

Soundbooth Badging Session Taking Place in Manitowoc Public Library's Idea Box Makerspace

Feb 3, 2026 | 4:16 PM
[Local News](#), [State News](#)



Article submitted by Lisa Devins-Horohoe, MPL Public Services Associate

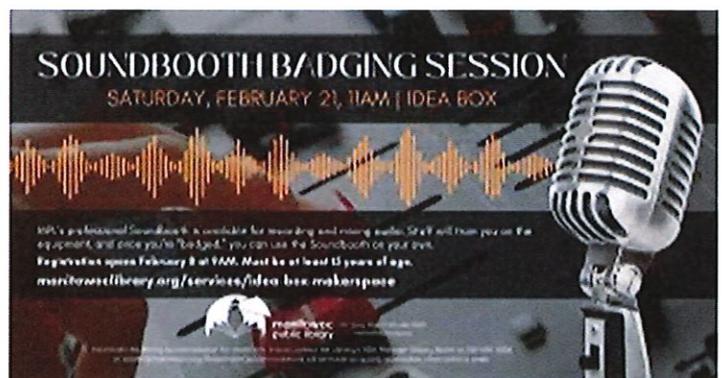
I am a big fan of the “New Year, New You” concept. The older I get, the more I try to encourage myself to seize the moment and do “The Thing”. I am lucky enough to work for an organization whose mission is to present programs that make information and technology accessible to everyone. And that’s exactly what Manitowoc Public Library is aiming for in our latest installment of Idea Box Makerspace badging sessions . . . the Soundbooth.

Manitowoc Public Library’s [Soundbooth Badging Session](#) will take place in the Idea Box Makerspace, Saturday, February 21, at 11 AM. The professional-grade Soundbooth is great for recording spoken audio, mixing music or vocal tracks, and experimenting with sound projects like podcasts, audiobooks, or voiceovers. During MPL’s [Soundbooth Badging Session](#), participants will be taken through a step-by-step process of creating a spoken-word recording.

You’ll learn how to safely use the Soundbooth equipment, how to avoid damaging it, and how to record and edit audio using GarageBand, a beginner-friendly audio software. Once you complete the training and earn your badge, you’ll be able to use the Soundbooth independently during library hours.

Before completing the badging assessment, it is a good idea to get familiar with the Mac operating system and GarageBand ahead of time. Manitowoc Public Library has made it easy for you. Check out our website, manitowoclibrary.org. We have posted additional materials so you can test out GarageBand and build some confidence before the session. You don’t need to be an expert—just possess a willingness to try and learn something new.

Manitowoc Public Library’s Soundbooth is located on the First Floor inside The Idea Box MakerSpace. What is the Idea Box Makerspace? Well, if you haven’t checked it out, you are missing an incredible space dedicated to building, making, and exploring. Thanks to the West Foundation, The Idea Box is a super cool spot packed with all kinds of tools to get your creativity flowing. You’ll find things like a Glowforge laser cutter, 3D printers, a Cricut computerized cutting machine, state-of-the-art sewing machines, and more. Whether you like crafting, designing, trying out new tech, or just tinkering, there’s honestly something for everyone here.



