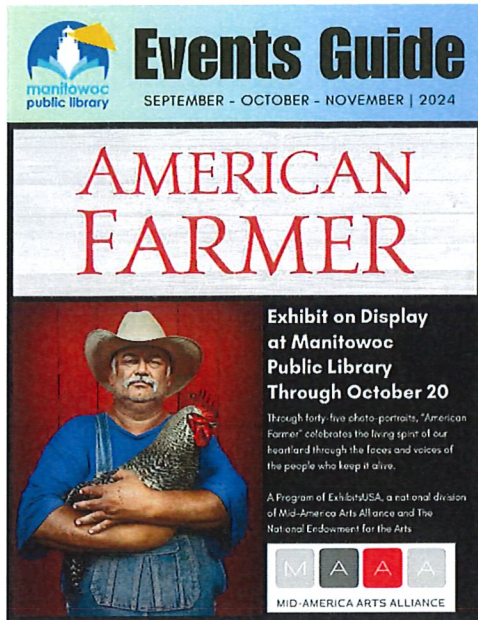


# Check out MPL's New-Look Events Guide. Available Now!

Sep 3, 2024 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Emily Brandt, a Marketing Associate with the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Manitowoc Public Library is pleased to now offer a printed quarterly Events Guide for patrons to take home. This detailed and informative guide will feature three months' worth of upcoming library events that you won't want to miss out on!

Previously, we had offered a month's worth of events on a grid-style, one-sheet calendar handout. These handouts had minimal information, they were not very visually appealing, and didn't really capture the scope of the programming happening at Manitowoc Public Library.

Early this summer, Manitowoc Public Library's Executive Director, Karin Adams, and Public Services Manager, Karen Hansen, met with our Marketing Department, and discussed the possibility of offering a more comprehensive Events Guide. The Marketing Department, consisting of

myself and Tim Gadzinski, jumped at the idea. We had offered a version very similar to this concept many, many years ago, but eventually stopped doing it like that.

We were very excited at the opportunity to once again offer something to our patrons that showcased all that the Library was doing with programming. These great events—that staff work so hard to plan—deserved attention.

The process started in early June. We knew our first guide would feature events happening in September, October, and November. This meant that MPL's awesome staff had to work very hard to finalize all their fall programming earlier than usual, with a strict new deadline. This would allow me to begin designing the guide, followed by staff providing feedback and edits, with everything needing to be finalized and ready for distribution in August.

At first, I was worried designing the Events Guide would be overwhelming and complicated—trying to make all the pieces of information fit, not only so that it made sense, but also so that it looked good. But, oddly enough, it fell together really nicely—and I truly enjoyed putting it together. And my first draft didn't end up being too far different from my final draft!

I can't forget to thank all my co-workers who spent time proofing it for me (multiple times, even), to make sure dates, times, and information were correct. There's one thing I can say for sure when you work on something like this—you start to go blind to all the information after staring at it for so many hours—days, even—on end.

We sent our new-look guide off to be printed by our friends at Fricke Printing mid-August and asked if they could have these printed and delivered back to the Library a bit faster than our normal requests. As always, they were awesome and had our final product ready-to-go in under a week!



Emily Brandt

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Best of all, these expanded Event Guides are FREE for the taking and can be found in the Library Lobby in the Information Corner, as well as in the Youth Services Department.

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We hope you'll stop in, grab one for yourself, discover that MPL offers something for everyone, and add some of MPL's events to your personal calendar!

# The First Step on Your Path to U.S. Citizenship Starts at Manitowoc Public Library

Sep 11, 2024 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)

**PASSPORT**

**PREPARE FOR THE U.S. CITIZENSHIP TEST**

Manitowoc Public Library's One-to-One Literacy is offering free citizenship classes to prepare eligible residents for the U.S. Naturalization Exam.

Every Wednesday, October 2 through December 11, 6-7:30PM  
(Please note: There will be NO class November 27)

Manitowoc Public Library Board Room, 707 Quay Street

Applicants MUST pre-register and:

- Be able to speak, write and understand basic English
- Have a Permanent Resident Card for 5 years OR
- Have been married to a U.S. Citizen for 3 years

To Register:  
Call: 920-686-3026 or Email: pfellows@manitowoc.org

manitowoc  
Public Library  
920-686-3026

*The following article was written by Patti Fellows, a One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Could you pass the naturalization test to become a U.S. citizen? A nationwide study done by the Institute for Citizens & Scholars in 2018 found that just 1 in 3 American citizens could complete a 10-question multiple-choice version of the civics portion of the U.S. Citizenship Test with 60% or better, which is the current criteria for passing. If we were giving letter grades, 3% of the Wisconsin citizens that took the test in this study received an A, 10% a B, 14% a C, 15% a D, and a whopping 58% failed!

