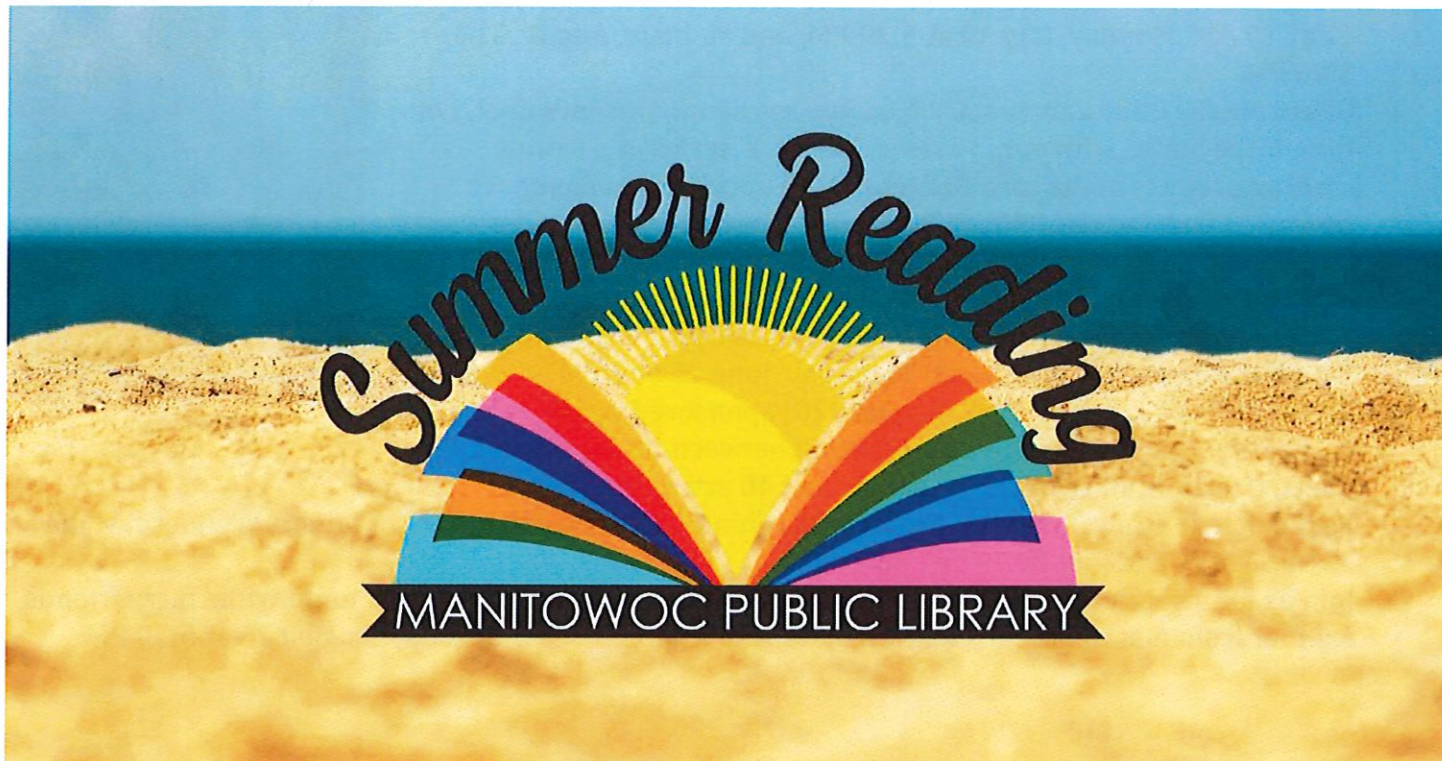


MPL Highlights Summer Reading Program

Jun 2, 2026 | 2:30 PM

Local News



The following article was written by Manitowoc Public Library Youth Services Manager, Sharon Verbeten, Public Services Librarian, Tony Plekan, and Teen Associate, Kristin Keck.

"It wouldn't be summer without a cool beverage and a good long book."

"The best way to pass a long summer day is by walking or riding a bike . . . while listening to an audiobook."

