorts of interesting personal anecdotes. So, during [Virtual Sparkle!: The History of Aluminum Trees](#) this time around, we’ll have participants from all across the country showing off their favorite pieces and much of what we’ll see will never have been exhibited to the public before. It’ll be a special extension of this season’s “Evergleams on Eighth” displays and if you love the Sparkle, you definitely do not want to miss this!

So, if you can make it to the library for [Sparkle!: The History of Aluminum Trees](#), we'll see you at 6 PM on Thursday, December 4, right by the [Enchanted Evergleams at MPL](#). Otherwise, tune in to Manitowoc Public Library's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary)) or YouTube channel for [Virtual Sparkle!: The History of Aluminum Trees](#) on Thursday, December 18, at 5 PM.

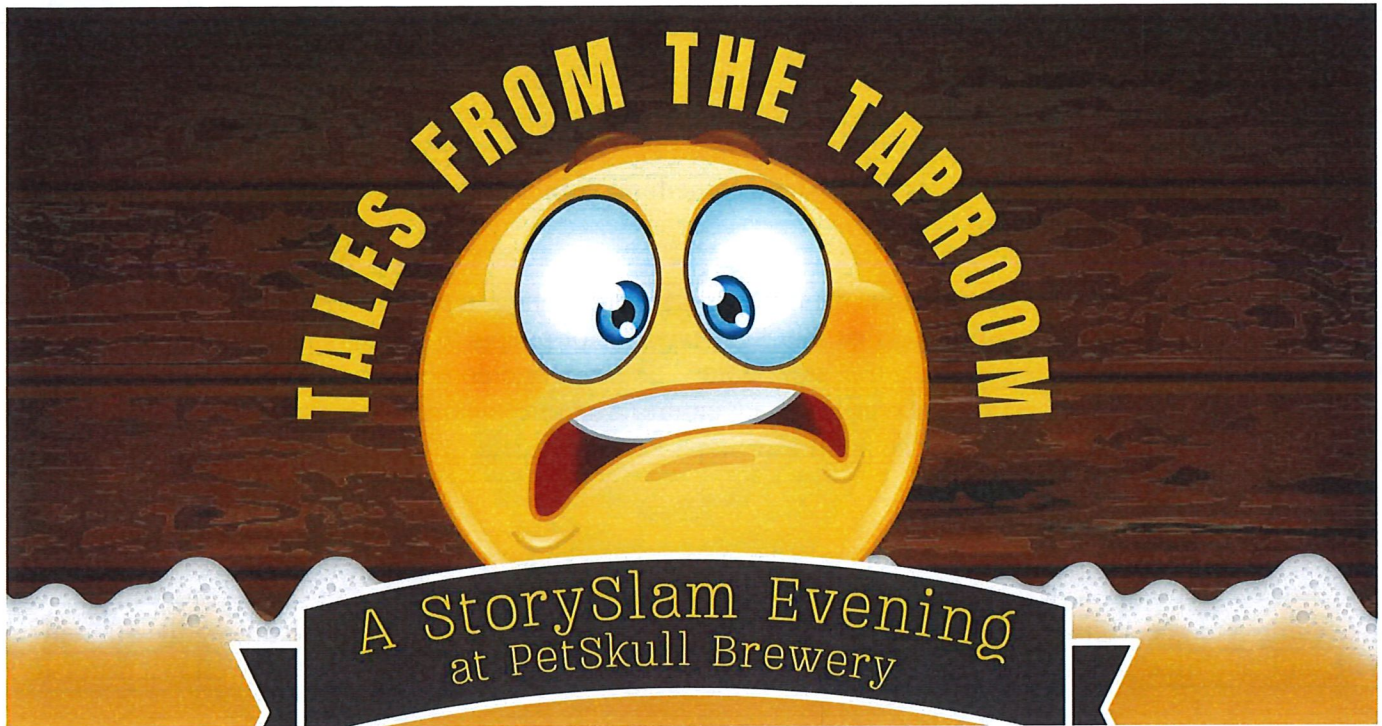
Either way, the Sparkle is sure to dazzle!



# Final “Tales from the Taproom” StorySlam of 2025 To Take Place December 11 at PetSkull Brewing

Dec 6, 2025 | 2:00 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Tim Gadzinski, Marketing Associate/Program Coordinator at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Sometimes, even the best-laid plans don't quite turn out exactly as one expects.