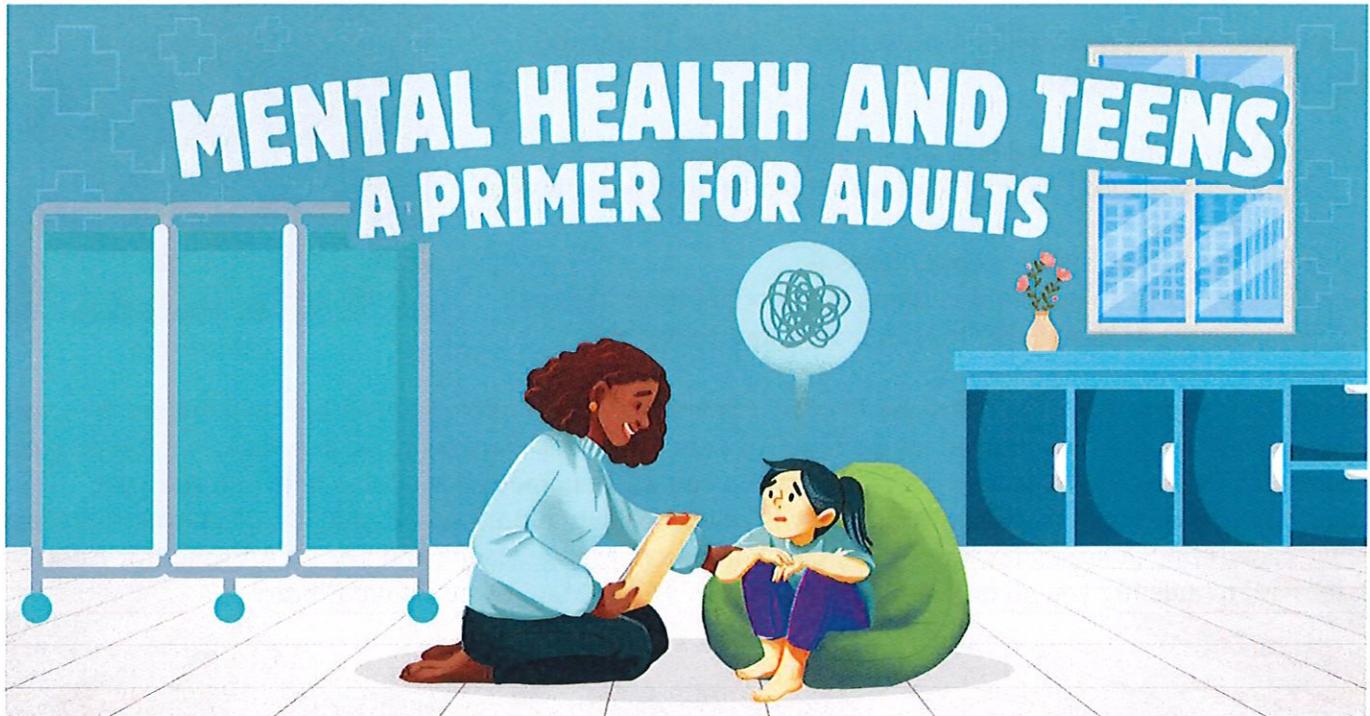
So, mark your calendar—on Saturday, February 21, at 11 AM. We’re throwing open the doors to the Soundbooth for our first badging session! It’s your ticket to try something new and maybe even surprise yourself. Manitowoc Public Library’s Idea Box Makerspace is way more than a room full of gadgets—it’s a place where you get to play with, explore, and learn about cool stuff you probably don’t have at home. It’s all about experimenting, building skills, and having fun. Come see what you can create!

Space for Manitowoc Public Library's [Soundbooth Badging Session](#) on Saturday, February 21, is limited, and registration is required. Registration opens Sunday, February 8, at 9 AM, and participants must be at least 15-years old. If you've ever been curious about audio recording or just want to see what the library's Idea Box makerspace has to offer, this is a great opportunity to jump in and give it a try. Come see what you can create!

Helping Our Kids-“Mental Health and Teens: A Primer for Adults” at Manitowoc Public Library

Feb 9, 2026 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by Rachel Gordon, a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor with Lakeview Psychological Associates and Rula Health.

There are so many dangers to development and options as parents nowadays. Perhaps you find yourself fearful that you may accidentally damage your children, feeling at a loss for how to help them make good choices, or frustrated that they will not interact with the family.

I have been working as a mental health counselor for the past nine years and as a Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor over 12 years. For seven-and-a-half of these, I have been counseling students in the Manitowoc Public School District, having a partnership inside of Washington and Wilson Middle Schools, and Lincoln High School. This has given me great insight into the views and beliefs of children in our area. I also work with younger children and adults in an outpatient office setting. In addition to those, I am also the mother of two teenagers, so I have been able to get direct experience with children in multiple settings.

Prior to this, I had also worked at an in-home therapist in Green Bay, which gave additional insight into how family interactions can shape behaviors and personalities in general. During my career, I have done significant training and research into trauma, having become trained in several different trauma treatment modalities, in addition to traditional Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

I have also obtained my certification as an Autism Specialist, having completed training for both children and adults on the spectrum. I enjoy working with my clients, both one-on-one and as a family. I love to be able to offer tips and tricks to help everyone function more easily! I have given public presentations at conferences and hosted an online coping skills series for this specifically.

