

Wisconsin Valley Library Service



AND NOBODY ASKED IF I WAS READY." – Sarah Kay



WVLS Devotes Web Page to 2020 Census



WVLS is proud to launch a new web page devoted to the 2020 Census.

The page will help assist public libraries with fact sheets, timelines and social media shares

Why should the libraries and the public care about the 2020 Census? Below are four key points.

Federal Funds and Grants

State, county, and community grants are based on Census data. This money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and more. Our communities need to be counted accurately so they can receive as much funding as possible.

Fair Representation

The results from the Census are used to reapportion representation of the House of Representatives. If a community is not accurately counted, it may not be awarded the number of seats it deserves. Less seats means less representation.

Redistricting

The Census data is used to track population shifts and this data is used to redraw boundaries of state congressional and legislative districts.

New Business

Businesses use Census data to decide in which communities they will build and invest.

For more information on the 2020 Census and how libraries can help their communities with this project, contact WVLS Public Library Services Consultant Anne Hamland at ahamland@wvls.org or 715-839-5082, ext. 127.

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"Wild Wisconsin" Now Open



Registration is now open for the 8th Annual Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference.

The conference will take place on January 22-23, 2020. Fourteen sessions will be available in 4 different tracks, including Library Management (new!), Adult Services (new!), Small and Mighty, and Tech Trends.

Planning has been underway since April to give you and your staff an excellent conference experience. All 16 public library systems in Wisconsin, along with the Department of Public Instruction, are providing support for this conference.

All of the sessions will be recorded and captioned in case there are some that

you miss.

For more information on the conference, contact Jamie Matczak at jmatczak@wvls.org or 920-455-0668.

Rhinelanders Reopens Carnegie Entrance



After 35 years of having it closed off, the Rhinelanders District Library reopened its original Carnegie entrance in September.

The Rhinelanders District Library opened in 1903. This entrance was closed off when the new addition to the library was added in 1984.

"We've started to have trouble with leaking and freezing in the new area, so we decided to close it off and open the old entrance," said director Virginia Roberts. "People have been very positive about the re-opening."

The library plans on keeping this entrance open for a long time. Patron comments on the library's Facebook page about the reopening were "This takes me back to so many magical childhood days," to "It's like a new library! The space is so open and inviting."

Funds for this project were provided by private donation, with additional funds provided by the Rhinelanders Masonic Lodge #242, "Re-store the Door" Campaign.

Congratulations, Rhinelanders!

Spudmobile Visits Crandon



The Crandon Public Library hosted the [Wisconsin Spudmobile](#) during the 2019 Summer Reading Program.

The Spudmobile is a mobile activity bus that educates visitors on the science of potato farming. Visitors took a virtual journey from the Wisconsin potato fields to the dinner plate. The adults learned which type of potatoes should be used for specific dishes such as mashed, scalloped, and French fries. The children played bug-zapping games on the touch table, which introduced them to potato plant pests.

The Spudmobile has something for everyone, and the best part is, it's free! The Spudmobile is based out of Stevens Point and is funded by the Wisconsin Potato Growers Association. They did not charge a program fee or mileage for visiting the Crandon Public Library.

The library also ran a loaded baked potato bar on the day the Spudmobile visited. All patrons were invited to build and eat a loaded baked potato. The library spent just under \$150.00 on baked potato supplies, including shredded cheese, butter, sour cream, bacon bits, chives, potatoes, food trays, forks, and napkins.



The library staff baked over 100 potatoes in Nesco cookers right at the library. Over 70 patrons dropped in for a tour of the Spudmobile and to try a baked potato.

For more information on the Spudmobile at the Crandon Public Library, contact director Stephanie Schmidt at director@crandonpl.org or 715-478-3784.

MCPL Introduces Board Games

The board game boom is real!



More than 5,000 new board games were introduced into the U.S. market in 2017. Weekly game nights are a great way to unplug and connect with friends and family.

The Marathon County Public Library has introduced a new program that will help people “try-before-you-buy,” or give them something new to do while visiting the library.

MCPL Wausau Headquarters now has a variety of board games available for in-house checkout, housed at the children’s desk. Patrons can request a game by leaving their library card at the desk. Then, they can retrieve their card upon returning the game and its contents.

The game selection includes classics like chess, Scrabble, Sorry!, Monopoly, and Yahtzee; fun crowd-pleasers like Pictionary, Taboo, and Exploding Kittens; and epic strategy games like Risk, Ticket to Ride, and Dungeons & Dragons. Games geared toward younger patrons such as Candyland, The Ladybug Game, and the Dinosaurs Matching Game are also available.

All ages are welcome to check out the games, and there isn't a time limit on check out. For more information on this program, call the MCPL-Wausau Children’s Desk at 715-261-7220.

- Submitted by Laura Lawler, MCPL Library Specialist

Want something featured in the January newsletter?
Is your library doing something that you want to share?
Contact Jamie @ jmatczak@wvls.org.

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