For instance, when I was some thirty-five-or-so years younger, my plan had a singular focus—to become a working actor. Not a hobbyist, but someone who could state that acting was their job. Quite honestly, I gave it my best shot. My wife and I moved out to the New York City area, I dutifully auditioned, did touring theater to get my foot in the door, did showcases Off- and Off-Off-Broadway in the hopes of it leading somewhere more sustainable. All the standard things. And while I got tantalizingly close a couple of times, things didn't quite pan out the way that I hoped that they would.

I'm not complaining though. I met some phenomenal people along the way, including one of two truly epic people with whom I'm fortunate to have encountered. Jack—my boss at a poster auction house where I was employed to make ends meet when I was between acting gig—was one such individual. A holocaust survivor who as an adult in America would go bankrupt several times (the first time after putting everything he had into a “Spaghetti-on-a-Stick” gambit to sell on the boardwalk at Coney Island that failed spectacularly) before becoming one of the world's foremost authorities in vintage and antique advertising lithographs.

I certainly would never had met Jack or performed with Rockettes had I took my best shot in NYC. Not exactly how I had planned things, but those twists and turns certainly provided me with ammunition for some amazing stories. And while this story would go on far too long to tell at the upcoming [Tales from the Taproom 5: A StorySlam for Adults \(21+\) at PetSkull Brewing Company](#), it definitely illustrates a point: for every unexpected turn in a plan, a fantastic story is sure to follow.



When you come right down to it, I'd be willing to bet American dollars that practically everyone has some sort of story to tell about when things didn't turn out as planned—for better or worse. And that's precisely what we're looking for at [Tales from the Taproom 5: A StorySlam for Adults \(21+\) at PetSkull Brewing Company](#). Sponsored by Seehafer News, this is the last Manitowoc Public Library/PetSkull Brewing storyslam collab of 2025 and will be taking place from 6-8 PM on Thursday, December 11.

The theme for this evening is “Whoopsies!” and we're looking for people to tell their true stories, tales that illustrate that even the best laid plans don't always exactly go according to, well, the plan. The only required element of whatever story you tell is that it has to be about a time where something didn't quite work out the way you thought it would!

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 misadventure. And once again, this installment of [“Tales from the Taproom”](#) is going to be cohosted by the nonlinear 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 listen, enjoy, and, bask in the wonder of communal storytelling. However, should you want to step up to the mic to share a story in-line with the evening's theme, sign-up begins at 5:30 PM. We'll fit in as many stories as possible during the allotted time. There will be a timekeeper who will cut people off at five minutes, so knowing your story well is a necessity.

We can't wait to hear all about your whoopsie at the December installment of [“Tales from the Taproom!”](#)