"Who needs libraries anymore . . . except just about everyone!"

Who said these famous quotes?

OK, we made them up, but just to make a point. Libraries and summertime go hand in hand—and thankfully, Manitowoc Public Library (MPL) has tons of FREE events and programs to keep all ages busy. That's right—we're much more than just books (like free Wi-Fi, a well-equipped Idea Box makerspace, and a newly renovated business center just to name a few examples).

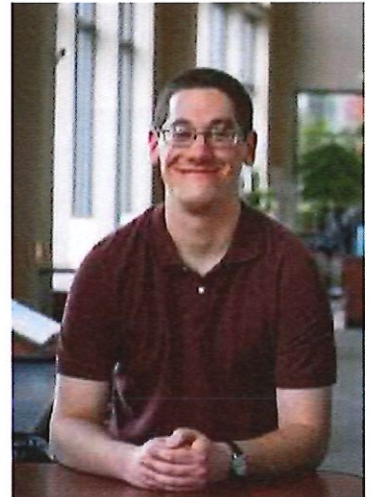
This year, MPL will once again hold its evergreen Summer Reading Program; this year's event runs June 15-August 8. Every six days—by reading, listening to an audiobook, or reading to others—participants can earn prizes ranging from free books and food coupons (ice cream, anyone?) to gift cards and experience passes (the Aquatic Center! Bay Beach!! And more!!!)

It's guaranteed—even if you don't like to read (Say Whaaaaat?), there are plenty of free events at MPL to fill your summer on the lakefront. P.S. We've got a great view of both the river and the lake!

Visit www.manitowoclibrary.org to view our entire calendar. Here are some highlights.

Adults

- Exercise and history? Count me in! Walk with us and discover the legacy of 10 historic Eighth Street buildings with the [ManitoWalk: Historic Downtown Walking Tour](#). Tours will be held Wednesday, June 17 at 10 AM, Monday, July 13 at 5:30 PM, and Monday, August 3 at 5:30 PM.
- Celebrate the 250th anniversary (can you say semiquincentennial?) of the United States with our “[Made in America](#)” series of patriotic crafting projects in the Idea Box. For more upcoming makerspace programs visit [Idea Box Makerspace](#)
- [State Heart Keychains with Glowforge](#): Monday, June 22 at 5:30 PM and Thursday, July 2 at 1 PM
- [Yankee Doodling with 3Doodler Pens](#): Tuesday, June 23 at 1 PM
- [Patriotic Rosettes on the Cricut](#): Thursday, June 25 at 2 PM
- An [Art/Poetry Exhibit](#) (July 13-August 20) sponsored by the Lakeshore Artists Guild is a collaboration between 20 artists and 20 poets, featuring an amazing 40 poems and 40 artworks
- Participate in Brew 'N Bee VI: From Bee to Shining Bee, a spelling bee for adults, Wednesday, July 22 at 6 PM at PetSkull Brewing Company
- Join us for a gentle yoga class designed to relieve tension in the body and mind while furry friends wander from mat to mat. It's [Cats on Mats with Kate Casey](#), Wednesday, August 26 at 5:30 PM



