

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL EVENTS

COMPILED BY MEG JONES | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Lectures, museum exhibits and other events are scheduled in Wisconsin to commemorate the state being the first to ratify the 19th Amendment on June 10, 1919.

Ongoing: Wisconsin Historical Society's exhibit, "The Women's Hour Has Struck, Wisconsin: The First State to Ratify the 19th Amendment," in the Wisconsin state Capitol rotunda. It will be on display until the Capitol Christmas tree is installed in November.

May 19: noon to 4 p.m. Neenah Historical Society opens an exhibit on the impact of the 19th Amendment, Octagon House, 343 Smith St., Neenah. Opening day features an ice cream social, neenahhistoricalsociety.com

June 5: 5 p.m. Lecture on local suffrage movements by author Ruth Page Jones, Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum, 101 W. Main St., Waukesha. \$15 entry fee, light refreshments provided. waukeshacountymuseum.org/events

June 6: 8:30 a.m. Lecture on efforts to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote by Rebecca Kleefisch, executive director of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and former lieutenant governor. Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel, 375 S. Moorland Road, Brookfield. \$35 for Waukesha County Business Alliance members; nonmembers should call (262) 542-4249 to buy tickets. waukesha.org/events-programs/recurring/amp/

June 10: Noon. Women's suffrage centennial celebration at state Capitol including speakers and the unveiling of the 19th Amendment. Public viewing of Wisconsin's original 19th amendment document, a tunic and collection of suffrage buttons and sashes from noon to 10 p.m.

June 10: 5 p.m. Parade of Progress, town square, downtown Janesville. my.lwv.org/wisconsin/lwv-centennial-celebration-events

June 10: 5:30 p.m. Women's suffrage centennial kickoff social, Hixon House Garden, 429 7th St. North, La Crosse. my.lwv.org/wisconsin/lwv-centennial-celebration-events

June 11: 7 p.m. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel event, "Women and Power: A Right to be Heard." Six prominent Wisconsin women share stories about their path to power and influence. Bergstrom Hall, Mount Mary University; enter the campus from the 92nd Street entrance, just south of Burleigh Street. (Use student parking lot B.) The event is free.

June 19: 5 p.m. Re-enactor portrayal of Wisconsin suffragist Jessie Jack Hooper, The Howard, 405 Washington Ave., Oshkosh. my.lwv.org/wisconsin/lwv-centennial-celebration-events

June 23: Noon. Short program by Wisconsin League of Women Voters on the 19th Amendment, meet at Forward statue on Capitol Square in Madison.

Aug. 17: 2 p.m. Open house at suffragist leader Theodora Youman's home by New Berlin Historical Society. newberlinhistoricalsociety.org/

Bob Kann, an author, speaker and former education professor, condenses the suffrage story, with an emphasis on Wisconsin, into a one-hour talk, "How the Battle for Women's Suffrage was Won." For more information, check his website, bobkann.com, or contact the venue.

Kann will speak on the following dates:

May 16: 6:30 p.m., Waukesha Public Library, 321 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha.

May 21: noon, Wisconsin Historical Society Museum, 30 N. Carroll St., Madison.

May 22: 7 p.m., Marshall Community Library, 605 Waterloo Road, Marshall.

May 23: 6 p.m., Mukwonago Public Library, 511 Division St., Mukwonago.

May 29: 6:30 p.m., Burlington Public Library, 166 E. Jefferson St., Burlington.

June 5: 6 p.m., New Berlin Public Library, 15105 Library Lane, New Berlin.

June 6: 6:30 p.m., SC Johnson Golden Rondelle, 1525 Howe St., Racine.

Please send information about any other women's suffrage or 19th Amendment events to Nancy Stohs, nancy.stohs@jrn.com.

Author Bill Stokes to visit Waukesha Public Library

WAUKESHA — Join the Waukesha Public Library on May 22, at 7 p.m., for a visit from author and newspaper columnist Bill Stokes. Stokes will speak about his new novel, 'Margaret's War', which focuses on a small Wisconsin town struggling with the reality of living with a German POW camp.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion and book signing. Books

will be available for purchase. Call 262-524-3682 or visit waukeshapubliclibrary.org for any questions. The Waukesha Public Library is located at 321 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha.