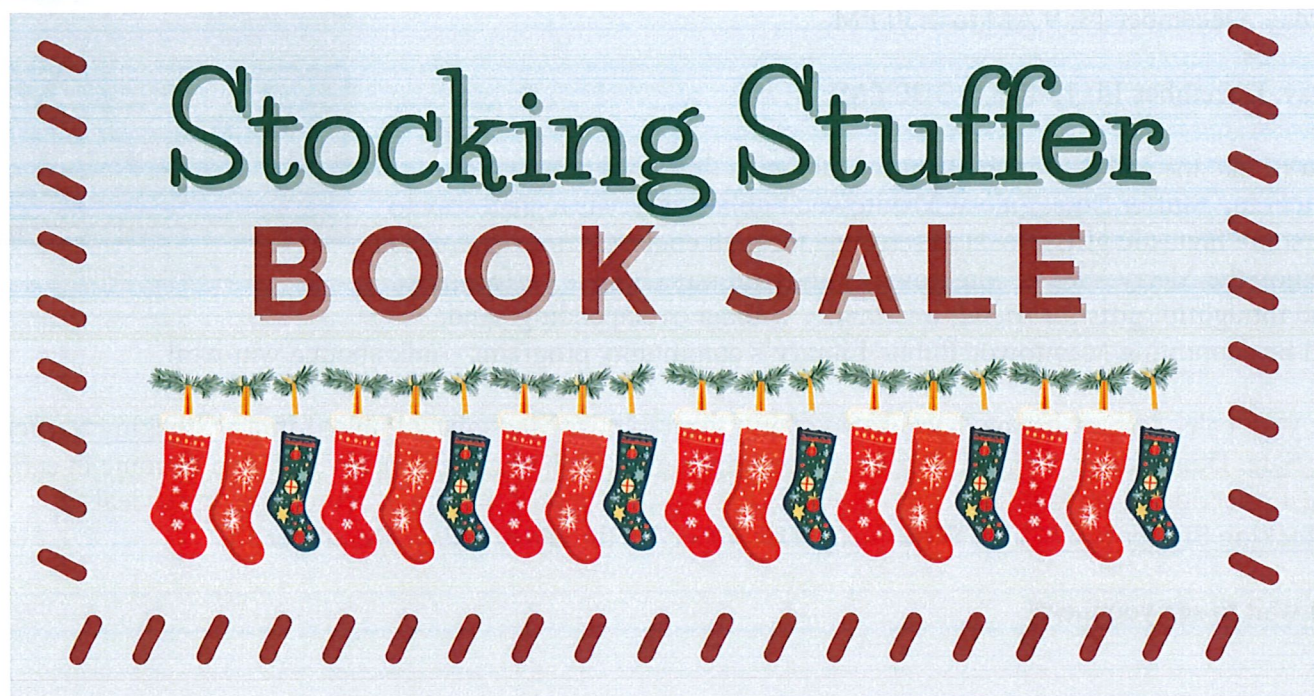
Tim Gadzinski



# Looking for Last-Minute Holiday Gifts? The Friends of Manitowoc Public Library Stocking Stuffer Book Sale is Here for You!

Dec 9, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Lisa Devins-Horohoe, a Public Sales Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Snow covers the ground like frosting, the Evergleams are glistening up and down 8th Street, and the air is filled with festive cheer. That can only mean one thing: it is the holiday season in Manitowoc. I am thrilled to announce that, to help usher in this jolly time of year, Manitowoc Public Library will host the first—of what I hope becomes an annual tradition—the [Friends Stocking Stuffer Book Sale](#)!

The [Stocking Stuffer Book Sale](#) starts Wednesday, December 10, at 9 AM and runs through Sunday, December 14! The Stocking Stuffer Book Sale is the perfect kickoff to the holiday shopping season and with all the New-To-You materials at absolutely amazing prices, you never know what treasures you will find.

Speaking of treasures, the book sale lines up perfectly with the [Enchanted Evergleam Forest at Manitowoc Public Library](#)! Through Sunday, January 4, 2026, during all regular library hours, you can check out the amazing sparkle of these unique trees on display. The jaw-dropping 14-foot custom-made Evergleam tree, is my favorite! Plus, there will be some cool Mirro collectable and memorabilia on display courtesy of Manitowoc County Historical Society to. There is so much to see. Glittering trees, local history, and great holidays deals, all in the cozy confines of Manitowoc Public Library!

The [2025 Stocking Stuffer Book Sale](#) will take place in the Teen Hangout on the First Floor of MPL (situated in the northwest corner of the building, next to the Idea Box makerspace) from Wednesday, December 10, to Sunday, December 14. We have put together a selection of whimsically-themed book bundles, as well as an assortment of gently used books, DVDs, and CDs. Browse items priced from \$1 to \$5 to find perfect holiday gifts! Remember, cash or local check only!

Here is a rundown of all the [Stocking Stuffer Book Sale](#) dates and times:

Wednesday, December 10: 10 AM to 7:30 PM

Thursday, December 11: 9 AM to 7:30 PM

Friday, December 12: 9 AM to 5:30 PM

Saturday, December 13: 9 AM to 2:30 PM

Sunday, December 14: 12 PM to 3:30 PM

If you're like me and still on the hunt for fun items this holiday season, the [Stocking Stuffer Book Sale](#) at Manitowoc Public Library is a great way to score some fantastic gifts! So, stop scrolling through endless items on Amazon and enjoy the Merry Vibe of Manitowoc Public Library. It's the perfect place to find thoughtful gifts for friends and family without overspending. And, you'll be supporting Manitowoc Public Library's community programs—talk about a win-win!

