

Marathon County Public Library

NEWSLETTER

SPRING

2008



SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

MCPL'S ANNUAL REPORT AND STATISTICS

PHYLLIS CHRISTENSEN — LIBRARY DIRECTOR



2007 was a year-long celebration of 100 years of service at MCPL! There were parties at every location and displays throughout the year highlighting the history and the future of the Library. We also hosted a birthday party for the community on April 15 with over 2,700 attendees!

MCPL's mission is to attract customers to discovery and fun through exploration & entertainment.

Here's how we carried out our mission in 2007:

Technology:

- Expanded computer classes at Wausau and Branches for adults
- Introduced internet timing software to allow customers to reserve PCs at all locations
- 42% of items were checked out at self-service machines, decreasing time spent waiting in line

Traditional services:

- Book collections— 28,623 new items added
- Summer reading fun at all of the libraries
- Book clubs at all locations

Non-traditional Services:

- Convenient location for getting a passport with almost 2000 passports processed
- Rosetta Stone on-line language learning
- Comfortable new areas in which to relax and converse or read at Wausau
- Expanded beverage service to include soda and water on 1st and 2nd floors at Wausau
- Creation of a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) and enhancement of the TeenZone

Volunteer participation:

- Used book sales coordinated by the Friends of the Library for more fun and fundraising
- Many hours and much enthusiasm contributed to the 100th Birthday Celebration
- Endless hours of volunteer help with many other important library projects

Fast Facts for 2007:

In 2007, Marathon County residents increased their use of the Library.

Items checked out: 882,456 (+3.9%)

People Visiting Us: 600,491 (+3.9%)

.....at Wausau Headquarters: 376,290

.....at Branch Locations: 224, 207

Summer Library Program Participants: 5,239 (+9.7%)

Information Searches & Directional Questions: 284,673 (+37%)

Web Page Hits: 436,024 (+23.9%)

Use of Library Internet (not including wireless access): 128,446 (+79.8%)

Libraries in: Athens, Edgar, Hatley, Marathon, Mosinee, Rothschild, Spencer, Stratford, Wausau, as well as online at www.mcpl.us.

DRINKS & SNACKS AT WAUSAU HQ!

RUTH GRAUVOGL—CUSTOMER SERVICES

If "the munchies" strike while you are at the MCPL—Wausau Headquarters, have no fear! We can help!

Soda, bottled water, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice and all your favorite snacks (including chocolate!) are now available at a cost of just 75¢ each!

This has proven to be a very popular service for all ages, so the next time you need a snack, check out the variety at both the first and second-floor customer service desks.

Happy snacking!



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visit us online at
mcpl.us

MCPL'S QUICK TIPS:

- **Need a particular tax form before April 15th?** Call your local MCPL or visit our website for last-minute options.
- **Got a tricky research question or homework assignment, and you don't even know where to start?** Our friendly Reference Desk staff is here to help! Call (715) 261-7230 or use "Ask a Librarian" on our website.
- **Need a reminder (or two) when your library items are due?** Go to our website and sign up for "Email Alerts" under the "My Account" tab.
- **Interested in volunteering at the library?** Call Eileen Fox, our Volunteer Coordinator, at (715) 261-7217, or visit our "Volunteer" webpage.
- **Can't find what you're looking for in our online catalog?** Don't forget about our Interlibrary Loan options, or feel free to suggest a purchase—either in person or via our website!

THE NEW MCPL WEBSITE / FEEDBACK APPRECIATED

BEN KROMBHOLZ—CUSTOMER SERVICES

As you might have noticed, the Marathon County Public Library has significantly redesigned its website!

After several rounds of staff feedback, modifications, tests, and critiques, the new site was uploaded on February 4th, 2008, completing a redesign process that began last October.

The primary goal of the redesign process was to improve the site aesthetically while making site content easier to find. While we feel we've made a huge step forward in this regard, the website improvement process remains ongoing. New features and services will definitely be added to the site as

time goes on.

Now that the new site is up and running, we would very much appreciate feedback from our customers. Tell us what you like and what you don't like. Don't hesitate to be critical! Also, feel free to suggest new features.

We are collecting feedback via the website itself—just go to mcpl.us (yes, we've shortened the address) and click on "Contact Us Online" at the bottom of the page.