Tony Plekan

Youth

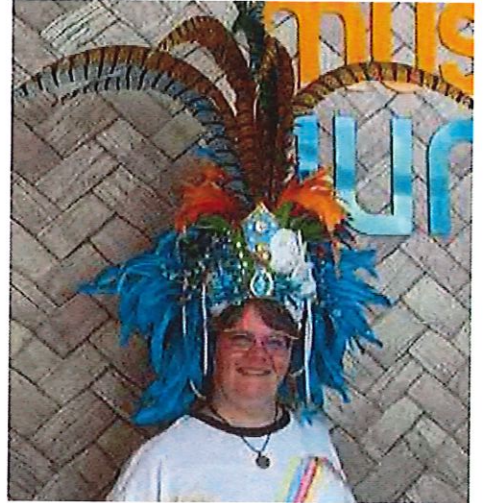
- How do you spell summer? B-I-N-G-O! All-ages fun happens Tuesday, June 16 with our [Summer Bingo Bash](#) with three sessions—10 AM, 2 PM, and 6 PM
- Another way little kids might spell summer is B-U-B-B-L-E-S! It will be a summer of shimmery bubbles, with events for babies (once a month on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM) and our [Big Bubble Bash](#) Wednesday, June 17 from 2-4 PM. Dress for a bubble and foam party outdoors on the lawn; bring a towel and the summer vibes
- Our annual major league favorites return—[Paint the Library Red, White & Blue!](#) (Wednesday, July 1 at 2 PM) and [Touch the Trucks](#) (Wednesday, July 15, 10 AM)
- Decorate your wagons, strollers and wheelchairs for the [America 250! Patriotic Parade](#) around the block to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday, Tuesday, June 30 at 5:30 PM
- Want to meet a raptor? [Let's Get Ready to . . . Raptor](#) when Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary brings some birds of prey to MPL on Wednesday, July 22 at 2 PM
- Travel back in time with the mammoth hunters, recreating what life was like 15,000 years ago during [We're Going on a Mammoth Hunt!](#) On Wednesday, July 29 at 2 PM



Sharon Verbeten

Teens

- Join the [Zine Scene Summer](#) and get your own byline! Take a break from devices and get creative, as we create a printed zine publishing your short stories, poetry, flash fiction, and more. For Fifth Grade and up. Wednesdays at 1 PM, starting Wednesday, June 24
- Head into the great outdoors (AKA the Library Lawn) and learn survival skills with expert outdoorsman Joshua Stuck, AKA the [Woodsy Dude](#), on Thursday, June 18, at 5 PM
- Ever wanted your very own reptile? Learn what it takes to successfully house your scaly friend from the experts at J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue during [Snakes in the House](#) on Friday, June 26, at 1 PM
- Let the colors flow! Join instructor Michelle Bonde for “Color Flow at the Rahr-West,” a special acrylic pour technique using chains to create incredible abstract patterns, with two sessions taking place on Friday, July 17, at [1 PM](#) and [2:30 PM](#)
- Summer’s ending, but not before we eat ice cream (all roads lead back to ice cream!) Give summer a proper goodbye with gobs of whipped cream, chocolate sauce, and sprinkles at [Sundae Funday](#) on Friday, August 7, at 1 PM