Mark your calendars, everyone, because you don't want to miss Manitowoc Public Library [Stocking Stuffer Book Sale](#). Don't forget to bring your own shopping bag to tote home your bounty and plan to come in early for the best selection of amazing goodies. Celebrate the season, support MPL, and score some great deals at the [Stocking Stuffer Book Sale](#), Wednesday, December 10, through Sunday, December 14.

Can't wait to see you there!



Lisa Devins-Horohoe



# Manitowoc Public Library's "Best Gift Ever" Book Drive Donates Over 500 Books!

Dec 13, 2025 | 2:00 PM

[Local News](#)



## BEST GIFT EVER Book Drive

**November 3 - December 5**

Donate new, unwrapped books to the collection box near the First Floor Service Desk—anything a child or teen would enjoy. These books will be distributed to three local nonprofits to help brighten the season for young readers. *Monetary donations also accepted.*



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

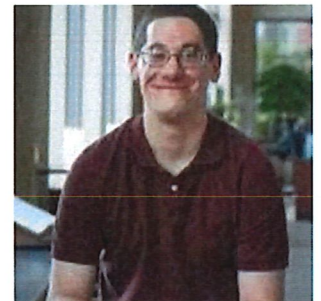
For decades now, Manitowoc Public Library has run our annual "Best Gift Ever" book drive to collect new children's books for kids in need in our community. This program has benefited thousands of Manitowoc area kids over the years. We continued that tradition in 2025, and thanks to the generosity of Manitowoc library patrons, we collected over 500 books!

545 books were donated to Best Gift Ever! It was great to see so many different types of books come in. Chapter books, young adult books, graphic novels, and more!

Over the holiday season, all these fantastic books will find their way into the hands of kids whose families could not otherwise afford them. Any of these books could be the catalyst that leads them to a lifelong love of reading.

Donations went to three local nonprofits: *InCourage*, *Lakeshore Foster Families and Friends*, and the *Salvation Army of Manitowoc County*. Manitowoc Public Library thanks these outstanding organizations for the work they do in the community and for connecting kids with these wonderful books.

Manitowoc Public Library expresses our deepest appreciation to everyone who contributed, donated, and promoted "Best Gift Ever". Your efforts have made the holiday season brighter for our county's youth. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for giving!



Tony Plekan



# Catch “Storytime with Santa” and Flute Cocktail at Manitowoc Public Library this Saturday, December 20!

Dec 16, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by, Manitowoc Public Library Youth Services Librarian Bette Schwede, and Programming Coordinator, Tim Gadzinski.*

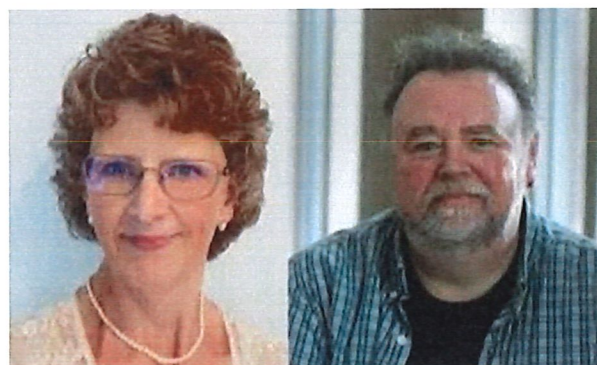
What do jingle bells, stories, and a Jolly Old Elf have in common? They are all coming Manitowoc Public Library for a very special [Storytime with Santa](#) on Saturday, December 20, from 10-11 AM!

We happened to hear on good authority that Santa himself loves a good picture book and a rousing rendition of “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer” accompanied by ukulele. So, we got in touch with his scheduler and luckily The Big Guy could squeeze us in, mainly because he knows there are so many great kids in Manitowoc. He also loves Manitowoc Public Library as much as the kids do.

It has been a while since we have been able to fit into St. Nick’s schedule and this year will be a little different from his visits in the past. While there will be stories and songs for kids and families with the North Pole VIP joining in on the fun, Santa, unfortunately, will not have the time to visit with every child on his lap. However, be sure to bring your camera to get that last-minute pic with Santa.

Rest assured—kind old Santa Claus still wants to hear from each of the kids. To help to make this happen, we will have a special North Pole Mailbox in the Youth Services Department. Kids are invited to write down all of their Holiday Wishes at the Letter Writing Station or bring a letter from home. The letters will be hand-delivered before the Guy in Red heads back to the North Pole. He will not have time to respond to each letter, but he certainly will read all of them!