Hearing Loop system can be found at many Waukesha County libraries

Service helps patrons enjoy library offerings

By Jill Fuller

Libraries are known to be quiet places. Most people immediately start whispering when they step through the door, while the shushing librarian is a common and well-known stereotype. But for those who are hard of hearing, being able to hear a presenter or the librarian behind the desk is crucial to a favorable library experience.

As librarians, we believe that libraries should be accessible for everyone, including those who are hard of hearing. This is why many Waukesha County libraries have installed hearing loops in their meeting rooms and at their service desks. To date, the public libraries in Brookfield, Delafield, Elm Grove, Menomonee Falls, Mukwonago, Muskego, New Berlin, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee, and Waukesha all have some type of hearing loop available to any visitor who may be hard of hearing.

A hearing loop is a sound system that transfers sound from a microphone or TV directly to a hearing device or cochlear implant. Headsets are also available for anyone who does not have a hearing device.

Angela Meyers, the inclusive services coordinator for the

hearing aids; after Angela was fitted with them, the presenter spoke into a microphone.

“It was like the sound was coming directly into my ears, but without the background noise. I could focus on what the speaker was saying,” she said. “I came back from that information session a changed person. I had to help our libraries get hearing loops installed at their service desks and in their meeting rooms.”

When Meyers approached the public libraries in Waukesha County about this idea, the response was overwhelming.

“Everyone deserves a library they are able to use fully, comfortably and easily. So when we learned what a difference a hearing loop makes for people with hearing impairment, we were eager to do it,” said Betsy Bleck, director at Oconomowoc Public Library.

In 2014 and 2015, the Bridges Library System received a grant with Library Services and Technology Act funds to install the hearing loops and the libraries came up with a portion of the cost for equipment and installation. A few not covered in the grant got theirs through private funding.

Waukesha Public Library installed two hearing loops — one in the Community Room and circulation desk.

and feel included in the community,” said Kori Hall, head of program development and community engagement at the library.

At Brookfield Public Library, Public Services Manager Cathy Tuttrup said that the hearing loop “made all the difference” for a woman who attended a class at the library. In fact, “she came to the class because she saw that we had the loop.” Another visitor to the Brookfield library uses the hearing loop regularly when he and his wife attend programs there.

According to his wife, “they have made the programs much more enjoyable for him.”

If you or a loved one are interested in using the hearing loop at one of the libraries listed above, ask a librarian or look for the Hearing Loop symbol on the library’s front door, desks, or entrance to the meeting room. You can find more information at www.bridgeslibrarysystem.org/hearing-loops.

(Jill Fuller is the coordinator of marketing and communications for the Bridges Library System.)



Fuller

Bridges Library System, first learned about hearing loops at a training session for librarians in 2014. The librarians had the chance to test the hearing loop system by wearing demo

“We feel it’s important to have them so anyone with hearing loss can easily use our services

Thursday, 05/16/2019 Pag.A05

Copyright © 2019 Conley Group. All rights reserved 5/16/2019

From podcasts to coding class, modern libraries are focusing on programs and services over paper media

[Erik S. Hanley](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Published 8:57 a.m. CT May 29, 2019 | Updated 7:52 a.m. CT June 3, 2019

CONNECT [TWEET](#) [LINKEDIN](#) COMMENT EMAIL MORE



Shhh.

In the past, librarians often shushed patrons for being too loud. Now they may be shushing those spreading the idea that libraries are just quiet places with books.

“The idea that it’s a quiet place is completely a thing of the past,” said Mukwonago Community Library Director Angela Zimmermann. “I’m the loudest one here.”

Rooted in paper media, libraries still offer a forest of books — and in Mukwonago, a “quiet corner” for those looking for the traditional experience. However, the focus at libraries across the Milwaukee suburbs has shifted to services and programs to keep up with the times.

Waukesha Library Director Bruce Gay said libraries now often focus on things that bring people into the library — like a variety of programs — rather than just things people take out. In Waukesha, for example, patrons can participate in an adult coloring book program.

What’s happened at the Brookfield Public Library over the last 10 years exemplifies the trend. In 1999, the library offered 44 adult programs, drawing 587 attendees, and 187 children’s programs,

drawing 7,999 attendees, according to Catherine Tuttrup, public services manager for the library. In 2018, that number had jumped to 271 adult programs, with 4,239 attendees, and 357 children's programs, with 18,254 attendees.