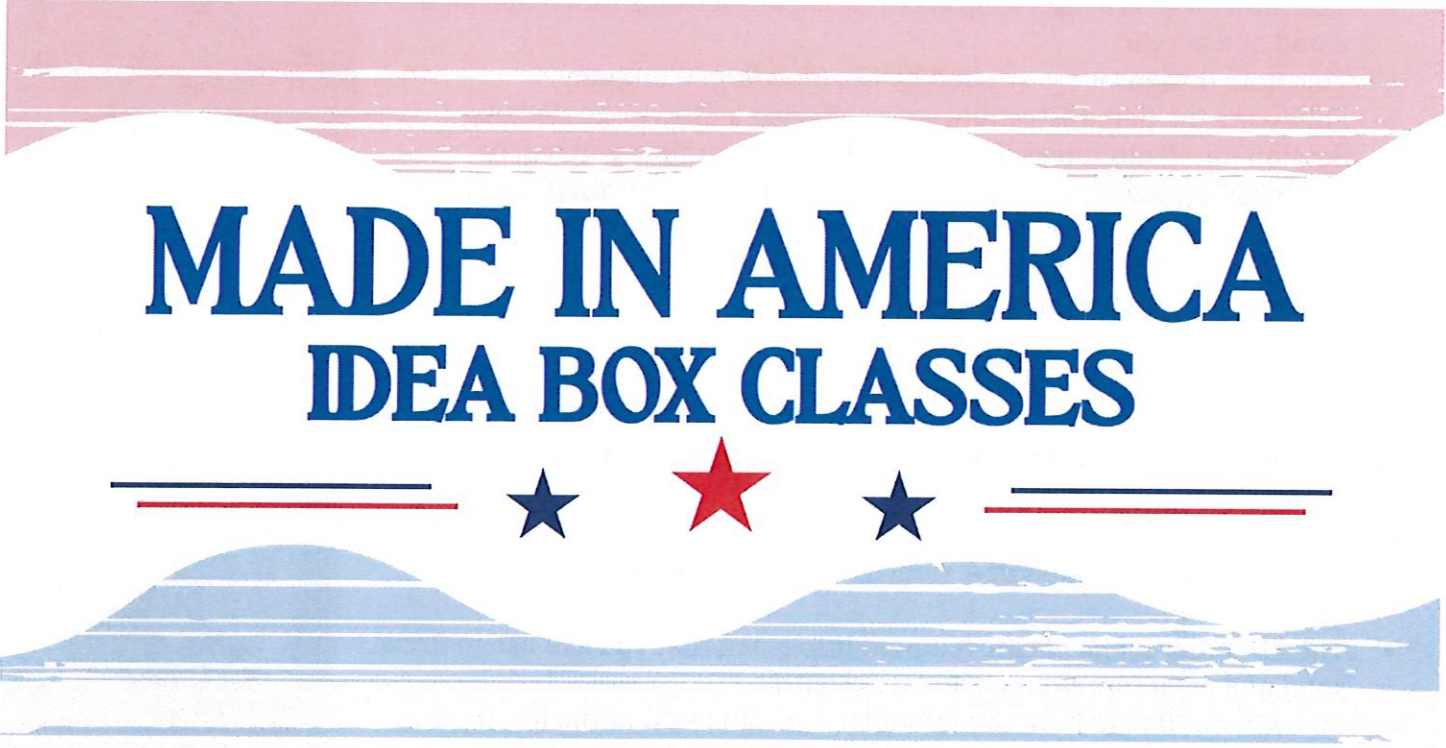


Kristen Keck

Please check MPL's [Events Calendar](#) for registration information and more detailed program information.

"Made in America"-USA Craft Projects at Manitowoc Public Library's Makerspace

Jun 8, 2026 | 2:30 PM
Local News, Ryan Brahm



MADE IN AMERICA IDEA BOX CLASSES

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

2026 marks the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. To celebrate this milestone, Manitowoc Public Library is offering a series of USA-themed craft programs in the Idea Box—the Library's makerspace. Join us for "[Made in America!](#)"

The Idea Box is a special place in the library. It holds a variety of amazing technology that offers unique crafting opportunities. Use devices like our Glowforge, Cricut, and 3Doodler Pens to create one-of-a-kind masterpieces.

Manitowoc Public Library routinely offers "**Badging Sessions**" where you can be trained on specific Idea Box equipment, allowing you to use that device for your own projects!

"Made in America" events will introduce you to some of what the makerspace has to offer, while giving you the chance to make some great patriotic projects just in time for July 4th.

Registration is required for each program and space is limited. No prior makerspace experience necessary.

Made in America: State Heart Keychains with Glowforge

- *Monday, June 22, at 5:30 PM & Thursday, July 2, at 1 PM*
- Make a Heart-Shaped Wood Keychain featuring the State of your choice! Pick the state you were born in, loved to visit, or dream of going to one day and we'll create a keychain of that state using the Glowforge
- The Glowforge is a laser engraver that etches designs into material like wood and acrylic
- The state designs were created by the *Glowforge Company*
- Following the demonstration, we're offering a Glowforge Badging Session for all attendees. By completing this training, you will be "Badged," meaning you can use the Glowforge on your own!
- Registration opens on Monday, June 15, at 9 AM
- You must be at least 18 years old to participate
- Please only register for one session!



Made in America: Yankee Doodling with 3Doodler Pens

- *Tuesday, June 23, at 1 PM*
- Use any of the provided USA stencils to create a piece of art with the 3Doodler Pen
- The 3Doodler melts plastic filament into a pen that you can use to draw solid and even three-dimensional designs!
- You will be "Badged" on the 3Doodler and can use it at the library for future projects!
- Registration opens on Monday, June 15, at 9 AM
- You must be 14 years old or older to participate. Individuals who are 14-17 years old must have a parent or guardian present to complete a waiver to use the equipment



