

## Wisconsin Valley Library Service



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### Save the Date for the Director's Retreat



The WVLS Director's Retreat will be held on Thursday, September 26 at Tribute Golf Course and Bunkers Bar and Grill, located at 1001 Golf Club Rd in Wausau.

This biyearly event will be a full day geared toward the needs of library directors. Topics are still in development. Participants will walk away with learning objectives, resources, and ideas they can incorporate in their libraries.

Breakfast, lunch and mileage reimbursement will be provided. The event will also count toward public library certification hours.

Watch for more information on this event in upcoming newsletters and in Monday Mentions.

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### 11 Things to Know About...Tammie Blomberg

Tammie Blomberg has been the director at the Rib Lake Public Library for almost five years, and has worked at the library for 12. She and her husband, Roger, have been married for 29 years and have four grown children, 2



grandsons and 3 grandchildren on the way this summer. Here are 11 more things you can know about her.

1. What do you like to do when not working? *I like to watch television, read (of course), crochet, play number puzzles (like Sudoku), and a few strategy and escape IPad games.*
2. What fictional place would you most like to go? *I'd take the Tardis to Narnia.*
3. If you could turn any activity into an Olympic sport, what would you have a good chance at winning medal for? *Binge watching Netflix.*
4. Are you usually early or late? *I'm known to be embarrassingly early, but as I get older and move slower, I'm now often running late.*
5. How do you relax after a hard day of work? *TV, a book, a game, crochet, or some combination of these.*
6. What's the best thing that happened to you last week? *I spent time with family and helped plan a fall wedding.*
7. What's the title of the current chapter of your life? *3 Babies, 2 Showers, and a Wedding*
8. Sushi or tacos? *I love both, but I had tacos yesterday, so right now I want sushi!*
9. What animal would be the most terrifying if it could speak? *A Hodag or shark*
10. Which celebrity chef would you like most to make you dinner? *Bobby Flay*
11. What is the funniest thing a library patron has said to you? *A patron came to the desk during tax season and handed me a pile of papers. He asked, "Is that all you need? Do I just wait?" I asked what the papers were, and he told me "The IRS said I could e-file at the library."*

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Storytime at the Farmer's Market



If you visit the Farmer's Market in Tomahawk this summer, chances are you will see a storytime happening.

"I was spending a lot of time in La Crosse several years ago, because my daughter was attending college there, and I was there for the WLA Fall Conference," said Annette Miller, children's librarian at the Tomahawk Public Library. "The La Crosse Public Library was doing a storytime at its local Farmer's Market, and I thought it was a great idea."

In January 2017, Annette presented the idea to the organization who oversees the market in Tomahawk. The Tomahawk Main Street Farmer's Market is held every Tuesday from June through October. It was decided that storytime would be held in early June, before the start of the summer library program. It was an immediate success!

"People who hadn't gone to the market before started to attend for the storytime, and then stayed and shopped at the market," Annette said. "Also, people who didn't visit the library saw that we were at the market and started listening to our stories. Community members were reminded of the library's existence."

Annette said the response was also well received among market vendors. In 2018, the library held a storytime in June, July and August, which were also successful.

This summer, the library will hold a storytime every Tuesday for six weeks, in conjunction with the summer library program.

"In the case of excessive rain or heat, we hold the program in the library," Annette said. "It has been so much fun. If your community has a farmer's market, I highly recommend reaching out and partnering."

For more information on this program, you can contact Annette at the Tomahawk Public Library at 715-453-2455 or [amiller@tomahawk.lib.wi.us](mailto:amiller@tomahawk.lib.wi.us).

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## Harry Potter Escape Room at MCPL



The *Harry Potter* books and films have transported millions of people to Hogwarts, Diagon Alley and other locales within the wizarding world. In March, the Marathon County Public Library provided tweens, teens and adults with a multi-sensory, interactive and

magical experience with "Escape from the Deathday Dungeon: A Harry Potter Escape Room Experience."

Over the course of two days during spring break, nearly 80 attendees attempted to escape from the room in 45 minutes or less. The scenario? *Deep within the dungeons of Hogwarts, Nearly Headless Nick is hosting a dinner party in honor of his Deathday. While in attendance, you and your group somehow get trapped in the dungeon with no living being around to help let you out. Will you be able to make it out before you perish and become a ghost, too?*

MCPL Library Specialist Laura Lawler created the escape room scenario from scratch. She used the WVLS Breakout EDU escape room kit, objects from past programs, items she personally owned or borrowed from friends, and a few newly-purchased materials to furnish the room and make it as enchanting as possible. In addition, she also handmade props with help from members of MCPL's Teen Advisory Group (TAG).

Due to its massive success, "Escape from the Deathday Dungeon: A Harry Potter Escape Room Experience" will again be offered at MCPL Wausau July



29 through August 1, with registration opening July 1. For more information, visit [www.mcpl.us](http://www.mcpl.us) or call 715-261-7220. (Submitted by Dan Richter).

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*Are you interested in hosting your own escape room at your library? You can book the Breakout EDU escape room kit through the WVLS makerspace program. Check out <https://wvls.org/equipment-for-booking/> for guidance on how to book and to see all of the makerspace items available.*

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## Library Card Sign-Up Month Has Toy Story Tie In



This September Disney and Pixar’s “Toy Story 4” characters Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Bo Peep and friends are joining the American Library Association on an adventure to promote the value of a library card as [Library Card Sign-up Month](#) Honorary Chairs.

In their new role, they will remind the public that signing up for a library card opens a world of infinite possibilities: libraries offer resources and services that help people pursue their passions and give students the tools to succeed in school and beyond.

The Toy Story crew knows library cards help bring great stories to life. From borrowing books, movies, or museum passes, to enjoying story time or group play, there’s no end to the exciting activities you can access with a library card.

A variety of “Toy Story 4” posters, stickers and bookmarks are available now for purchase through the ALA Store at [alastore.ala.org](http://alastore.ala.org).

Next month, free library card artwork as well as other print and digital graphics featuring “Toy Story 4” characters will be available for libraries to use. Sample tools, including a proclamation, press release, radio PSA scripts and social media posts will also be provided.

In “Toy Story 4,” coming to theaters nationwide on June 21, Woody has always felt confident about his place in the world and that his priority is taking care of his kid, whether that’s Andy or Bonnie. But when Bonnie adds a reluctant new

toy called “Forky” to her room, a road trip adventure alongside old and new friends will show Woody how big the world can be for a toy.

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. During the month, the ALA and libraries unite in a national effort to ensure every child signs up for their own library card. For more information please visit [ala.org/librarycardsignup](https://ala.org/librarycardsignup).

- Heather Cho, Campaign Specialist, Communications and Marketing Office,  
ALA

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**Want something featured in the June newsletter?**  
**Is your library doing something that you want to share?**  
**Contact Jamie @ [jmatczak@wvls.org](mailto:jmatczak@wvls.org).**

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