

Manitowoc Public Library and PetSkull Brewing take “Tales from the Taproom” into “The Great Outdoors!”

Sep 2, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



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

There are abundant opposing factions into which people can be divided—99% of which I would never even consider bringing up in a public forum such as this. However, there is one noncontroversial pair of groupings that I feel confident can be mentioned without hesitation: those that identify as being “indoorsy” and those that see themselves as being “outdoorsy.”

Outdoorsy types, generally speaking, prefer to indulge in open-air, wide-open-spaces adventure—camping, hiking, climbing, biking, fishing, beach-going. You get the picture. Indoorsy folks, once again generally speaking, tend to prefer to encounter their inspirations in more enclosed settings—theaters, restaurants, museums, galleries, just staying home and reading a book.

Personally, I’m more of a hybrid. I love biking, but I’ve spent more than a little time in darkened rooms, chomping on popcorn and watching wonderfully awful sci-fi movies. I’ve gone for amazing hikes in the Upper Peninsula and Door County, but I’ve also had some fantastic meals in restaurants in both of those locales. I went on an extraordinary climb to a monastery jutting out into the ocean in Spain that almost did me in, but the night before, I spent several hours marveling at the amazing modern art at the Guggenheim.

And then there’s the flat-out crossover experiences that I’ve been fortunate enough to be exposed to—traditional indoor events that took place outside. Seeing a production of “The Merry Wives of Windsor” in an outdoor theater where it started to rain so hard that the actors had no option than to laugh at the absurdity of what was happening even though they soldiered-on and gave great performances. Or seeing the New York Philharmonic play in Central Park, complete with fireworks, amazing wine, and a spectacular picnic spread.

My point is that even if you consider yourself to be indoorsy, you wind up doing a ton of the things that you love in an outdoor setting sometimes. You may wonder, however, why I'm bringing any of this up in the first place. Which is a very valid thing to wonder.

It's also a query that's easily answered. It's because everyone has a great true story to tell on almost any given topic. And what better way to set up the third installment of [Tales from the Taproom: A StorySlam Event for Adults \(21+\) at PetSkull Brewing Company](#), taking place from 6-8 PM on Wednesday, September 17, sponsored by Seechafer News.

This time around, we're adding a special twist—we'll be moving things from the indoor taproom to the outdoor beer garden for an evening of open-air storytelling! The theme this time out is ["The Great Outdoors!"](#) That's right, folks. We're leaving things fairly wide open. The only required element is that whatever story you tell, it has to have taken place outside. An outdoor concert experience, an amazing back porch evening with friends, a hike with an unexpected twist. Anything that you feel comfortable telling that took place al fresco! And as this is an Adults-Only event, nothing is off limits—if you're willing to tell it, it's a story worthy of the hearing.

Something to keep in mind is that this is an evening for people to get together to share their true stories. It's not stand-up comedy or a platform for political manifestos or an opportunity to do a public reading from an as-of-yet unpublished post-apocalyptic neo-tribal vampiric zombie/metadroid saga. It's a true story zone. There are no props and no notes. Just five minutes and a true, personal favorite story on the evening's topic. Once again, this installment of ["Tales from the Taproom"](#) is going to be cohosted by the wondrous 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 and enjoy. However, should you want to step up to the mic to share a story with the evening's theme, please note that sign-up begins at 5:30 PM and we'll fit in as many stories as possible during the allotted time. Five minutes may seem like a lot, but it goes by quickly. And we'll have a timekeeper to keep you on-track. Keep in mind, though—they will cut you off at five minutes, so knowing your story well is a necessity.

We can't wait to hear about your outdoor adventures at ["Tales from the Taproom"](#) at PetSkull Brewing on Wednesday, September 17, from 6-8 PM. If there's a better way to gracefully and communally transition from summer into early-autumn than with a great outdoor evening of sharing true stories, we certainly haven't been told about it!



Tim Gadzinski

Volunteer Fair Returns to Manitowoc Public Library

Sep 8, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)

MANITOWOC PUBLIC LIBRARY
VOLUNTEER FAIR 2025
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2-5PM
BALKANSKY COMMUNITY ROOM AT MANITOWOC PUBLIC LIBRARY



The following article was written by Manitowoc Public Library Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Devins-Horohoe.

Hey everyone! As summer starts to wrap up and we look forward to Fall and back-to-school time, I have some awesome news to share with you all! Mark your calendars for our [Volunteer Fair](#) at Manitowoc Public Library! It is happening on Wednesday, September 17, from 2-5 PM, and it is a fantastic opportunity for local organizations to find volunteers and for individuals eager to make a difference in our community.

Join us in the Balkansky Room on the Second Floor of Manitowoc Public Library on Wednesday, September 17, from 2-5 PM. We will have tables set up for each group, making it easy for you to meet people passionate about volunteering. Whether your organization is looking for volunteers to make a regular commitment or you just need help during special events, there is something for everyone.