Tony Plekan

Made in America: Patriotic Rosettes on the Cricut

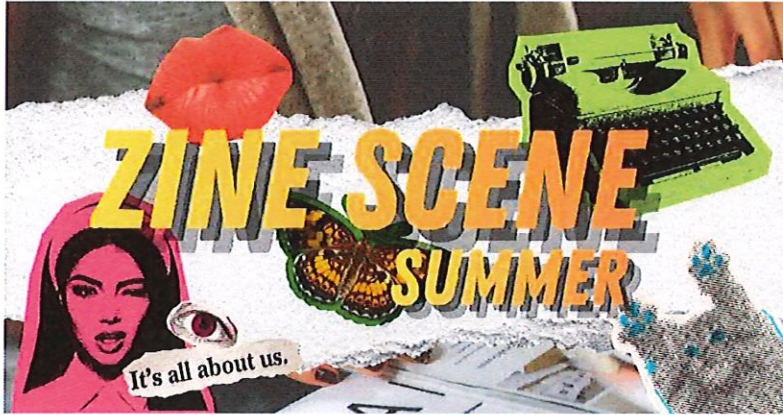
- *Thursday, June 25, at 2 PM*
- Join us in the Idea Box to create patriotic rosettes on the Cricut!
- A Cricut is a computerized cutting machine that allows users to make custom designs out of material like paper, cardstock, and vinyl
- Registration opens on Thursday, June 11, at 9 AM
- You must be at least 18 years old to participate

Let's put our old-fashioned American ingenuity to work as we create neat keepsakes to recognize this historic anniversary. "I Want You!" to come to "Made in America" at Manitowoc Public Library. For more details on "Made in America" and upcoming Idea Box Badging Sessions, visit [Idea Box](#) on our website.

Zine Scene Summer Set to Roll Out for Teens at Manitowoc Public Library

Jun 16, 2026 | 2:45 PM

[Local News](#)



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

Zine n. – informal: a small magazine that is written by people who are not professional writers and that usually has stories about a particular subject. Shortened form of *magazine* or *fanzine*.

-Merriam-Webster.com

I am about to horrify some of my readers, and a lot of the teens if this gets around, but I, Kristin Keck, Teen Services Associate at Manitowoc Public Library, remember a time before the Internet. It was a dark time, a time when communication crept along through telephone wires and envelopes and electric typewriters. Those were cool. Some even had correction tape built right in. But I digress.

Even during this benighted time, there was still hope. Shining in the darkness, giving light to the scattered people who wanted to talk about science fiction or horror films or—Heaven help us—punk music, there were the zines.

Fandom has been around a lot longer than people think and so have the zines. Societies of Janeites were exchanging letters about the works of Jane Austen in the 1870s. The first parodies and pastiches (fanfiction with slightly classier Victorian names) of Sherlock Holmes appeared within ten years of “A Study in Scarlet.”

Zines sailed into the 20th Century on the wings of speculative fiction writers, particularly women who wrote science fiction. People who didn’t see themselves in the mainstream publishing world took to the non-commercial, DIY landscape of zines with gusto, representing themselves in stories, art, and essays. Universes expanded, ideas were shared.

I loved the zines—poor quality binding, weird inky smells, and all. They could usually be had for less than ten dollars—which included shipping—or you could get a contributor’s copy for a poem or story. Zines didn’t turn a profit, but that wasn’t the point. In my small Midwest town, it was connection to a wider world of people who knew where their towel was and always had a jellybaby to offer. It was a chance to stand out, to be weird, and to be part of a group all at once.

I want to bring some of that energy to the library this summer with a program for Teens—[Zine Scene Summer](#). It starts on Wednesday, June 24, at 1 PM in the



Kristin Keck

Franklin Street Room. We'll meet once a week and talk about some aspect of writing—how word choice sets a scene, how to build tension, what makes a good character—and create stories and essays and poems, fanfiction, flash fiction, all kinds of writing. By August, we should have enough content to put together our own zine, filled with real voices. The program is open to Fifth Graders up to going-to-be seniors, with no registration required. All supplies will be provided. If you have a favorite pen, bring that.

Maybe you're somebody with some stories tucked away in a drawer. Maybe you're somebody who's never even tried to put a word on paper before. Doesn't matter which—you are welcome at this creative table. Let's get our words out there!