Saint Nick loves his cookies and what kind of hosts would we be if we didn’t have some? A little hot cocoa is the perfect way to wash them down—and to warm you up, too. If cookies and cocoa aren’t your thing, kids’ crafts will be available while you wait your turn for a photo-op.



Bette Schwede and Tim Gadzinski

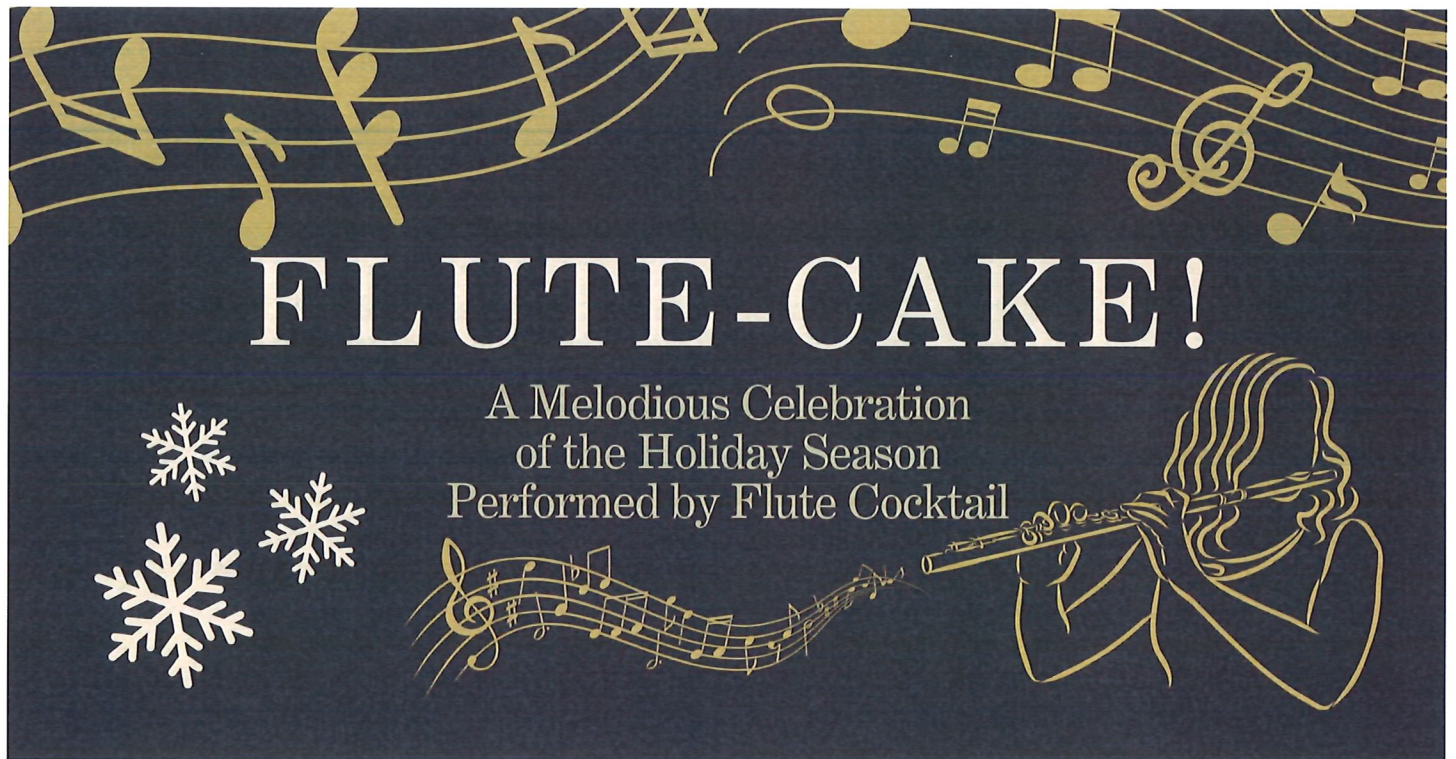
Before the stockings are stuffed and the cookies disappear, join us for a little family-time holiday magic at [Storytime with Santa](#) from 10-11 AM on Saturday, December 20.