If your organization needs volunteers and hasn't registered for the Volunteer Fair yet, please contact me, Lisa Devins-Horohoe, the Volunteer Coordinator at Manitowoc Public Library. You can reach me at 920-686-3042 or ldevinshorohoe@manitowoc.org to reserve a table. The deadline to reserve your spot is Monday, September 15, so don't wait!

I am so excited about MPL's [Volunteer Fair](#), Wednesday, September 17! My goal is to connect local organizations with the help they need while helping volunteers find opportunities that fit their schedules and interests. Volunteering is a wonderful way to give back to the community, and it is a fantastic chance for personal growth through your experiences. I am especially reaching out to Teens who are on the lookout for community service hours. Trust me—this is one event you will not want to miss!

As the Volunteer Coordinator at Manitowoc Public Library, I love working with both adults and students. If you are a student looking for volunteer hours for the 2025/2026 school year, I wholeheartedly encourage you to swing by and chat with friendly representatives from various organizations in our community at Manitowoc Public Library [Volunteer Fair](#) on Wednesday, September 17! We will be there from 2-5 PM, making it super-easy for students to drop in right after school. You can sign up on the spot or take some information home to think it over later.



Lisa Devins-Horohoe

Manitowoc Public Library has all kinds of opportunities for general volunteers. If you're looking for a regular weekly or monthly routine, general volunteers do things like helping us care for our plants or keeping our spaces tidy, while others assist with sorting donated books and items that are no longer in circulation. Homebound Services volunteers bring joy to our homebound patrons by delivering library materials right to their homes. You would pick up and drop off book collections that our awesome team has already prepared. Deliveries usually take about an hour and happen once a month. We will do everything we can to fit the schedule to work for you, ensuring your experience is enjoyable and manageable!

If you are someone who prefers to volunteer less frequently but still wants to help during special events, we have opportunities for that, too! We are always on the lookout for assistance with fun events like Trunk or Treat, Comic Book Day, and the Summer Reading Program.

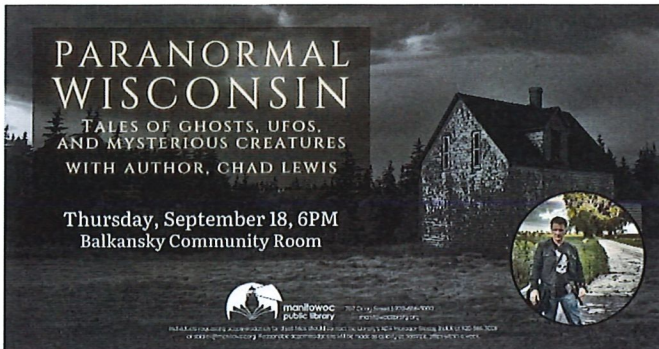
And that's just what Manitowoc Public Library has to offer! You will get the chance to meet with over a dozen other organizations in our community. You might just discover an amazing opportunity that you did not even know existed.

Manitowoc Public Library's [Volunteer Fair](#) takes place on Wednesday, September 17, and is a one-stop shopping event for organizations seeking assistance and individuals excited to jump in and help. So, what are you waiting for? Organizations—call 920-686-3042 to reserve your spot! And Individuals—mark down Wednesday, September 17 on your calendars for the chance to discover some fantastic volunteering opportunities. We can't wait to see all of you there!

Experience the Strange & Unusual Side of the Badger State at Manitowoc Public Library's "Paranormal Wisconsin with Chad Lewis"

Sep 15, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by Paranormal Investigator Chad Lewis.

Spooky season is upon us. With the chilling air and the seasonal turning of the trees, we shift from lackadaisical summer vibes to those more associated with the darker days soon to come. Personally, I love this liminal time of year when beach sunsets are slowly replaced with visits to the pumpkin patch. It is also the time to wrap ourselves into a blanket and devour some eerie legends that are best

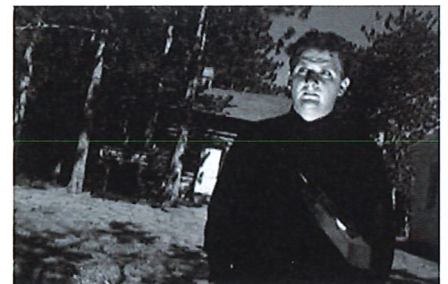
told in the dark—and there is no better place for supernatural tales than in Wisconsin.

Our state is filled with all manner of denizens of the dark, from giant werewolf creatures roaming the rural countryside and terrifying vampires stalking a cursed cemetery to residents encountering beings they believe to not be from this planet. No place in Wisconsin is without its own bizarre story.