On February 19, from 6-7 PM, I will be giving a presentation in the Balkansky Community Room at Manitowoc Public Library called [Mental Health and Teens: A Primer for Adults](#). During this program, I'll be addressing some options for parenting more effectively. I will discuss some of the environmental, technological, and developmental differences between our children and prior generations.

Here are some of the topics I plan to cover during [Mental Health and Teens: A Primer for Adults](#):

- Anxiety—what is it and how do we help manage it
- How can you tell if your child is addicted to technology and what to do about it
- How much supervision is really needed
- What on earth do our children think is important these days and how can we work together to help their future endeavors



Rachel Gordon

I also plan to give a few tips for “Dos and Don’ts” as parents in our modern society. I know I am not the expert in everyone’s lives, so I plan to open up the floor for your questions. Hopefully, we can work together to give a somewhat firmer grasp of skills and interventions you can use at home and school to help you and your families. There is so much to discuss we likely will not have enough time to get in-depth about everything, but I hope we can all find at least a few nuggets to take home from [Mental Health and Teens: A Primer for Adults](#). I look forward to meeting you all on February 19 from 6-7 PM at Manitowoc Public Library.

6th Annual Lakeshore Area Seed Swap Returns to Manitowoc Public Library

Feb 18, 2026 | 3:30 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by Deena Larsen and Tammy O'Connor, the co-founders of Lakeshore Seed Collective.

The [6th Annual Lakeshore Area Seed Swap](#) will be held in the Balkansky Room of Manitowoc Public Library on Saturday, February 28, from 9 AM to noon. The public is invited to take part in the Seed Swap—no need to bring seeds of your own to “swap.” Just stop in, pick up some seeds, and enjoy the great conversations and gathering of gardeners.

One of the goals for the [Seed Swap](#) is to encourage people to save seeds. The Lakeshore Seed Collective is hoping that more people will save and bring seeds to the event. One can find all sorts of resources at the library and online about how to save particular varieties. When dropping off or bringing your own seeds, put a few seeds in an envelope, labeling it with the name, variety, year, and quantity of seeds. Junk mail envelopes work well for packaging.

Many seeds that people plant are hybrids. Saving seeds from a hybrid is not a good idea as the next generation may not be like the parent plant. One should save open-pollinated or heirloom seeds. The only difference between the two is that heirloom seeds typically have a story attached to them and the variety has been around for more than fifty years.

At the 2025 Seed Swap, seeds from the Chumash Indians from California were made available. We are excited to see if people were successful in growing these plants and saving the seeds.

While at the [Seed Swap](#), you are encouraged to ask questions and share your gardening stories with others who are there. This year, Amber Daugs from Grow it Forward will be coordinating the event. In addition, Annette Paul from the Manitowoc County Master Gardeners will be there.

If you have seeds you don't plan to use, you can drop them off at Manitowoc Public Library anytime leading up to the event. There is a colorful box near the main circulation desk. Donating seeds in advance will allow volunteers time to organize the seeds. Most vegetable seeds are viable for 2-4 years if stored properly. Heirloom varieties are encouraged.

There is no cost for this event. Bring seeds to share, take seeds you are interested in planting. Again, no need to bring seeds if you don't have any to share. Small envelopes will be provided.

If you have questions, please check out the Lakeshore Seed Collective's Facebook page or email Tammy or Deena at lakeshoreseedcollective@gmail.com. Additional information about the event can be found on Manitowoc Public Library's event calendar (www.manitowoclibrary.org/event/6th-annual-lakeshore-area-seed-swap-25863).