Of course, you may also contact the Website Committee directly via phone at (715) 261-7237.

BOOK SALE REPORT

BOB REID—LIBRARY FRIEND

The Friends of the Marathon County Public Library's February Book Sale (Jan. 31-Feb. 3) was very successful thanks to our great patrons and our hard-working volunteers!

Gross sales were \$6,592. Paid advertising totaled \$339, leaving a handsome net profit of \$6,252.

This is the second best net figure in recent February Book Sale history!

The next sale will be April 24-27.



CATCH THE READING BUG @ YOUR LIBRARY!

DIANE PETERSON—CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

Bugs will be everywhere at the library this summer—cute bugs, squiggly bugs, flying bugs, ugly bugs. They will be crawling on the walls and through the book displays. And we couldn't be happier!

This summer's invasion of bugs at the library is all part of the fun of the 2008 Summer Reading Program: Catch the Reading Bug @ Your Library.

Unlike the flu bugs that many have caught this winter, catching a reading bug is a great thing. Imagine your family feverishly reading away the summer, and visiting your library over and over to check out more books to feed that reading bug!

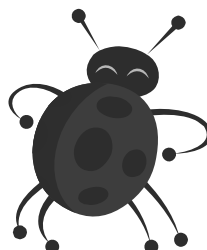
Critters will be featured at many of the programs offered at library locations throughout Marathon County. Chris Langenfeld, a.k.a. "Critter Man," will present a lively, informative and entertaining program about lots of kinds of critters. Dino Tlachac, from Nature's Niche, will present a program about bugs and critters of the rain forest. Making his first appearances in Marathon County this summer will be the Bassmeister, who will have his audience laughing and begging to volunteer, as he tells us all about that "other" use for bugs—as fishing bait!

Many of our favorite performers will also be making appearances this year, including musicians Stuart Stotts and Randy Peterson, storytellers Reid Miller and Rob Reid, magician Bruce Hetzler, and a "Going Buggy" craft program presented by Mary Tooley.

It is easy and fun to join the summer reading club! Reading tickets will be available at every library location. As you read books and attend programs at the library, cross off the bugs on your ticket. When your ticket is full, turn it in at the library for a chance to win fun prizes, and take another ticket to continue your reading. All ages are welcome to participate!

None of our summer fun would be possible without the great support we receive from the Friends of the Library. The Friends provide the funding for most of our summer performers, as well as funds for decorations and prizes. Thank you to the Friends for all that you do to encourage our customers to keep up their reading during the summer.

Come and join us to catch that bug!



FRIENDS' "LIST-SERV"

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of MCPL are in the process of establishing a "List-Serv".

Webopedia.com describes a list-serv as "An automatic mailing list. When e-mail is addressed to a list-serv mailing list, it is automatically broadcast to everyone on the list. The result is similar to a newsgroup or forum, except that the messages are transmitted as e-mail and are therefore available only to individuals on the list."

The Friends group is seeking to obtain the e-mail addresses of all of its membership, as well as other library customers, so it can communicate information about Friends activities, Library activities, special events, etc. in a quick and virtually no-cost manner. No names or e-mail addresses appear in the title block of the list-serv message.

We invite everyone receiving this newsletter to send a note to the MCPL office, listing their e-mail address and their desire to be added to the list-serv. Your e-mail address will be handled confidentially, not sold or given out to any other group, etc. You can trust your library and the Friends group to have a lot of interesting things and events they would like to tell you about.

Sign up for this new program today!

CALLING ALL TEEN WRITERS!

RACHEL CORNELIUS & BECKY SMITH— CUSTOMER SERVICES

Hey, teens! Here is your chance to use your writing talents and abilities to win one of several prizes!

April 13-9 is National Library Week, and as such, this April 17th is our annual Teen Literature Day!

In celebration of Teen Literature Day, the library will be holding a Short Story Contest, open to all Marathon County teens in grades 7 -12. The topic and genre are entirely up to you—let your imagination soar!