For the last 30 years, I have trekked the world in search of the strange and unusual—and I blame this odd passion on my home state of Wisconsin. While in high school in Eau Claire, I heard rumors about numerous UFO sightings coming out of the relatively nearby town of Elmwood. So, I decided to venture there and interview people about what they were encountering in our skies. From there I joined the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) at the same time I started studying psychology in college, where I was most interested in students' belief in the paranormal, a topic that I ended up turning into my master's thesis.

Once I began giving presentations on my findings, those in the audience would tell me that they needed my help. That they had encountered some odd beast in the woods that left them perplexed. That they had seen something in the sky they couldn't identify, or that they believed their house was haunted and wanted someone to come and check it out. I began to shift my research away from trying to explain why people believe in these topics to actually trying to discover what these people were experiencing.

This 30-year quest in search of the strange and unusual has garnered some of the strangest paranormal legends that you could ever imagine. But, you don't have to take my word for it—you can take your own word for it! You can join me on Thursday, September 18, at 6 PM in the Balkansky Community Room at Manitowoc Public Library for [Paranormal Wisconsin: Tales of Ghosts, UFOs, and Mysterious Creatures](#) and draw your own conclusions.



Chad Lewis

My presentations are meant to be stepping-off points into the supernatural—a visual road trip, if you will, to the strangest corners of our state. I will provide you with all the details you will ever need—the background, history, and folklore, the eyewitness accounts, and of course, my personal research into each-and-every place that I talk about. But, the most important part is that when all is said and done, I leave it up to you to venture out to these locations and decide for yourselves whether or not you believe something is lurking in the darkness.

SO, let's get you started! See you September 18!

“At the Market with Andrew” returns to MPL for an October 4 Walkabout

Sep 20, 2025 | 2:00 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by former Executive Chef, Ryan's on York, and current District 1 Alderperson, Andrew Dunbar.

As I walk through the library, I often wander toward the cookbook area. I often think about all the work that goes into writing a cookbook. There is a lot of preparation and planning before you can start. You have to think about the format of the book, the order, and even plan-out the contents.

Next, you have to come up with the product, making the items multiple, if not hundreds of times, before you are satisfied with the recipe. Then, you have to present the book to the end user or the customer. That is a great hyperbole of cooking itself. You have to plan the meal, gather the ingredients, prepare the dish, and then plate and serve the item. Many people like to cook that way and need that structure in the way they prepare the food they make.

Well, this is not that type of class.

[At the Market with Andrew](#) will be an off-the-cuff, crazy, last-second decision-making type of cooking class the likes of which the world has never seen!

Okay. Maybe not that extreme, but it will definitely be off-the-cuff. It will be full of last-second decisions, and we won't plan anything . . . at all. We will, as I often do, wander the Manitowoc Farmers' Market and see what it has to offer. In this class—taking place on Saturday, October 4, from 10 AM until noon—we will have a plethora of items to talk about, look at, and, if they interest us enough, add to our basket of items that we will incorporate into a dish.

This will be the fourth instalment [At the Market with Andrew](#) and I am more and more appreciative of the knowledge I learn from those taking the class. We'll share knowledge and help guide each other in our own culinary journey. After we have finished looking at what the Market has to offer, we will head over to the library to do a cooking demonstration in the Balkansky Community Room, where we will use the items that we find to come up with something. Yes—something. I don't really have another way to explain it, because as I said, it is going to be unplanned and will mostly be led by the ingredients that seem to stand out the most for us.

I hope you are going to join us on Saturday, October 4, from 10 AM-12 PM for our Market Adventure! And if you do, please bring family tips, tricks, and advice so that we may all grow together and become friends through food.



Andrew Dunbar

From Specialized Kits to Books Published Using a Dyslexia-Friendly Font, Check Out These “Under-the-Radar” Materials Available at Manitowoc Public Library!

Sep 24, 2025 | 2:30 PM
Local News



The following article was written by Lisa Pike, a Materials Department Librarian at the Manitowoc Public Library.

The core of any library is its collection and the people that collection serves. With that in mind, librarians attempt to build their collections to serve a variety of users. Sometimes this includes building special collections that focus on specific needs.

Our Youth Services staff excel at creating introductory life experience collections for children. One of these collections is the Book Theme Kits. Some of the topics covered include potty training, divorce, and the loss of a pet. These kits contain several books covering the same theme from a variety of perspectives and reading levels for children of all ages.

The kits also include materials directed at the parent or caregiver with relevant advice. The hope is to provide support to children and families during some difficult life experiences. You can find these kits at the start of the youth fiction collection in the Youth Department.