To attract more patrons, the Oak Creek Library is working on a new English as a second language program.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing and reaching a population we haven't targeted with programs in the past," said Oak Creek Library Director Jill Lininger.

In Mukwonago, the library is traveling outside its walls with a book bike.



The Mukwonago Public Library is bringing the library outside its walls with the new book bike. (Photo: Submitted)

"The idea of the book bike is to get as much out in the community and outside the library's four walls as is possible," Zimmermann said.

Gay said society has changed, and libraries are doing their best to keep up. Years ago, Gay said, if someone needed to do plumbing work, they'd get a book about it, often from the library. Now, they can just visit YouTube for a tutorial. That fact hasn't escaped library directors.

Oconomowoc Public Library

The Oconomowoc Public Library has its own YouTube channel, where visitors can find videos from the "filmless film club." According to Director Betsy Bleck, teens were interested in learning about film editing, script writing, acting and more, so they put together a club at the library. The group makes short films on the library's YouTube channel.

Similarly, two Oak Creek librarians have started a monthly podcast talking about books. Lininger called it a "reader's advisory" podcast. So far only a few episodes have been produced, but Lininger said more staff members and friends of the library are being recruited as guests.

In a similar vein, the Cedarburg Public Library is hosting its own radio show online.

Library Director Linda Pierschalla said the idea came from a staff member who likes internet radio. The show covers the community, informing listeners what community groups are up to as well as some original creative programming.

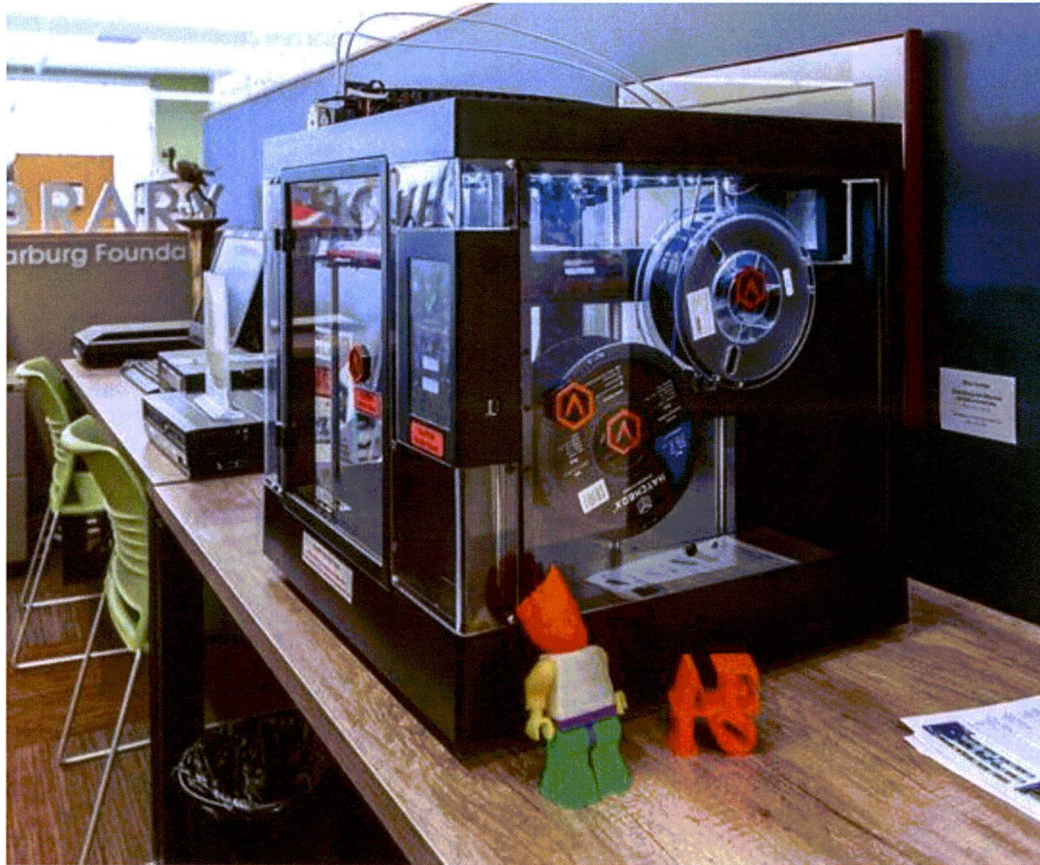


Buy Photo

The Oak Creek Public Library railroad is a popular attraction for youngsters. (Photo: Scott Ash/Now News Group)

Another unique offering from Cedarburg is the availability of virtual reality equipment and a coding class for drones.