Now, add-on paying a \$760 fee to take this test orally (no multiple choice) in your non-native language, given by a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officer, and you get an idea of how daunting the process might be for those seeking American citizenship. So, the Manitowoc Public Library is here to help!

Starting October 2 and running weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30 PM in MPL's Second Floor Board Room through December 11, the free "Prepare for the U.S. Citizenship Test" class will be taught by retired local attorney, Mike Lambert. The course has two main objectives: to prepare applicants for their naturalization test and interview, and to assist with the actual application process, as needed.

During the classes, Mr. Lambert provides materials, strategies, and practice for mastering the correct answers for the 100 possible U.S. history/civics questions that applicants might be asked during their interview, which will take place in Milwaukee. Applicants are asked 10 questions at random from the 100 possible given, so they must be prepared for all 100.



Patti Fellows

Take a look at some of the actual questions. How would you do?

- How many amendments does the Constitution have?
- What is the "rule of law?"
- Name your U.S. Representative.
- If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
- There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
- When was the Constitution written?
- Who was President during World War I?
- Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.
- Name one U.S. Territory.
- Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

If you're curious to see where you'd fall (or fail) on the U.S. Citizenship test, check it out online: <https://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/test>. Try it several times, as it randomly gives 10 of the 100 possible civics questions each time. Unfortunately, we do not offer Citizenship classes for current U.S. citizens.

To be eligible for the Citizenship class, applicants must be able to speak, write, and understand Basic English, and have a Permanent Resident Card (also known as a Green Card) for at least five years, or have been married to a U.S. citizen for at least 3 years. Interested applicants MUST pre-register by calling (920) 686-3026 or emailing Patti Fellows at [pfellows@manitowoc.org](mailto:pfellows@manitowoc.org). Class size is limited to 10 students, so register early to guarantee a spot.

# Local Farmers Take Center Stage at Manitowoc Public Library

Sep 17, 2024 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



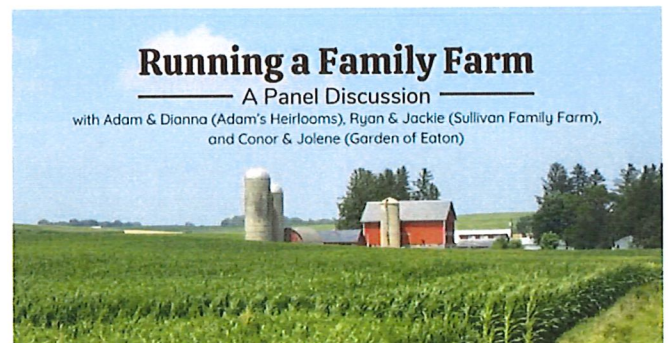
*The following article was written by Tim Gadzinski, a Marketing Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

It's been a genuine honor hosting the [“American Farmer”](#) exhibition at Manitowoc Public Library over the course of the summer. The number of people that have taken in these spectacular photo-portraits has been incredible. As has the number of people that have shared the locations of their farming families from around the state—and the world—on an interactive map that accompanies the exhibit. At its most basic focus, it's literally eye-opening to see the manner in which photographer

Paul Mobley dispenses with the typical “farmer” stereotype, displaying that this backbone-of-the-country occupation is undertaken by all genders, races, and ages.

The exhibit is also of a powerful reminder that while we are thankful for the bounty that appears daily on our kitchen tables, we don't truly spend much—if any—time reflecting on the people that make it possible for it to be there. However, seeing that this is a national touring exhibition, we thought it would be a good idea to create some programming that generated the same kind of awareness for those people that undertake this pursuit a bit closer to home. To that end, here are a pair of events coming up at MPL that shine a local spotlight on local individuals.

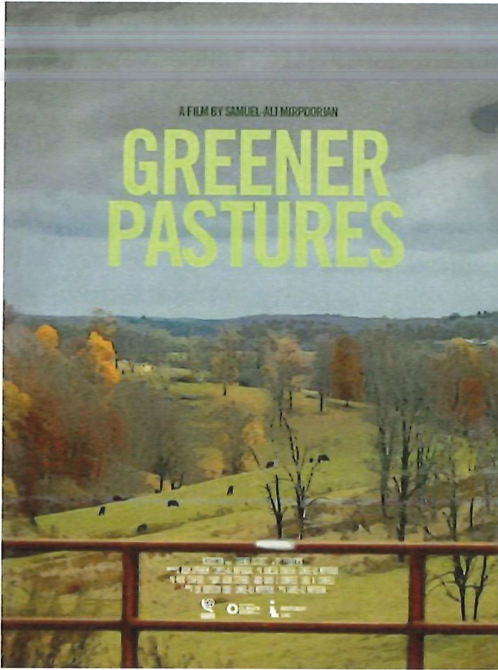
First, on Monday, September 23, from 6-7:30 PM, we hope that you'll be able to attend [“Running a Family Farm: A Panel Discussion”](#) in the Balkansky Community Room. Farming is a profession not only plants, grows, tends, and harvests crops, but also battles the elements and contends with ever-fluctuating economic factors. It's time we heard from the local farmers that tackle this endeavor.