Other recent additions to the youth book collection are books created with special font to aid those with dyslexia. The books use a specialized font named OpenDyslexic, which aids the user in telling the form and direction of letters within a text. This font tends to have a heavier line on the bottom to help to tell the difference between similar letters such as “b” and “d”. It also spaces the letters further apart than in typical typeset and increases spacing between lines to help better direct the eye. Some publishers are even using



off-white paper to help improve contrast on the page, which also aids the eyes.

The library holds a variety of fiction and nonfiction titles using this special font. Some fiction titles are *The Boxcar Children*, by Gertrude Warner, and *Lunar*, by Chris Bradford. You can find these titles with the standard print fiction and nonfiction collections. Through the catalog, you can also locate these titles using keywords like “dyslexic font” and “dyslexia-friendly”. As always, our staff is here to help if you have trouble finding them.



At the other end of the spectrum, we have our Memory Kits curated to help with recall skills in those experiencing symptoms of dementia. The kits come in a variety of themes including seasons, art, movies, cars, and farming. Kits contain conversation cards, motor skills toys, small puzzles, books, and various games.



Lisa Pike

The new art themed kit even includes reusable watercolor sheets so that users can experience painting without the mess. These kits provide great options for someone to travel down memory lane while also providing entertainment. These Memory Kits are contained in easy-to-carry bags, which can be found hanging next to the Large Print collection on the First Floor of the Library.

All these materials are noteworthy because they provide support during life's many challenges. So, come pay us a visit and we will be more than happy to share these marvelous collections with you.

Manitowoc Public Library Turns October Into Shocktober with Horror Movie Fest!

Sep 30, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)

The following article was written by Matt Mottl, a Public Services Assistant at the Manitowoc Public Library.



October is the time of year where spookiness reigns and terror is behind every corner. It's the perfect time of the year to cuddle on your couch, hiding behind a blanket to watch scary movies. Horror movies seem to have a huge appeal that lures people in and then snatches them. And once you've been snatched, there is no going back! Growing up I never was a fan of horror movies and I constantly tried my best to avoid them. But, as I got older, that all changed.

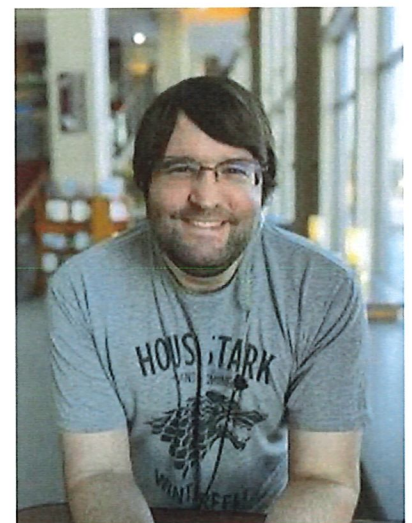
I remember the first horror movie that I was brave enough to see in theaters. It was "The Conjuring 2" and I admit that I was extremely scared. However, as the movie went on, I began to enjoy myself from the adrenaline I got from all the jump scares and the overall spookiness.

Presently, I cannot get enough of them and now horror is my favorite genre of film. I have seen and explored almost every subgenre of horror there is. I proudly refer to myself as an aficionado of the genre now!

With the programming I do for Manitowoc Public Library, I wanted to share my love of these scary movies and incorporate them into a program for October where horror movies reign supreme. With this mindset, I created the [Horror Movie Fest](#) that will highlight seven chilling films at Manitowoc Public Library throughout the entire month of October!

I wanted to use different Decades of Horror as my roadmap when choosing the movies. As such, we'll start with the 1960s and progress through the present so that people can choose from which decade—and manifestation—they prefer to watch. All genres of horror are valid, so in this [Horror Movie Fest](#), here's what you can expect to find:

- A supernatural look at a haunted house in the classic film *The Haunting* and a haunted barn house in *The Conjuring*, which feature plenty of ghostly scares
- A classic slasher film featuring a road trip gone wrong with an encounter with one of cinema's most infamous villains in *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*
- A science-fiction horror film set in the barrens of the Arctic and a terrifying alien entity in *The Thing*
- A pair of psychological horror films that feature horrific traps and mental health—*Saw* and *Smile*
- The fear of the unknown and what we cannot see is represented in the found-footage classic, *The Blair Witch Project*



Matt Mottl

You can pick-and-choose from these seven films or take the challenge and see them all. The choice is yours on how you prefer to scare yourself silly.

Movie show times will be on select Thursday nights in October and for the first time ever in “Now Showing at MPL” history, we will have a Double Feature on one of the weekends! Click [HERE](#) for all the horrific specifics!

I encourage all horror lovers to make this [Horror Movie Fest](#) an October destination and fearlessly show your love of horror movies. Head ton Manitowoc Public Library for a scary good time!

In conclusion, an adequate final quote to end this this article from the horror film, *The Fly*: “Be Afraid. Be very afraid.” Happy Viewing!