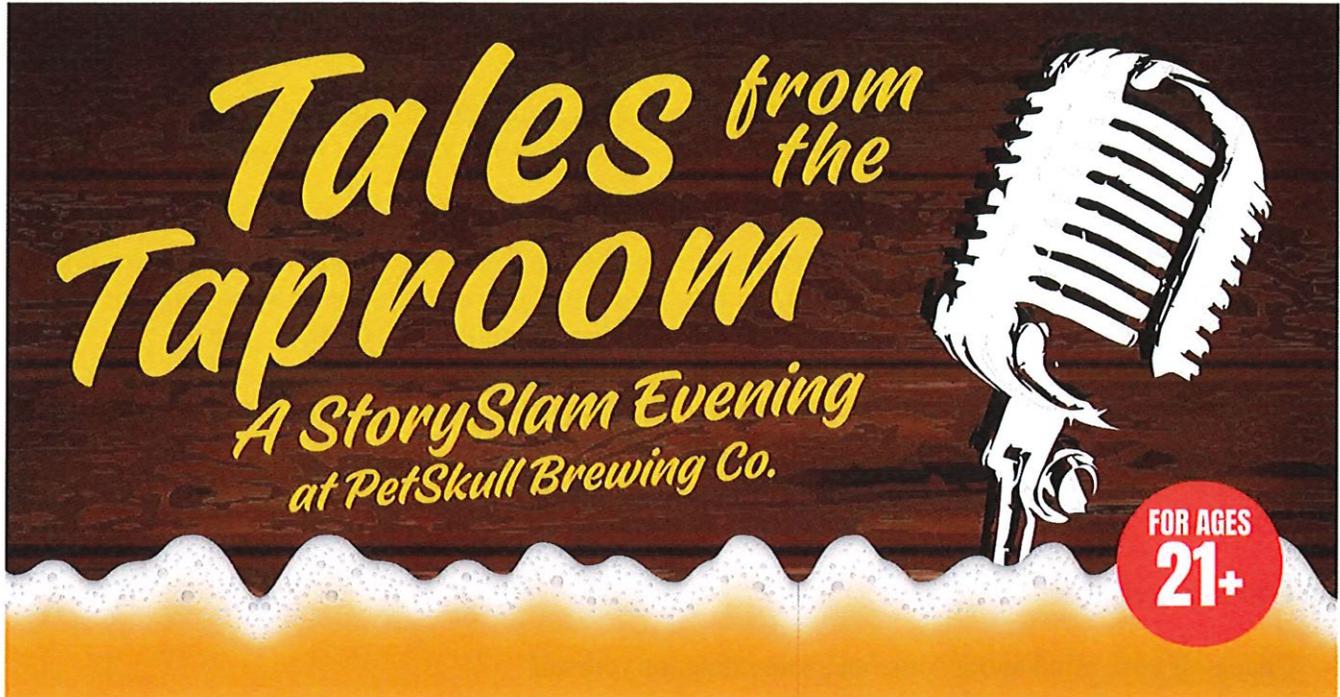


Deena Larsen and Tammy O'Connor

“Ch-Ch-Changes” Step Into the Spotlight at Next Week’s “Tales from the Taproom” Storyslam!

Feb 21, 2026 | 2:00 PM

[Local News](#)



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

Change. Such a simple six-letter word that carries so much weight.

Because change will happen, not to mention that it’s inevitable. Because nothing stays the same forever.

And, by and large, change is a good thing. It might not always feel that way in the moment, but change leads to discovery, which in turn leads to growth. Without growth there can only be stagnation and stagnation is never a good thing.

Change is also ubiquitous. Honestly, it’s hard to get through most days without change being a part of one’s life:

- If you need to break a \$10 or \$20, you’re going to need someone to make change
- It may not always be pleasant, but if you are now or have ever been a parent, changing a diaper or two has been a necessary part of the landscape
- If you get behind the wheel of your car, you’re going to have to change lanes at some point, which may be risky, especially if you’re driving in Boston
- Changing stations is always a necessity when you’re channel surfing, especially when a commercial comes on
- And it’s a pretty good day if you’re listening to random music and “Changes,” by Bowie comes on (so, look out, you rock and rollers!)

And these are just run-of-the-mill changes. A person’s life is filled with major changes. Speaking for myself:

- My life changed completely when I boarded a plane for the first time, seeing as my destination was Belgium and I was headed towards living abroad for a year as an exchange student
- One beautiful September morning in NYC, my perception of trusting a beautiful blue sky to mean that it was going to be a lovely day changed forever when a pair of passenger jets slammed into a couple of skyscrapers while I was at work a little bit uptown
- I decided that it was time to change the way I was living my life when I saw a beautiful woman who would never take me seriously (but, would eventually take the inexplicable risk of becoming my wife) if I continued to be the unruly goofball that I was at the time



So, the bottom line is that everyone has a story to tell that involves a significant change that's happened in their lives. Because for better or worse, change happens.

