

# Things Are Heating Up-Summer Reading Program Returns to Manitowoc Public Library!

Jun 3, 2025 | 2:15 PM

[Local News](#)



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

“I cannot remember the books I’ve read any more than the meals I have eaten; even so, they have made me.”

Yes, even though that quote came from 19<sup>th</sup>-century scholar Ralph Waldo Emerson, it couldn’t be truer. Books truly CAN make a person—smarter, more interesting, more fun and freer.

Once again this year, readers of all ages will be given the opportunity to read just the right books for them—all summer long—and earn prizes for that joyful endeavor. Manitowoc Public Library’s Summer Reading Program runs Monday, June 16, through Saturday, August 9, and prizes are earned for every six days of reading (*or being read to, or listening to books . . . because, my friend, ALL forms of reading count!*). You can pre-register on the Beanstack App starting Monday, June 2, or pick up a paper reading tracker at any MPL Service Desk.

Thanks to generous local donors, readers can earn gift cards, food coupons, activity passes, and more from businesses and non-profits around the community. Not a bad deal when all you have to do is pick up a book, which, we know, you’re probably doing anyway.

Adults and teens have some extra special raffle prizes for completing the program. Adults have a chance to win \$100 in Meijer gift cards or a three-month Club Car Wash membership (read 30 days to complete the challenge and maximize your chance of being one of the ten lucky winners of the Grand Prize). Teens can win one of three prizes—one from Dunkin Donuts, one from Manitowoc Coffee Company, and one from Target.



Sharon Verbeten

Remember, however, the Library isn't just about books! This summer, take a break from the heat, come inside, and participate in one of our amazing free programs.

## Youth

- Visit Bernice the Cow at Cedar Crest Ice Cream for our Summer Kick-Off event Thursday, June 12.
- Join in an All-Ages outdoor singalong concert with nationally known children's entertainer, Jim Gill, on Wednesday, July 9.
- Rub elbows and take pictures with the Pigeon from the popular Mo Willems' books on Tuesday & Wednesday, June 17 & 18.
- Kick off the holiday week by Painting the Library windows patriotic colors Wednesday, July 2.

## Teens

- Create wearable art on Tie-Dye Tuesday, July 22.
- Take a wild selfie with wild life (lizards and snakes) Friday, August 1.
- Share your songs, dance, poetry, or other talents on Open Mic afternoon Friday, July 11.

## Adults

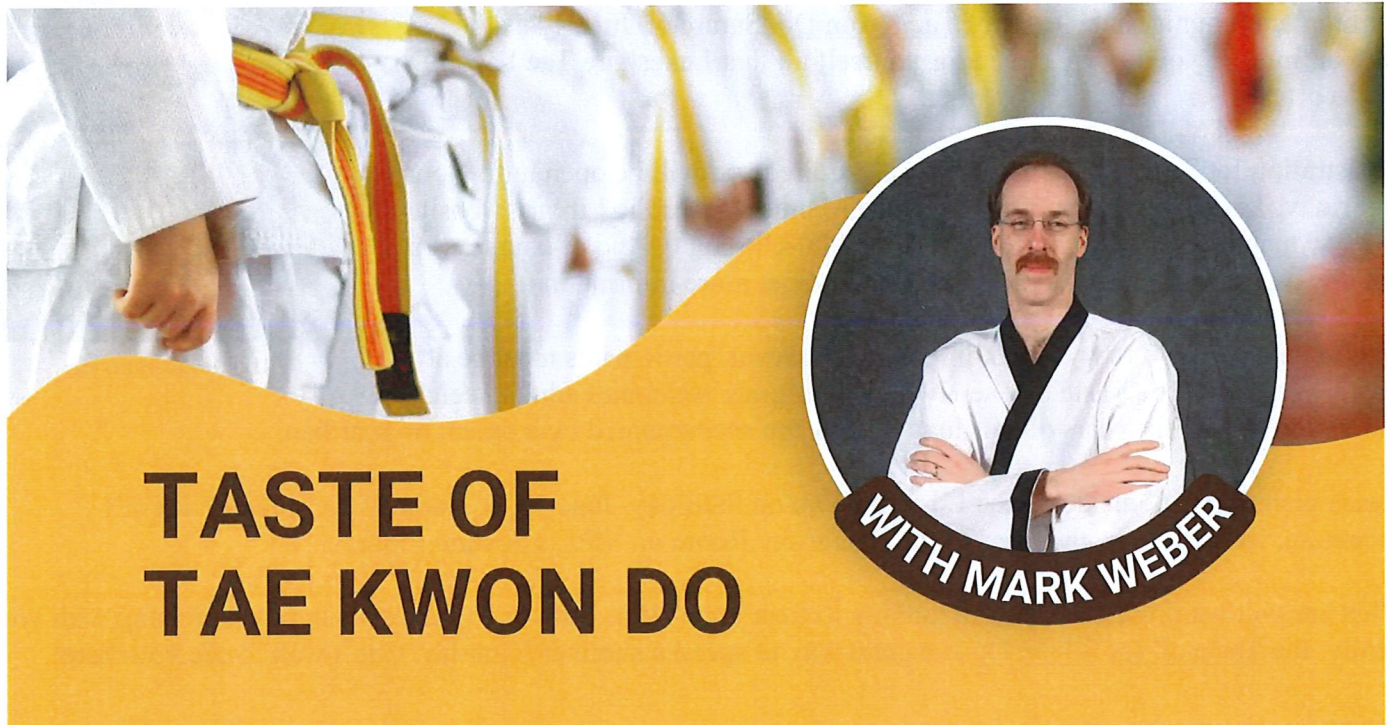
- Enjoy an evening of storytelling and laughter with *New York Times* bestselling author and Wisconsin Public Radio contributor, Michael Perry, on Thursday, June 19.
- Peruse the many offerings at The Friends of the Library Used Book Sale, June 26-28.
- Learn a new skill in the Idea Box makerspace. Learn how to use a Glowforge, Cricut, Sound Booth and more! Visit <https://www.manitowoclibrary.org/services/idea-box-makerspace> for details and registration.
- Participate in "Brew 'N Bee V: Unleash The Hive!"—a Spelling Bee for Adults—on Wednesday, July 23.
- Explore our downtown with the ManitoWalk: Historic Downtown Walking Tours, Mondays August 4 and August 11.

