

## Wisconsin Valley Library Service



### July 2018, Issue 6

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#### TEACH Grants Awarded to WVLS Libraries



In February, Governor Walker signed Assembly Bill 572 into law, which expanded eligibility in the Technology for Educational Achievement program (TEACH) to include certain rural community libraries.

TEACH provides information technology grants to school districts to improve technology infrastructure and technology training grants for educators.

The Demmer Memorial Library in Three Lakes was one of 24 libraries in the state to be awarded an Information Technology Library Infrastructure grant, and applied for just over \$5,000 to improve its technology in its expansion project.

"As the base for providing internet, telephone, public access, and security, a complete network system overhaul was planned as part of the Demmer Library's remodel and expansion project," said director Erica Brewster. "The funds from this TEACH grant will be used to support part of the wiring cost to provide a solid and reliable digital "neural network" throughout the building. The materials used should last us well into the library building's next 50 years."

Congratulations to the Demmer Library!

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Several WVLS libraries received TEACH Educational Technology Training grants through a WVLS consortium grant application. The purpose of these grants are to help train teachers and librarians on the use of educational technology.

The grant funds will be applied to the Tech Days Workshop on September 19 in Wausau, as well as for a STEM/STEAM-related workshop in Spring 2019. Directors of the libraries eligible for the grant will receive lodging, mileage reimbursement, and funds to cover a sub at the library. The money will also be used to off-set speaker fees at both workshops.

The WVLS member libraries that received grants are: Antigo, Crandon, Dorchester, Granton, Greenwood, Edith Evans (Laona), Loyal, Owen, Neillsville, Rib Lake, Jean M. Thomsen (Stetsonville), Edward Demmer (Three Lakes), Thorp, Wabeno, Westboro, Western Taylor County (Gilman), and Withee.

Congratulations!

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### I & C Grants Awarded



For the past three years, WVLS has offered a competitive grant to a member library to develop and implement a service for their community that is both innovative and collaborative. Funds available for this project were between \$1,000-\$10,000, with the possibility of more than one grant being funded. The deadline to apply for the 2018 Grant was at the end of May.

Owen Public Library is using the funds to build a gazebo in Fremont Park, which is located across the street from the library. The gazebo will have benches for people to sit and use the library's wi-fi during after hours. The city of Owen, a collaborator in the project, wants its community residents to have a safe, well-lit, public space with wi-fi access. The library is hoping people use the space to use the wi-fi, enjoy nature and attend community events. Work on the park is scheduled to begin this summer.

Tomahawk Public Library plans on purchasing STEAM bins to be used in partnership with Kinship of Tomahawk and St. Mary's Catholic School. The materials will be used to sustain after-school programs at the library. The goal of the bins is to expand educational needs of families in the community, and the program will begin in the fall.

Congratulations to Owen and Tomahawk!

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## MCPL Unveils Early Literacy Center



On June 20, Marathon County Public Library unveiled its new Early Literacy Center, a special section in the children's area of its Wausau Headquarters. It's designed especially for children ages 0-5 years.

The opening of the Center was commemorated with a special ribbon cutting ceremony with the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce.

Early literacy is a term used to describe what children know about language before learning how to read. This includes knowing what letters look and sound like, knowing words that rhyme, knowing how a book works and that printed text has

meaning. The Center will have a direct focus on these practices and skills.

Also featured in the Center are:

- Rotating themes and specialized activities to better help parents guide their child.
- A cozy reading nook where adults and children can share books together.
- Wall manipulatives and puzzles that will help little hands develop fine motor skills.
- A magnetic wall where children can build words with different letters.

The new Early Literacy Center would not be possible without the following generous donors: the Marathon County Public Library Foundation, the Wausau Early Birds Rotary Club, and the Community Foundation of Northcentral Wisconsin.

Pictured in the photo from left to right are: Laura Lawler, MCPL Library Specialist, Ralph Illick, MCPL Director, Taylor Weinfurter, MCPL Children's Librarian and Sharyn Heili, MCPL Children's Librarian.

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### Crandon Library Rocks



The Crandon Public Library is taking advantage of the "Libraries Rock" Summer Library Program.

To kick off its summer activities, the library displayed a rock theme with books, a guitar, and 45-rpm vinyl records. It also has a display of famous rockers, including Elvis Presley.