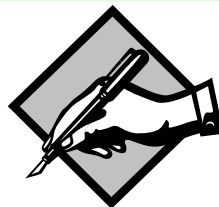
Submissions for the contest should be about ten pages or less and must include your full name, phone number, current grade and school, and be received at the Wausau Headquarters library by April 11th. You may also submit your story to any of our branch

locations by April 4th.

If you can't make it to the library, you may also submit your story as an attachment via email to MCPLTeenZone@gmail.com. Email submissions must also be received by April 11th.

The prizes will be gift certificates from various local retailers, awarded to winners in the following categories: grades 7 & 8; grades 9 & 10; grades 11 & 12; and one overall contest winner.

Winners will be announced April 17th. See the TeenZone webpage for more information: mcpl.us/services/teenzone



LIBRARY DRIVE-THRU @ MCPL—WAUSAU HQ

Beginning in April (exact date pending), the Wausau library will be offering "express" drive-thru services in the lower-level parking lot, just off Washington Street on the building's west side.

(Note: The 24-hr. drive-thru book drop is already open!)

Drive-Thru Services Available:

- Pick up items on hold.
- Drop off library materials. *(Please note: the book drops are open 24/7!)*
- Pay library fines and fees.
- Pick up & return Interlibrary Loans.
- Pick up Homebound Service items.

Services NOT Available *(you will need to come inside to do the following):*

- new customer registration
- reference questions and requests
- online services & searching
- fax services
- computer reservations

Enjoy great library service without even having to get out of your car!

DIGITAL DOWNLOADS FROM OVERDRIVE

Did you know you can check out and download a growing variety of audio books, videos, and music for free, courtesy of the Marathon County Public Library?

Thanks to the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium, MCPL cardholders have access to OverDrive, a download service available on our webpage under "Online Resources."

All you need to do is enter your library card barcode, and you're ready to go!

To transfer the media of your choice to your computer or MP3 player, you will need to download the "OverDrive Media Console," as linked on the first screen you see upon logging in.

After that, browse the site for books, videos, or music that interest you. Choose "add to my cart" to select items for checkout. When you're done, choose "check out," and download your files.

If you need help with this process, feel free to stop by your local MCPL, or call the Reference Desk in Wausau at (715) 261-7230.



VIDEO GAMES @ MCPL NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT!

We now have video games available for checkout at the Wausau Headquarters! Here's some additional information about this new collection:

- **Checkout duration:** 14 days; renewals are not available at this time
- **Borrowing limit:** 1 item at a time; for Marathon County customers only
- **Late fees:** \$1.00 per day

Our video game collection currently consists of Playstation 2 (PS2) and Computer (PC) games, as follows:

- Crash Bandicoot Action Pack (PS2)
- Dance Dance Revolution (PS2)
- Guitar Hero 3: Legends of Rock (PS2)
- NCAA Football 2008 (PS2)
- Need for Speed: Collector's Series (PS2)
- SingStar Pop (PS2)
- Half-Life 2: The Orange Box (PC)
- The Sims 2 Expansion Packs (PC)
- Star Wars: Best of PC (PC)
- The Sims: Complete Collection (PC)
- Age of Mythology (PC)
- Ghost Recon: Advanced Warfighter (PC)
- Medieval 2: Total War (PC)
- BioShock (PC)

This collection is considered a "trial run" of this new service. As such, no new titles will be added this year.

Also, if you are in the Wausau library and would like to play a few games, check out our computers in the TeenZone! These two computers are networked for one-on-one gaming with no time limit. Bring in your own games, or play the ones we've installed for you. These games are as follows:

- Shogun Total War (real-time strategy)
- Impossible Creatures (real-time strategy)
- Pawn 2 (multiplayer chess)
- Descent (arcade-style 3D shooter)

And for some extra-classic gaming action, you might want to check out our selection of board games, available at the Reference Desk for in-house use.

All in all, if you're here for fun and entertainment, MCPL has plenty of options for you!

MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS @ YOUR LIBRARY™

(FOR THE VERY LATEST EVENTS INFORMATION, CHECK OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT WWW.MCPL.US/SERVICES/EVENTS)

For additional info. about the events listed here, please call the location hosting the event(s) that interests you.

ALL MCPL LOCATIONS:

CLOSED: March 23rd (Easter), May 26th (Memorial Day), and July 4th.