*Sign up for the Summer Reading Program online via the Beanstack app or stop at the library. For more information on all things summer 2025 at Manitowoc Public Library, visit <https://www.manitowoclibrary.org/events/month>.*

# Head to the Library Lawn for a “Taste of Tae Kwon Do”

Jun 10, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



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

As the temperatures rise and the sun shines brighter, I can't help but feel the excitement for ice cream trucks, cookouts, and all the fun outdoor adventures that summer brings! It's such a wonderful time for families to come together and create unforgettable memories. So, why not grab your kids and join us on the lawn of Manitowoc Public Library for a fantastic afternoon of fitness at our Taste of Tae Kwon Do event? Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 14, from 12-1 PM—we're kicking off summer with a blast of fun in the sun!

Summer is also a perfect opportunity to try something new. If you've ever thought about trying Tae Kwon Do, whether for self-defense, fitness, or to enjoy time with your family, our Taste of Tae Kwon Do is the perfect chance! This beginner-friendly class will be led by Mark Weber, the amazing founder of Lakeshore Tae Kwon Do. Make sure to register in advance, as spaces are limited—don't miss out!

Mark Weber is passionate about teaching Tae Kwon Do to everyone in Manitowoc and he's a true standout in martial arts education. With 45 years of experience under his belt (he holds an impressive 8th Degree Black Belt!), he's made a tremendous impact on the community through Lakeshore Tae Kwon Do. Whether you're looking for a new way to get in shape or have always wanted to give Tae Kwon Do a try, this is a fantastic opportunity to learn from a master!

You might be wondering: what exactly is Tae Kwon Do? It's a fun and dynamic martial art that originated in Korea that includes various punching, blocking, and kicking techniques. The word "taekwondo" actually comes from three Korean words meaning "foot," "fist," and "way." It combines elements from earlier martial arts from Korea, Japan, and China, and it even became an Olympic sport in 2000! Beyond just fitness, Tae Kwon Do also helps improve concentration, focus, self-discipline, and self-esteem.

At Lakeshore Tae Kwon Do, thanks to Mark Weber, students of all ages are not just learning self-defense—they're also gaining valuable life skills! Mark's lessons are not just educational—they're a blast! He creates a fun and engaging atmosphere where students feel empowered and confident. His passion for martial arts and personal growth has truly turned Lakeshore Tae Kwon Do into a vibrant community hub. [Taste of Tae Kwon Do](#), Saturday, June 14 is the perfect time for you to experience for yourself all that Lakeshore Tae Kwon Do has to offer.

Registration for Taste of Tae Kwon Do is required and will be open until Noon on Friday, June 13. You can register on the Manitowoc Public Library website at [www.manitowoclibrary.org](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org) or by calling 920-686-3000. And of course, you can always stop by one of our Service Desks to get more information.

You're never too old to try something new! However, participants must be at least 6 years old. The Taste of Tae Kwon Do program welcomes adults, teens, and children over six-years old, as long as they are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Please plan to meet outside on the Library Lawn on Saturday, June 14, at Noon. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will move the class to the Balkansky Room on MPL's Second Floor.

What are you waiting for? If you're looking to treat yourself or just want to have some fun exercising with your family, the [Taste of Tae Kwon Do](#) is a great way to spend a summer Saturday. Can't wait to see you there!