They Want You!! Manitowoc Public Library and PetSkull Brewing Present “Brew ‘N Bee VI: From Bee to Shining Bee!”

Jun 20, 2026 | 3:00 PM

Local News



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

Comparing the citizenry of the United States to a “Melting Pot” is a rather peculiar analogy, in my opinion.

Don’t get me wrong—I understand why the metaphor is in place. Since we Americans are a disparate lot that blend together to create a new, unique whole. However, it sort of

renders the lot of us into an amorphous blob, which runs rather contrary to the popular opinion of a population that prides itself on proud individualism.

Myself, I’m rather partial to the “Salad” comparison. With this conglomeration, we’re still all tossed together to create something unique, yet this time, we retain our individuality. We’re all—vegetably-speaking—a bowlful of tomatoes and carrots and cucumbers and shredded cheese and croutons and sunflower seeds et al. that create a greater whole than our separate identities. Plus, we’re united together with a special sauce. And who doesn’t love special sauce?

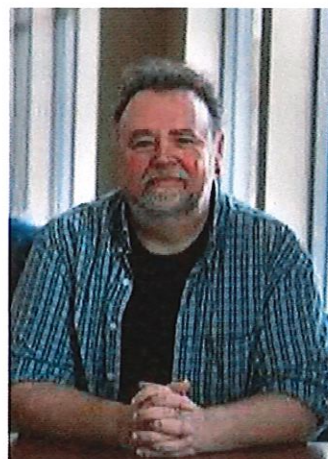
You’re probably wondering at this point why the Marketing Guy from the Library is waxing poetic (or at least attempting to) about salad. Well, I’ll tell you. Because this year’s “[Brew ‘N Bee—A Spelling Bee for Adults](#)” is on the horizon. And you can’t really have a spelling bee in America without calling American English into play.

So, while we think of our version of English as being its own unique thing—which it unquestionably is or it wouldn’t be so difficult to master—it’s really a specialized unification that has been cobbled together over time by incorporating words from an array of other far-flung languages—Spanish, French, Hindi, Portuguese, German, Italian, Sanskrit, Latin, Greek, and on and on!

As such, especially seeing as it’s the 250th Anniversary of the country which we call home, it seems only apt that we celebrate and have some fun with this American Amalgamation that we call our Mother Tongue. You’ll be surprised at how many words we use on The Regular that originated in far-flung places. And you may learn a new word or two along the way, as well.

It’s with a fairly large dollop of pride for me to announce the swarming of “[Brew ‘N Bee VI: From Bee to Shining Bee!](#)” How remarkable is it that MPL and PetSkull Brewing have joined forces a total of six times to bring forth a competition the likes of which the Lakeshore had never seen before? Because on Wednesday, July 22, “[From Bee to Shining Bee!](#)” takes center stage at the Outdoor Beer Garden at PetSkull at 6 PM. And we’d advise everyone to hold on to their Schnitzkies because this one is going to be epic!

PetSkull is the ideal spot to hold a competitively-friendly adult spelling bee as the focus at this excellent microbrewery is twofold: 1) They produce a superior



product, and 2) They have created an establishment known for generating unparalleled *gemütlichkeit*. It's this communal aspect with a focus on drawing people into closer contact with one another that we truly find appealing.

This feeling of community has led to what is possibly the most astonishing aspect of These Bees. Because the audience has become nearly as active a participant in the proceedings as the contestants have. And it's not just the hootin' and hollerin'! It's their unrestrained urge to talk back to the judges (and, occasionally, the contestants) that adds a ton of energy to the intelligent tomfoolery. If I wasn't being full-throatedly heckled from time-to-time during The Bee, I'd be concerned that people weren't having as much fun as they should!

So, here's the skinny. "[Brew N' Bee VI: From Bee to Shining Bee!](#)" is a Single Elimination event. In other words, if you spell a word wrong, you're out! However, "Cheats" (such as "Ask a Friend," "Trade-A-Word," "5 Seconds with Your Phone" or a flat-out Mulligan) will be available for purchase on a cash-only prior to the competition the night of The Bee. Then there's Champion Check. It costs a bit more than the other Cheats, but it also provides the purchaser with the possibility of advancing to the Championship Round once they've been officially eliminated. Zounds!