"Summer Hours" begin on May 26th, 2008. See mcpl.us for how this will affect the schedule of your local MCPL.

ATHENS (715) 257-7292

4/3-4, Athens Friends Book Sale, 1-8pm on Thu. & 1-5pm on Fri. (Bag Sale)

Preschool Story Time—Tues. @ 10am

EDGAR (715) 352-3155

4/7—Special Passport Event, 4-7pm, see mcpl.us/services/passports for what to bring to apply. One day only.

5/6—Book Club (*90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper), 4pm

Preschool Story Time—Thu. @ 9:30am

HATLEY (715) 446-3537

4/8—Book Club (*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls), 2pm

5/13—Book Club (*One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus), 2pm

5/14-17—Hatley Friends Book Sale, 10am-6pm Wed., 10am-8pm Thu., 1-5pm Fri., & 10am-2pm Sat.

6/10—Book Club (*Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen), 8am

6/23, Curt Strutz: BassMeister

(Summer Library Program), 1pm

Family Story Time—Mon. @ 1pm, Tue. @ 10am

MARATHON (715) 443-2775

5/15, Book Club (*An Unfinished Life* by Mark Spragg), 1pm

Tales for Twos"—2nd & 3rd Wed. of every month @ 10:00am

Preschool Story Time—1st Wed. of every month @ 10:00am

MOSINEE (715) 693-2144

4/8—"The Fashionable Apron" presentation by Anna Straub, 1:30pm

4/28—Book Club (*Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen), 1pm

5/19—Book Club (*Dream When You're Feeling Blue* by Elizabeth Berg), 1pm

5/20-22—Mosinee Friends Book Sale, 9am-5pm Tue.-Wed., 12-5pm Thu.

"Tales for Twos"—Tue. @ 10:30am

Preschool Story Time—Wed. @ 10am

Family Story Time—2nd Mon. of every month @ 6:30pm

ROTHSCHILD (715) 359-6208

4/23—Book Club (*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith), 11am

5/12-17, Rothschild Friends Book Sale, 10am-8pm Mon.-Thu., 10am-5pm Fri., 10am-2pm Sat.

5/28—Book Club (*One Thousand White*

Women by Jim Fergus), 11am

6/26—Bruce Hetzler (Summer Library Program), 11am & 1:30pm

"Tales for Twos"—Mon. @ 10:15am

Preschool Story Time—Tue. & Wed. @ 10:15am

SPENCER (715) 659-3996

3/24,27—Book Club (*One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus), 6:30-7:30pm, 1:30-2:30pm (respectively)

4/21,24—Book Club (*Cross* by James Patterson), 6:30-7:30pm, 1:30-2:30pm (respectively)

Preschool Story Time—the last Tue. of every month @ 10:00am

Family Story Time—every 2nd Mon. @ 6:30pm

STRATFORD (715) 687-4420

4/9—"Home Composting," 7pm

4/21—Book Club (*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See), 1pm

5/19—Book Club (*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls), 1pm

6/16—Book Club (*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne), 1pm

Preschool Story Time—Wed. @ 10:15am

Family Story Time—every 2nd Tue. @ 6:30am

WAUSAU (715) 261-7200

3/26—Classic Book Club (*Death in Venice* by Thomas Mann), 12:00pm

3/31—Author Visit: Elizabeth Carlson (*Scream Quietly*), 10:15am

3/31—Immigration Forum, 7pm

4/15,16—Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meetings, 4pm

4/17, Teen Literature Day, snacks plus Short Story Contest winners announced!

4/21, Women's Night Out Book Club (*Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson), 6:30pm

4/23, Classic Book Club (*Vicar of Wakefield* by Oliver Goldsmith), 12pm

5/19, Women's Night Out Book Club (*Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy), 6:30pm

5/20,21, Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meetings, 4pm

5/28, Classic Book Club (*Epic of Gilgamesh*), 12pm

6/16, Women's Night Out Book Club (*Turtle Warrior* by Mary Ellis), 6:30pm

"Book Babies"—Mon. @ 9:45 & 10:30am

"Tales for Twos"—Tue. @ 9:45am & 10:30am

Preschool Story Time—Wed. & Thu. @ 10:30am

Family Story Time—Sat. @ 10:30am