"If staff members have a passion about something and they think it will generate community interest, we'll try it," Pierschalla said. "Staff members who are very creative can coordinate programs they like. So far, all of the programs have caught on."



Buy Photo

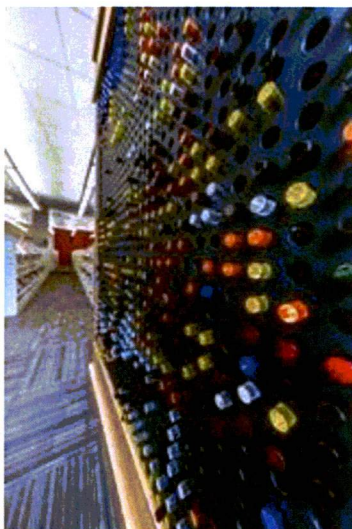
The Cedarburg Public Library is one of a few area libraries to provide access to 3D desktop printers as seen on Thursday, May 2, 2019. The equipment was sponsored by the Cedarburg Friends of the Library. (Photo: Scott Ash/Now News Group)

Linking with schools

Because of this, the school district has shown interest in getting involved with classes coming to the library, such as 3D printing, Pierschalla said.

The library hopes to expand its digital lab into more of a makerspace—a place where people can create, invent and learn. The library has a five-year strategic plan, and community conversations lead the charge.

Waukesha's library is also working with its school district by sharing a full-time librarian. Gay said the library pays part of the benefits package while the school district pays the salary. The librarian spends 20 hours each week at each location.



The illumination peg board at the Oak Creek Public Library gives children a fun interactive play experience. (Photo: Scott Ash/Now News Group)

“It has always been difficult for libraries in schools to know what the other is doing, so this increases communication and gets kids more connected to the library,” Gay said, adding that the library has seen the highest summer reading participation since the partnership began a little over a year ago.

Maker and study spaces

The Mukwonago library’s MetaSpace 511 opened in November 2017 to “astronomical” interest, according to Zimmermann. It offers virtual and augmented reality, coding, electronics, 3D printing, laser-engraving, sewing, robotics and a plethora of DIY programs.

Oak Creek is working on adding a makerspace to its offerings. The library, which was built a few years ago as part of the Oak Creek Civic Center, originally was going to have a makerspace from the start, but that proved to be too costly at the time. It hasn’t been forgotten, however, and it’s still being worked on, Lininger said.

The library’s study spaces are often filled with students working on homework, Lininger said, highlighting that while many modern users might not always check things out from the library, they still use the space.

Another space Oak Creek offers is the “imagination play space.” In this space, a different “storefront” is created each month. Thus far a veterinary clinic, grocery store and pizza place have all been created.

“That’s been really well received,” Lininger said.

Waukesha's library has realized the benefits of dedicated spaces for groups, activities and study and is working to redesign its first floor to accommodate more meeting rooms and public spaces; currently, there's only one meeting room.

Illustrating the demand for such spaces, in Brookfield there were 1,787 meeting room reservations in 2018, which doesn't include those using smaller rooms for study groups.

Target audience: everyone

What demographic do libraries typically target? For many, it's families with small children. But in Oconomowoc, Bleck said her target audience is "everyone."

"We must (serve a broad audience), it's our job to serve everybody in the community, from the youngest babies to the oldest adults," she said.

The circulation numbers in Oconomowoc show about half of the items being checked out are for adults, and about half are for children/teens.

Bleck said the library sees an explosion of kids for summer reading, but overall "we see everybody come through the doors."

While most libraries find it a challenge to attract teens and millennials, Bleck said they seem to visit often in Oconomowoc. She attributes the library's "great teen programs and wonderful collection of items" to the success with that demographic.

Circulation is up

Although libraries are adjusting their approach by offering more programs, that doesn't come with a corresponding decrease in circulation. In fact, many area libraries have reported increases.