Space is Limited, so head to www.manitowoclibrary.org/event/brew-n-bee-vi to register and for all the details! PLEASE NOTE: there is a \$20 contestant fee associated with this event and payment must be made at PetSkull Brewing Company (cash or check only) prior to the start of "[From Bee to Shining Bee!](#)" on July 22.

In case you were wondering where the monies collected during the [Brew 'N Bee VI](#) are headed, please be aware that this is a fundraising event for the Friends of Manitowoc Public Library. Once we recoup our minimal operating costs, everything Bee-related that we bring-in will be donated to the Friends of MPL—all participant fees, all Cheat sales. The whole 9 Yards! And PetSkull isn't taking a penny for the participant's beverages. They're donating it all back to the Friends. Can you spell S-P-E-C-T-A-C-U-L-A-R!?!?!?

Here's what you get for that \$20 participation fee: two pints of amazing PetSkull beer (or soda/water if you prefer), a Certificate of Participation suitable either for framing or using as a XXXL Coaster for your Brews the night of the Bee, a Shot at Glory, and a chance to score fabulous prizes as one of the Top 3 finishers, with a mind-boggling Manitowoc Trophy trophy going to the Champion. Also, a "Very Special" prize will go to the first person eliminated from the competition!

Registration is open NOW at www.manitowoclibrary.org/event/brew-n-bee-vi! Should you have any questions regarding "[Brew N' Bee VI](#)," please feel free to contact me at tgadzinski@manitowoc.com. There's a very solid chance that I'll have the info that you're seeking.

Because let's be honest—you can't win a spelling bee if you don't register to spell! That's just good old-fashioned horse sense!

Teens Can Experience “Snakes in the House” this Friday at Manitowoc Public Library!

Jun 23, 2026 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



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

There are certain topics that are, shall we say, polarizing.

They bring out the strongest emotions, the most died-upon hills, and the greatest rifts between friends. Which Hogwarts House is best? (They're all good.)

Who is the best James Bond? (I don't have an opinion, which is a contentious opinion in itself.)

Pineapple. Does it belong on pizza? (It does. Fight me.)

Do snakes make good pets? (Well . . .)

I think snakes are fascinating. Reptiles in general are fascinating, but snakes are particularly interesting. Snakes can move in five distinct ways, which is impressive for a critter with no legs. They have even been seen using a lasso movement to climb up poles—equal parts amazing and terrifying if you have birdhouses placed high on poles to avoid predators like snakes.

Wisconsin is home to about 21 native species of snakes, which means we're not as snake-heavy as Texas (with 68 species), but not as safe as Alaska, which has no snakes at all. Most of the Wisconsin snakes are not venomous. (Remember, if it bites you and you die, it's venomous. If you bite it and you die, it's poisonous. Either way, the outcome isn't great, but it's nice to be precise about these things.)

About 71% of all households in the US have a pet, but only 4 to 5% of those households have a reptile. Snakes represent about 22% of reptile pets, coming in after the clear winner of tortoises and turtles and being edged out of second place by lizards. Reptile ownership is higher in North America and Europe than anywhere else in world and snakes barely register on a worldwide scale.

I am not a snake owner myself, despite my admiration for the creatures, and I think I know why the percentages remain low for snake ownership in general. There is something unknowable about snake—something completely 'other' in their lidless eyes and unpredictable and inexplicable movements. We think we know about dogs and cats, apex predators every bit as much as snakes, because we share roughly the same body architecture. Snakes are alien. Even lizards have legs.

So, we go back to that question—Do snakes make good pets?

The answer must be a firm . . . Maybe.



Kristen Keck

Snakes are more exclusive than your average pet. To have something as elegant as a snake in your home, there are rules. You can't just pick one up off the side of the road. (Seriously, don't do that. It's against the law in Wisconsin.)