Adam & Dianna Diehl (Adam's Heirlooms), Ryan & Jackie Sullivan (Sullivan Family Farm), and Conor Benham & Jolene Meissner (Garden of Eaton) will be on-hand to discuss the work that they're undertaking—the highs and the lows—as well as answering questions from those in attendance. It's definitely a topic worthy of a community discussion.

Then, later that same week, also in the Balkansky, we'll be presenting a screening of a multi-award-winning documentary that's fresh off the festival circuit called [“Greener Pastures”](#). Following four Midwest family farms over several years, “Greener Pastures” tells a story of perseverance and endurance within the farming industry in the heartland. It provides an intimate window into the lives of these multigenerational Midwestern farming families as they navigate the stressors that have contributed to farming having one of the highest rates of suicide of any U.S. occupation. Throughout, we see how farmers carry on in the face of these challenges and, ultimately, find hope in their successes. It is an underdog story of determination that tackles nothing less than the future of farming in America.

Manitowoc Public Library is thrilled to be screening this unrated 2023 documentary film at 5:30 PM on Thursday, September 26. Amazingly, one of the four farmers featured in “Greener Pastures”—Jeff



Ditzenberger—will be in attendance for a special Q&A period following the film. Jeff is a corn and soybean farmer in Monroe, Wisconsin. Nearly 27 years ago, he attempted to end his life by setting a building he was in on fire. Today, he runs a farmer mental health nonprofit called T.U.G.S. (Talking Understanding, Growing, Supporting), traveling throughout the Midwest and talking to farmers about mental health, suicide prevention, and the stigma associated with depression. It's going to be an incredible, insightful evening!

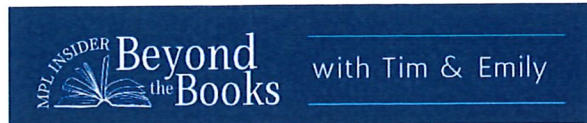
Because of where we're situated and how integrated the profession of farmer has become in our daily lives, family farming is something that we've grown so used to seeing that it has nearly become a blind spot. These family farms are something that more-often-than-not we speed past as we rush from one thing to the next, perhaps briefly noting the serene charm of their pastoral beauty, but little more than that. Which is a shame. Because we really shouldn't take them for granted. They have more than earned the expectation to be given the attention and respect that they deserve.

We hope that you agree and that we'll see you at MPL for both "Running a Family Farm" and "Greener Pastures".

# Tune In for a Scarifyingly Good Episode of “MPL Insider” on Thursday, October 17

Sep 24, 2024 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



This Month's Guests: Sharon Verbeten (Youth Services Manager) & Lisa Devins-Horohoe (Volunteer Coordinator)



*The following article was written by Tim Gadzinski, a Marketing Associate with the Manitowoc Public Library.*

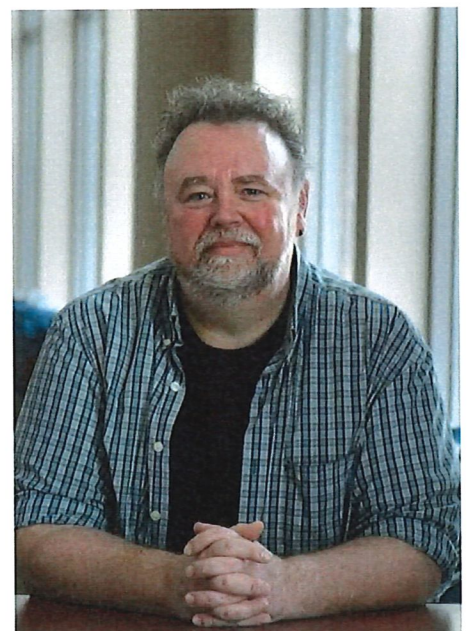
Sure. Right now the weather is temperate and lovely, but do you know what's really scary? The fact that in just around a month from now it may be snowing!! Don't scoff! More than once, we took our daughter Trick or Treating when she was younger with flakes flying and the wind gusting through the fake spider webs and clever novelty front yard grave markers. And this wasn't something that I heard about that happened to my friend's cousin's pet groomer. It happened. I was there.

Perhaps that was a bit dramatic, but, honestly, this is the sort of informative goofball approach that you'll encounter when you tune into "MPL Insider: Beyond the Books with Tim and Emily." It's my Marketing partner-in-crime's and my approach to pulling the curtain back to give our community a behind-the-scenes look at the Library's staff, services, patrons, and events. It's not that much different than if you randomly stopped by our office on any given workday. The conversations on "Insider" may be slightly less raucous, but the random, nonlinear, yet productive nature of it is definitely similar and just as, ultimately, informative and instructive.