But, wait—there’s one more detail that we need to mention before letting you go. Also appearing on Saturday, December 20, from 10:30-11:30 AM—amidst the First Floor sparkle of the “[Enchanted Evergleams at MPL](#)”—Manitowoc’s premier flute choir, Flute Cocktail, will be making an appearance during “[Flute-Cake!: A Melodious Celebration of the Holiday Season](#)”.

The whole family can enjoy some wonderful live music—favorites along the lines of “Rudolph,” “Jingle Bell Rock,” and “Let It Snow”—as they make their way upstairs for that special visit with Santa. Talk about an amazing way to add some extra twinkle to the existing sweet shimmer of this festive Saturday morn!



So, make plans to make your way to MPL on Saturday, December 20, for [Storytime with Santa](#) and “[Flute-Cake!: A Melodious Celebration of the Holiday Season](#)”—two fantastic events taking place in one amazing location!





# Beat the Winter Blues with Family Activity Nights at Manitowoc Public Library

Dec 26, 2025 | 1:15 PM  
[Local News](#), [State News](#)



*The following article was written by Lynn Christiansen, a Youth Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Is your household dealing with a case of the winter blues? Look no further than Manitowoc Public Library's Youth Department for fun and free activities to help chase those blues away!

We'll kick off the year with a family favorite, [Bingo Bash](#), on Tuesday, January 6, at 6 PM. Playing bingo is a great way for children to practice social skills such as listening, following directions, and sportsmanship. It's also a great way to learn numbers and letters. We will provide snacks and prizes. This program is intended for children ages 5-11 and their families.

Studies show that children who read to animals gain confidence and improvement in their overall reading skills. We provide a fun and furry opportunity through our monthly [Therapy Dog program](#). Join us on January 13 to share stories with a four-legged friend. Families may reserve a 15-minute time slot by either stopping in or calling the Youth Department at 920-686-3030 starting at 5 PM on December 30. This program is intended for elementary age children and their families.

We welcome Dr. Jennifer Cappelle for a [Storytime & Stuffie Clinic](#) on Tuesday, January 27, at 6 PM. Dr. Cappelle will read a story, share the tools she uses, and explain what happens during a checkup in a kid-friendly way. Afterwards, participants may give their favorite stuffed animal a gentle exam. This program is intended for preschool and elementary age children and their families. Please be sure to bring a stuffie with you!

Get cozy and read in your very own blanket fort on Tuesday, February 2, at 6:30 PM. [Bring blankets, pillows, and even your favorite stuffed friend](#). Pajamas may be worn, as long as shoes can be worn with them. Hot chocolate will be provided as a sweet treat as well. Preschool and elementary age children and their families are welcome to participate. [Therapy Dogs](#) return on Tuesday, February 10. Registration will open on Tuesday, January 27, at 5 PM. Stop in or call the Youth Department to reserve your spot.

Calling all baby athletes! Join us for our inaugural [Baby Winter Olympic Games](#) on Friday, February 13, at 10 AM. Compete in events such as laundry basket luge, beanbag curling, and slalom obstacle course. Intended for crawlers and early walkers, this program celebrates coordination, curiosity, and cuteness in motion!

Later that afternoon, at 2 PM, we'll be hosting a [Big Kids Valentine Party](#). Participants can enjoy engaging stories, toe-tapping songs, fun games, and a creative craft. Fun, friendship, and treats will be included. This program is intended for children ages 5-10.



Lynn Christiansen



We'll round out the month's activities on February 17 with a creative challenge—[Anything But a Paintbrush!](#) Participants will have the opportunity to create a one-of-a-kind work of art using tools such as cotton swabs, bubble wrap, and other unexpected tools. Absolutely no paintbrushes will be allowed! This program will start at 6:30 PM is intended for children ages 5-11 and their families.