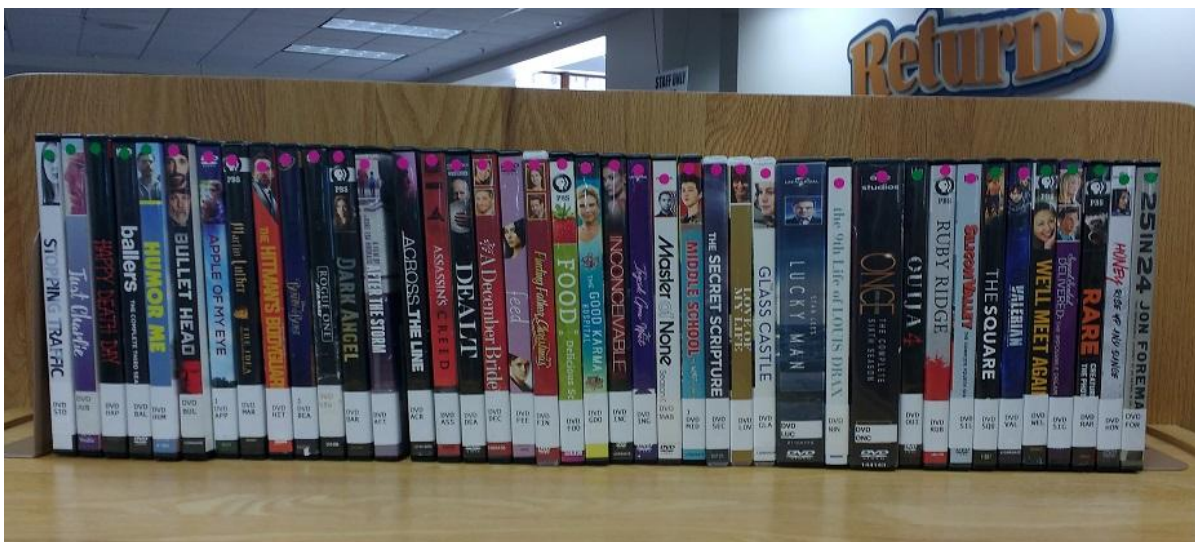
Library Director Stephanie Schmidt said she plans to keep the display up through the month of June.

"I have most of the items from my own music collection," Schmidt said. "My parents have always been very into the oldies, so we have a lot of memorabilia."

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## Dots & DVDs



Last month, the Marathon County Public Library started placing a small, colored dot on the spine of both adult and juvenile DVD cases.

DVDs (movies, documentaries, but not re-releases such as Disney movies) released in 2017 have a pink dot, and those released in 2018 have green. Two different colors will be used for DVDs released in 2019 and 2020.

"We advertise this feature for our patrons so that they can spot newer DVDs both on the shelves, and on our display," said Mary Stachowiak, Lead Library Specialist at MCPL. "The patron response has been positive. Many have expressed their appreciation to the Pages shelving in the area."

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## New Partnership



Effective July 1, WVLS will have a new partnership with the Northern Waters Library

Service.

The partnership was approved by the WVLS and NWLS Boards of Trustees in May. Its purpose is to provide more effective services for all of the libraries in both systems.

What is the partnership all about? Read the "Monday Mentions" on July 2 for the official announcement.

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### Trustee Training Week Set for August



Registration for Trustee Training Week is now open!

Wisconsin Trustee Training Week was developed in 2014 by the Nicolet Federated Library System with the goal of providing high-quality webinars to public library boards, friends, and trustees in Wisconsin.

“The goal of Trustee Training Week is to bring professional development opportunities to library boards throughout Wisconsin,” said organizer Jean

Anderson. “This year’s lineup covers some board basics like orientation and meetings, to more targeted topics like advocating for your library and learning how to tell your library story with data. There is something for boards of all sizes and experiences.”

One webinar will be given at 12 p.m. during the week of August 13-17. The webinars will also be recorded and archived if they are missed.

Speakers this year include: Krista Ross, Christine Hage, Patrick “PC” Sweeney, Shannon Schultz and Jody Hoesly.

You must register for each webinar that you want to attend. Once you register, you will receive a link to sign in on the day the webinar takes place.

For more information on Wisconsin Trustee Training Week, and to register for the webinars, [visit the website](#).

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**Want something featured in the August newsletter, or are you doing**

**something in your library that you want to share?**  
**Contact Jamie @ [jmatczak@wvls.org](mailto:jmatczak@wvls.org).**

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