The reason that I'm bringing this up is that in a few weeks—on Thursday, October 17, at 12 Noon—we have an amazing episode of the show on-tap that we hope you'll be interested in catching during your lunch break. Of course, you can nosh on anything you like while you watch, but grazing upon a bunch of candy that you may not want to have again for a while if you have too much of it would be our suggestion. Brach's Circus Peanuts pops to mind. Washed down with a refreshing, ice-cold Mello Yello or two. That would be a perfect combo to enjoy while watching our October Spooktacular!

While I can neither confirm nor deny that there may or may not be costume changes that day, I can relay that we have an excellent slate of guests scheduled to appear. In the online MPL Studios, we'll be welcoming Youth Services Manager, Sharon Verbeten, and Public Service Associate, Lisa Devins-Horohoe. They'll be there to chat with us about two of the Library's most popular seasonal offerings: [Trunk or Treat](#) and the [Spooktacular Costume Contest](#). Both of these family-friendly events attract people in droves and we're super-pleased that Lisa and Sharon will be there to provide our community with more details on both programs.

Also joining us that Thursday will be far-and-away the biggest niche celebrity we've ever had on "Insider"—Chad Lewis, a paranormal explorer who will be presenting "[Wisconsin's Most Haunted Locations](#)" on Thursday, October 24, at 6 PM in the Balkansky Community Room. For over two decades, Chad has traveled the backroads of the world in search of the strange and unusual. He's been featured on the Discovery Channel's *A Haunting*, *William Shatner's Weird or What* and *The UnXplained*, and ABC's *Scariest Places on Earth*, along with being a



Tim Gadzinski

frequent contributor on *Ripley's Believe it or Not Radio*. With a Master's Degree in Psychology, Chad has authored over twenty books on the strange and unusual. The more bizarre the legend, the more likely it is that you will find Chad there. He'll be joining us to give folks a taste of what they can expect in the Balkansky on October 20 and we're psyched out of our minds to welcome him!

If you can join us online for October's episode, we hope that you'll share your questions and comments with us and our guests. Just type them into the "Comments" box on the platforms upon which we livestream (either on our Facebook page—[www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary)—or MPL's YouTube channel) and we'll share them live during the program! It's a group effort and if I've learned anything from the "Wonder Pets" over the years, it's that teamwork makes the dream work!

So, I won't say goodbye at this point. Merely, "Until Next Time!" Which, I would imagine, will be either on YouTube or Facebook at 12 PM on Thursday, October 17, during a fantastic October installment of "MPL Insider: Beyond the Books with Tim & Emily." Au revoir!



# Take a Deep Dive into Peony Farming on October 9 at Manitowoc Public Library

Sep 30, 2024 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Jordan Kabat, the Operations Manager at Solaris Farms in Reedsville.*

Certainly, most people associate cows and corn with farming in Wisconsin. And, rightly so. Many, however, may not realize that there are a wide array of other types of farms with rather unique crops tucked-in beside the cornfields and grazing cattle.

Solaris Farms—located just north of Reedsville—was originally opened by Nate and Kim Bremer as a daylily nursery. Some in our area may remember traveling to the farm and purchasing unique hybrid daylily clumps, freshly dug from the fields. With shifting interests, offerings gradually incorporated other perennials, and over time, peonies became the primary crop.

Now sold exclusively via mail order, peonies are harvested en masse in late August through September and shipped bare-root across the United States, Canada and Europe. Even with several thousand cultivars grown and roughly ten acres planted, it is still a small operation by comparison, but certainly distinct.

I work as the operations manager of Solaris, and as an adjacent program to the “American Farmer” Exhibition—which is being featured at Manitowoc Public Library through Sunday, October 20—I’ll be offering a presentation in which I share what this type of farming is like, as well as some more in-depth aspects of peony culture. We’re calling it “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Peonies, But Were Afraid to Ask” and we’ll convene on Wednesday, October 9, in the Balkansky Community Room from 6-7:30 PM to explore the topic. And remember: no peony questions are off-limits!

In addition, to my work at Solaris, I also serve the American Peony Society and more broadly the International Society of Horticultural Sciences as the Cultivar Registration Authority for the genus (*Paeonia*)—in more succinct terms, this means I oversee nomenclature (names) for peonies across the globe. To say the least, I have my finger on the pulse as far as what is at the fore of peony breeding today.

Peonies are an exceptionally well-suited perennial for our climate here in Wisconsin that display an incredible amount of diversity in form and habit. Even if you aren't hoping to operate a peony farm yourself one day, you won't want to miss out on "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Peonies, But Were Afraid to Ask" if you are interested in adding some incredible beauty to your own home garden.



Jordan Kabat