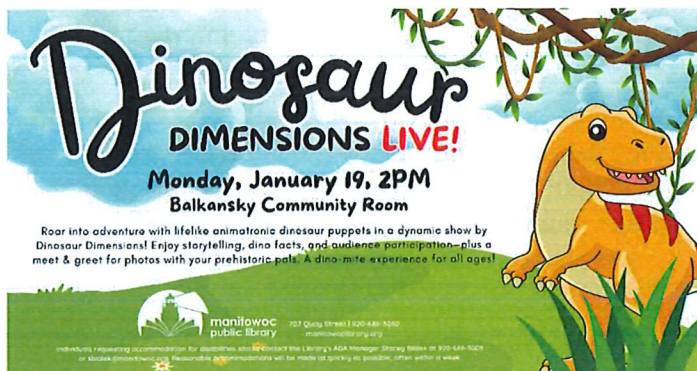
All of these programs will take place in the Balkansky Community Room. Children ages eight and under must be accompanied by a guardian at all times.

Please visit our website to find out more information about these programs, as well as all of the other exciting things happening at Manitowoc Public Library: [https://www.manitowoclibrary.org/events/month!](https://www.manitowoclibrary.org/events/month)

# Dino-Mite Week Roars into Manitowoc Public Library!

Dec 30, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Kirsten Smith, a Youth Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Dinosaurs are set to take center stage at Manitowoc Public Library this winter as Dino-Mite Week stomps into town from **January 12 through 19**. The week-long celebration will transform the Library into a Jurassic adventure, offering families a mix of hands-on activities, creative crafts, and educational fun. The

festivities will culminate in a spectacular finale performance on **Monday, January 19, at 2 PM**, when lifelike animatronic dinosaurs take the spotlight in *Dinosaur Dimensions Live*.

Throughout the week, visitors can enjoy a variety of interactive experiences designed to spark curiosity and imagination. Life-size Tyrannosaurus Rex footprints will march across the library's rotunda windows, setting the stage for adventure as families explore. One favorite activity is the Cretaceous Count, where participants estimate the size of a large herd of mini dinos. The closest guess will roar away with a rex-cellent prize—the book *Flip-o-saurus: Make Your Own Wacky Dinosaur*, by Sara Ball, a playful mix-and-match book that lets kids create their own silly prehistoric creatures.

Other activities include the **Fossil Find Scavenger Hunt**, where children match fossilized skeletons to their prehistoric fleshy counterparts. Every child who completes the hunt will earn a prize, ensuring that all participants walk away with a little Jurassic treasure. Triassic Trivia will test budding paleontologists on their knowledge, while the **Roll-A-Dino Game** invites kids to roll giant dice and invent their own unique dinosaur species. Final creations will be put on display, giving young artists the chance to see their imaginative creatures celebrated as part of Dino-Mite Week, while also earning them a completion prize.

Creativity will shine through with the **Magic Egg Activity**, where children design their own prehistoric egg and discover the surprise of a baby dino waiting to hatch from their masterpiece. Coloring sheets will encourage bold and imaginative designs, letting kids bring dinosaurs to life in their own unique style. Families can pick up Grab & Go Activity Bags filled with four ready-to-make craft projects to continue the fun at home, as well as posing for photos in a Jurassic-themed setting with playful dinosaur masks.

The celebration culminates on **Monday, January 19, at 2 PM**, when *Dinosaur Dimensions Live* tricera-takes over the Library for a dynamic finale performance. Produced by **Strutz Entertainment**, the show features animatronic puppets that walk, blink, and roar, bringing prehistoric creatures to life in a way that is both thrilling and educational. Following the performance, families are invited to meet one of the dinosaurs up-close, take photos, and enjoy a rare chance to interact with a “living” dinosaur.

The timing of the finale is especially convenient. With schools closed for **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, families have the perfect opportunity to attend together without weekday scheduling conflicts. The program is



Kirsten Smith



inclusive and welcoming, ensuring children of all ages can participate, no matter if they dream of becoming paleontologists or simply love to roar like dinosaurs.

Strutz Entertainment, based in Wisconsin, has been entertaining audiences across the United States and Canada for nearly two decades. Owner and performer, **Curt Strutz**, blends education with entertainment, creating shows that spark imagination while keeping crowds engaged. His sons, **Caleb and Christian**, have recently joined the family business, adding fresh energy and ensuring the productions remain connected to the joy of family storytelling.

For Manitowoc-area families, Dino-Mite Week offers more than just fun. It is a chance to connect, explore, and make lasting memories together. With no registration required and all ages welcome, the Library invites the community to mark their calendars, bring their sense of adventure, and prepare for a roaring good time.

Plesio-join us and get ready for a bronto-blast of prehistoric fun!