In Mukwonago, circulation numbers are up 2% compared to 10 years ago, with 2011-2013 being especially high due to expansion into a new building.

Patrons at the Oak Creek library checked out 310,000 items in 2018 compared to 225,000 in 1998. Visitor numbers have also increased, with 202,390 people walking through the doors in 2018 compared to about 146,000 in 1998.

In Cedarburg, circulation hit 185,711 in 2018. Although 10 years ago, the library saw 240,515 items checked out, Pierschalla attributed that to the economic recession. Twenty years ago, circulation was 164,095.

Bleck agreed that the recession skewed the numbers in some cases. For Oconomowoc, 2018 circulation was 295,526 compared to 281,685 in 2008 and 185,281 in 2000, according to the library's annual report.

Other libraries are seeing different kinds of changes in their circulation. In Brookfield, Tuttrup said, circulation of regular library items is down, but e-circulation numbers are up. While the library didn't have a corresponding statistic in 2008, in 2018 the library circulated 56,699 electronic items.

Waukesha's circulation was 1.046 million in 2018 and 1.3 million in 2008. But Gay said about 100,000 ebooks were also checked out in 2018, which aren't included in the normal circulation figure.

Ebooks and audiobooks

One element not always included in normal circulation numbers are ebooks and audiobooks, which are often checked out via apps such as OverDrive. Although they are often not part of the normal circulation tallies, they are still important, Pierschalla said.

"Digital books are still beneficial because people still need a library card," she said. "Once in the library, they can see the other services we offer. A lot of people really get hooked on ebooks and audiobooks."

There is a bit of a monetary downside to digital books, however: They can be expensive. Gay explained that the whole state participates in one large ebook buying pool. While a book may cost \$9.99 to an individual, a library may have to pay \$89.99 for the same book because "publishers are worried the libraries are hitting their bottom line." Some publishers also require libraries to repurchase ebooks after a number of years. Gay said they are operating on the perception that a physical book would have deteriorated in that time.

Because of the ability for people to access information whenever and wherever they want, the digital side of the library has taken off. Bleck said the Oconomowoc library is working on "passive programming" where people don't have to come in at specific times but something is offered over a long period of time, such as a crafting event.

Marketing missteps?

A number of directors said the biggest issue facing libraries is marketing, making the public aware of their offerings and overcoming the misconception that a library is nothing but a place for books.

People "don't know what we offer," Gay said. "We don't promote our own value."

He isn't alone.

"We really lack in marketing," Zimmermann said. "Word of mouth is big."

About three years ago, word of mouth about the Mukwonago library wasn't the most positive. Zimmermann said she took over shortly after a massive restructuring, and it was a challenge.

“There really has been a complete focus on revitalizing the library,” she said. “We spent the last few years building partnerships with the Rotary club, schools, businesses, the chamber of commerce, the farmers market and more.”

The new programming focus and other offerings like the MetaSpace 511 played a big role in reinvigorating the library, she said.

Not the final chapter

In terms of space, libraries are still, visually, places filled with books. But if you peek just below the surface, there are many more things to see and do. “We’re not just a book warehouse anymore,” Lininger said.

“We’re not just a book warehouse anymore.”

Jill Lininger, Oak Creek Public Library director

Tuttrup said libraries need to balance the traditional with the new. “We still have a number of newspapers and magazines that people read in print every day,” she said. “But we also provide a number of electronic resources, including books, audiobooks, magazines and electronic databases.”

Pewaukee's [new library director, Nan Champe](#), said traditional services provided by libraries will continue to be relevant, but the role of the library is evolving.

“Change is a reality,” she said. “As a library director, I am dedicated to ensuring that the public library remains a community resource.”

Gay said he’s OK with being known as the place to go for a book — but he doesn’t want the sentence to stop there.

“I don’t mind being known as the place people can go to get good books,” he said. “If people read more, they are more likely to vote, volunteer and more. We are about reading, but other things too. Take a look at our offerings; we’re free, friendly and you might find something you like.”

Bleck questioned the perception that libraries are struggling.

“They’re amazing places of learning; they’re open and free,” she said. “Everybody and anybody is welcome at the library.”

Contact Erik S. Hanley at (262) 875-9467 or erik.hanley@jrn.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@ES_Hanley](#).