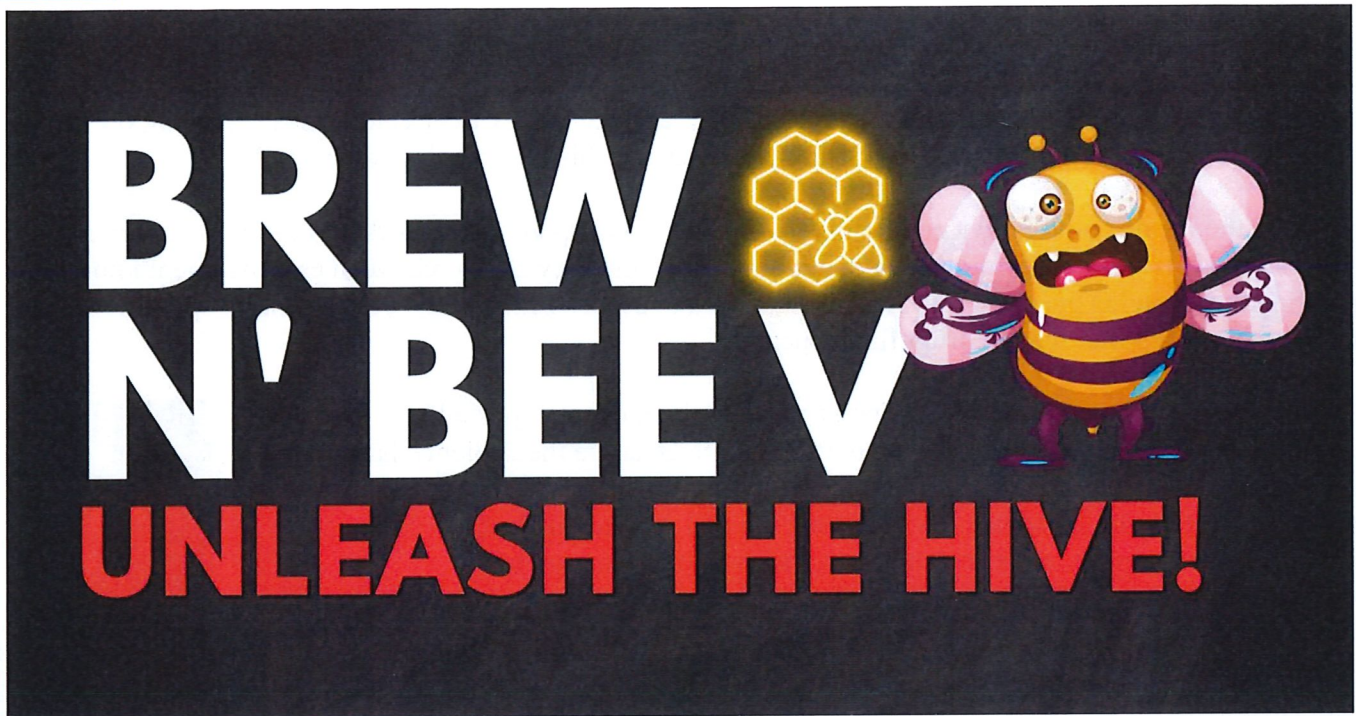


Lisa Devins-Horohoe

# Manitowoc Public Library and PetSkull Brewing Co. Prepare to “Unleash the Hive!” During Brew ‘N Bee V

Jun 17, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Tim Gadzinski. Attached, the Marketing Associate and Programming Coordinator at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

It's nearly impossible to imagine that it was more than eight years ago that Margo, my coworker at Manitowoc Public Library, approached me about creating a spelling bee for adults locally after having read about one being done as a fundraiser in Portland. I thought that it was a phenomenal idea, but had no idea where we'd stage it. Until I walked into PetSkull Brewing Co, LLC, for the first time, that is. The boisterous atmosphere overflowing with camaraderie and shenaniganning immediately informed me that if an adult spelling bee were going to happen in The 54220 that this was where it would happen.

But, before that first word was handed out, I probably was going to have to introduce myself to the owner. As it turned out, said owner—Paul Hoffman—took care of that for me.

“Are you Tim Gadzinski,” he inquired as I bellied-up to the bar.

“I am,” I replied, trying hard to appear unconcerned that he knew who I was before I had even ordered one of his handcrafted brews.

“Your mom was my Second Grade teacher at St. Andrews. She was my favorite teacher ever,” he said with a smile, ending the mystery instantly.

“Very cool. Nice to meet you!”

Paul and I pretty much became friends instantly. And that was the last intelligent conversation that we ever had.