With that in mind, Manitowoc Public Library and PetSkull Brewing would like to invite everyone to attend the 2026 return of "Tales from the Taproom!" No props, no notes. Just five minutes and a true, personal, favorite story. It's your opportunity to step-up to the microphone at Manitowoc's premiere True Story Zone!

The theme for this midwinter event at PetSkull Brewing Company, sponsored by Seehafer News, from 6-8 PM on Thursday, February 26, is, with a clear nod to David Bowie, "Ch-Ch-Changes!!!" Because we figured that it was a great idea to tell stories that focused on something that brought about a change in the direction someone's life was heading.

Potential examples include:

- Changing your mind about someone, something, or yourself
- Your life circumstances changing
- A belief cracked, softened, or flipped entirely
- Life being nudged in a direction you didn't expect

As this is an Adults-Only event, nothing is off limits—if you're willing to tell it, it's a story worth hearing. And one of the most amazing things about these storyslams is that they simultaneously reveal how much we have in common as they explore our individual diversity. It's a pretty nifty trick.

You don't have to come to "The Taproom" to tell a story—you can come to just listen, enjoy, and bask in the wonder of communal storytelling. However, should you want to step up to the mic to share a story that fits in with the evening's theme, sign-up begins at 5:30 PM and we'll fit in as many stories as possible during the allotted time of life pulling a switcheroo. Five minutes may seem like a lot of time, but it goes by quickly. And we'll have a timekeeper to keep you on-track.

With any luck, your plans won't change if I've piqued your interest about heading to PetSkull the evening of Thursday, September 26. We can't wait to hear all about the changes life served up during the February installment of "Tales from the Taproom!"

Cards on the Table at Upcoming MPL Teen Hang-Out Event

Feb 24, 2026 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



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

Sometimes you just have to take a chance.

I eyed my opponents across the table. Who was likely to be bold? Who would play it safe? Who would back down and who would rise to the challenge? I had to make a decision and I needed this point. I needed every point.

Other players slid their cards across the table. Then suddenly it clicked. I tried not to let my face betray anything as I played my card.

The judge picked up the cards we had played, letting his glance fall on the first one. Mine? I couldn't tell. But, a smile flickered across his mouth. He read the prompt again for us, solemn as the occasion demanded. "Hey, kids. I'm Sensei Todd. Today, I'm gonna teach you how to defend yourself against—A bountiful harvest of squashes and corns!"

The table erupted with laughter and I grinned. Definitely taking this point.

If that sounds ridiculous, it's supposed to. The game is "Cards Against Humanity," first unleashed on an unsuspecting world in 2011, and it's all about ridiculous, off-the-wall answers. Many iterations of the original game have given us one that's safe to play with All Ages, [Cards Against Humanity—Family Edition](#). On Thursday, March 12th, the doors will open at the lovely Balkansky Room (on the Second Floor of Manitowoc Public Library) and Teens ages 11 to 18 will be able to test their wits against the draw of the cards. By which I mean we'll play [Cards Against Humanity—Family Edition](#), and eat snacks. The snacks and cards will be provided!

Gameplay is quick and simple. Each player is dealt seven cards with words or phrases on them like "A huge honkin' carrot", "Underpants", or "Joining the army". The player designated as the judge for that hand draws a prompt card with a phrase that needs to be completed and reads it to the group. Then, each player completes the phrase with a response from the cards in their hand. The judge reads all the responses and picks the funniest response. That player gets a point. The player with the most points after the agreed upon number of rounds wins the game.

It all sounds very straightforward until you realize that there is some strategy involved. You can try to play to the judge and tailor your response to their sense of humor. You can play to the crowd—the bigger the laugh, the more likely the judge will be to pick your card. You can go for the gross-out, hoping to shock them into the laughter, or be existentially weird and see who follows you down the rabbit hole. You can forget about trying to win at all and just amuse yourself with your answers.



Kristin Keck

So, come for the laughs, come for the wit, come for the competition, come for the snacks—did I mention there will be snacks? Be there, Thursday, March 12, at 6 PM in the Balkansky Community Room for [Cards Against Humanity—Family Edition](#)!