If you want more information about having a snake or other reptilian companion in your home, let me invite you to [Teen Summer: Snakes in the House](#) on Friday, June 26, at 1 PM in the Balkansky Community Room. Megan from J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue will go over some of the things you'll need to have to make a snake comfortable. Slither on in to get the info on all manner of reptiles and meet a few as well. Bring your parents if they need convincing.

Can we turn that 'maybe' into a 'yes'? Well . . . we'll see.

Manitowoc Public Library's Family Bubble Bash Rescheduled for Wednesday, July 8

Jun 27, 2026 | 2:00 PM

Local News



The following article was written by Betty Schwede, a Youth Services Librarian at the Manitowoc Public Library.

When you plan for outdoor programs, it always pays to have a Plan B. The unseasonably cold wet weather forced the cancellation of the **Family Bubble Bash** planned for June 17 at Manitowoc Public Library. Time to pivot! The Family Bubble Bash is rescheduled for **Wednesday, July 8, from 2-4 PM**. Kids 4 years old and up are invited to

dress for wet and foamy fun on the Library Lawn. Expect mountains of foam, dancing, music, and plenty of summer excitement!

Little ones can join the fun, too. Children under age 4 will enjoy the **Baby Bubble Bop** on **July 14** and **August 11** at **10:30 AM** in the Balkansky Community Room. No weather worries here—just bubbles, balls, music, and playful fun for the littlest library visitors.

We're also looking forward to another season of **Storytimes on the Road** in July and August. Families can join us at the **Police Department**, **Farm Wisconsin**, **Lincoln Park Zoo**, the Senior Center, and **West of the Lake Gardens** for stories, songs, and rhymes in unique community settings. All locations have indoor backup options except West of the Lake Gardens.



Betty Schwede

Kids of all ages will have a roaring good time at **Touch the Trucks** on **July 15 from 10:00 AM to Noon**. Held in the Farmers Market lot across from the Library, this popular event gives children the chance to explore and learn about all kinds of big vehicles up-close.

Looking for indoor adventures? The Library has plenty planned throughout July and August. Meet live raptors on **July 22**, travel back in time with **Sean the Mammoth Hunter** on **July 29**, and experience the excitement of **Animatronic Dragons** on **August 3**. Family Activity Nights and other special events round out a packed summer schedule.

Baby and Preschool Storytimes continue on Wednesdays and Thursdays through **August 13**, and Teens and Adults will find plenty of programs designed just for them.

Whether your interest is animals, art, history, fantasy, engineering, or simply having fun with your family, there's something for everyone. Get all the details at <https://www.manitowoclibrary.org/events>.

And Don't Forget—the Summer Reading Program goes through Saturday, August 8 and the last day to claim prizes is Saturday, August 15!

Touch the Trucks Returns to Manitowoc Public Library!

Jun 30, 2026 | 2:30 PM

Local News

TOUCH THE TRUCKS



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

Ever wonder what it would be like to take the driver's seat in a cement mixer? Or pull out the hose on a fire truck? Or blow the horn on a really big rig? (*OK, maybe not that loudly!*)

Even if you haven't, your kids probably have. So back by popular demand, Manitowoc Public Library will again host its biggest annual event, **Touch the Trucks**. This year, the wheely big event will take place Wednesday, July 15, from 10 AM to noon—and since it's an entirely outside event, cross your fingers for good weather! (*In the event of inclement weather, the event will be cancelled—there's just no way to fit all those trucks IN the library!*)

We've recruited about twenty vehicles—from fire trucks and police cars to tractors and cement mixers (and maybe a few surprise entries!)—to the Briess Parking Lot across from the Library. Kids can climb aboard, pretend to drive, pose for pics and pretend to be big for a bit! Local organizations and companies take pride in their vehicles, and we're thrilled to highlight them!

This year is the 250th anniversary of the United States, so we're inviting participants to deck out their vehicles in red, white and blue to celebrate this especially patriotic year!

This event is so popular, parking can be a bit tricky, so plan on a short walk and a bit of traffic congestion at 8th and Quay that morning. (*Or stop in the library to keep cool for a bit!*). Whatever you do, however, keep your grumpies at home—it'll all be worth it to see the kids' faces!



Sharon Verbeten