With an amazing amount of self-restraint, I waited a couple of weeks to ask about The Bee. Fortunately, when I did the disarmingly-subtle and shockingly limber, Paul Hoffman, and his sasstastic wife, Kathi—were on-board for partnering. The initial Brew N' Bee was so much fun that talk about the second one began almost immediately after the first one concluded. And who would've thought that this raucous orthographic scrum would travel from North 9<sup>th</sup> Street to PetSkull's new digs on Buffalo Street when they picked up and moved operations?

Still, it's pretty remarkable that MPL and PetSkull Brewing have joined forces a total of five times to bring forth a competition the likes of which the Lakeshore has never seen before. Because on Wednesday, July 23, "Brew 'N Bee V: Unleash the Hive!" 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: they produce a superior product and 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 unexpectedly astonishing aspect of These Bees as they have evolved. Because the audience has become nearly as active a participant in the proceedings as the contestants. And its 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 V: Unleash the Hive!" 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 basis before the competition begins. 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 after you've been officially eliminated. Zounds!



Tim Gadzinski

Space is Limited, so head to [www.manitowoclibrary.org/event/brew-n-bee-v](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/event/brew-n-bee-v) to register and for all the details! PLEASE NOTE: there is a \$20 participation fee associated with this event and payment must be made at PetSkull Brewing Company (cash or check only) prior to the start of "Unleash the Hive" on July 23.

In case you were wondering where the monies collected during the Brew 'N Bee V 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 A-M-A-Z-I-N-G!!!

Here's what you get for that \$20 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 an amazing trophy generously donated by Manitowoc 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-v](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/event/brew-n-bee-v)! Should you have any questions regarding “Brew N’ Bee V,” please feel free to contact me at [tgadzinski@manitowoc.com](mailto: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 science!

# MPL's Paint the Library Red, White and Blue Brings Creative Patriotic Flair to Downtown Manitowoc!

Jun 24, 2025 | 3:30 PM

[Local News](#)



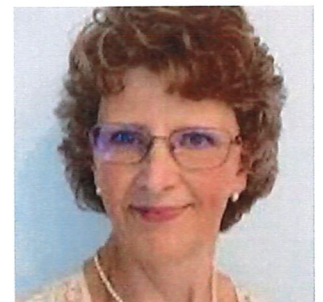
*The following article was written by Betty Schwede, Youth Services Librarian at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

The Youth Services Department at Manitowoc Public Library is always on the hunt for fresh, exciting program ideas. But, some traditions are just too good to change. One perennial favorite? **Paint the Library Red, White & Blue!** Bursting with creativity and community pride, this patriotic celebration proves that honoring America—and the spirit of Manitowoc—never goes out of style.

Kids and Teens can join us this year for **Paint the Library** on **Wednesday, July 2, at 2 PM** as we transform the Library Windows into a patriotic display! No registration or tickets are needed—just show up and get ready to paint! Lineup begins at **1:30 PM** along **Franklin Street**, and we will start handing out red, white, and blue paint and brushes right at 2 PM. Don't forget to wear clothes you don't mind getting a little messy—paint happens! Unfortunately, in the event of rain, this event will be cancelled.

Can't make it on July 2nd? No problem—we still want you to be part of the fun! Swing by the Library to pick up a poster board and decorate it at home with anything red, white, and blue—crayons, markers, paint, glued-on decorations, you name it. Bring your masterpiece back by Wednesday, July 2, and we'll proudly display it in our windows.

**Paint the Library** is just part of an action-packed summer at Manitowoc Public Library! Here's a list of a few of other fantastic events taking place at MPL before it's time to head back to school in September:



Betty Schwede

- **July 9** Children's musician **Jim Gill** brings his high-energy family concert to **Burger Park**, right across Quay Street from the Library
- **July 16** Get up close and hands-on at **Touch the Trucks**—a favorite for kids of all ages!



- **July 22** Don't miss our colorful **Tie-Dye Tuesday** session for kids and teens.
- **July 30** Get creative with a bold and bright **Pop Art Collage**.
- **August 6** Step into the shoes of a **Shipwreck Detective** when **Wisconsin Maritime Museum** shares thrilling tales of sinking ships on **Lake Michigan**.

And Fridays are for Teens at Manitowoc Public Library—your time to chill, create, and connect!

- **July 11** Step into the spotlight at **Take the Mic**—your chance to sing, speak, or just cheer on your friends.
- **July 18** Ever heard of **rubber duck cosplay**? Now's your chance to dive into the wackiest trend of the summer during **What the Duck?**
- **July 25** Grab a friend and get hilarious with the wordplay party game **Ransom Notes**.
- **August 1** Snap a selfie you won't forget—with a real-life **exotic animal**—at **Wild Said Selfies!**

Come for the fun, stay for the vibes. Teens rule Fridays!

Details for all events can be found on Library's website: [www.manitowoclibrary.org/events/month/2025/07](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/events/month/2025/07)