



## STEM Kits and Tonieboxes

MCPL Wausau has two new kinds of interactive children's materials available for checkout: STEM Kits and Tonieboxes!

**STEM Kits** are perfect for school-age children eager to explore the world of science, technology, and engineering through fun, hands-on learning.

Each STEM Kit includes a variety of nonfiction books and various educational materials such as a mini planetarium projector or a pocket microscope. Our current themes include Birds, Insects, Ocean, Outer Space, and Plants. Whether your child is fascinated by the stars, intrigued by insects, or curious about ocean life, there's a STEM Kit to match their interests!

In addition to books and materials, each kit contains an activity sheet designed to expand learning opportunities. These sheets offer exciting experiments and tasks that encourage kids to apply what they've learned and dive deeper into each subject.

STEM Kits can be checked out for two weeks, providing plenty of time for thorough exploration and discovery. Patrons are allowed to check out one juvenile kit at a time, either a Traveling Tale or STEM Kit. STEM Kits may only be checked out and returned at our Wausau location.

Stop by MCPL Wausau to check out a STEM Kit or Toniebox, and let the adventures in learning begin!

**Tonieboxes** are innovative audio systems designed specifically for little listeners.

Simply turn it on, place a "Tonie" on top, and the fun begins! These engaging devices offer a unique and interactive way to enjoy stories and songs.

Tonieboxes are designed for independent use by children age three and older. (Younger children may enjoy them with adult supervision.)

They can be played directly from the box itself, or users can plug in headphones for independent listening. Tonieboxes have up to seven hours of battery life, allowing you to take your Tonie adventures on the go!

Each Toniebox includes a "Playtime Puppy Tonie" that offers children's songs like "Wheels on the Bus," "If You're Happy and You Know It," and "Baby Shark." Tonie Packs are sets that contain three themed Tonies, like Paw Patrol or Dr. Seuss.

At this time, Tonieboxes and Tonie Packs are available exclusively for Marathon County Public Library cardholders. Patrons are limited to four preloaded reading and learning devices which includes Tonieboxes, Tonie Packs, and various Playaway devices.



## Story Times

Share the joy of reading with your child! Children attending story time must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

### FAMILY STORY TIME

**CHILDREN** Young patrons six years old and younger are invited to join us for stories, songs and more!

**WAUSAU:** Thursdays, 10 a.m.:

7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29

**ATHENS:** Mondays, 10:30 a.m.: 7/1, 7/15, 7/29, 8/12

**EDGAR:** Tuesdays, 11 a.m.: 7/2, 7/16, 8/6, 8/20

**MARATHON CITY:** Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.:

7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22

**ROTHSCHILD:** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.: 7/2, 7/16, 8/6, 8/20

### PLAY & LEARN

**CHILDREN** Join us for a story, music, crafts and much more led by Children's Wisconsin!

**WAUSAU:** Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.:

7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 8/14, 8/21, 8/28

**STRATFORD:** Mondays, 10:30 a.m.: 7/22, 8/26

**Please note:** Additional specially-scheduled story times are listed inside this newsletter and online at [www.mcpl.us/storytime](http://www.mcpl.us/storytime).



## Holiday Hours

All MCPL locations will be closed all day Thu., 7/4, and Sat., 8/31–Mon., 9/2.

## CENTRAL WISCONSIN BOOK FESTIVAL

### Book Festival Updates

We're working hard behind the scenes of the **Central Wisconsin Book Festival**, which will be held **September 26–28** (though we might add an event or two on the 25th.)

This festival is our eighth, with events in **Wausau**, **Stevens Point** and **Wisconsin Rapids**. As of the deadline for this newsletter, we're still working to solidify the lineup, but we do have a few names to share for the first time—an MCPL exclusive!

One of our headline events will feature bestselling author **David Wroblewski**. David will join us in Stevens Point to share his novel "**Familiaris**," published earlier this year and already picked for Oprah's Book Club! "**Familiaris**" is a prequel to his acclaimed 2008 novel "**The Story of Edgar Sawtelle**." We're looking at the evening of Saturday, September 28, but stay tuned for more details!



Fiction author **Andrew Graff** will be discussing his new novel "**True North**" for one of the first festival events on Thursday, September 26. (Wausau location TBD.) Andrew joined us in 2021 for his debut novel, "**Raft of Stars**," and we look forward to hearing more about the new one, set in Wisconsin and full of life, love, family drama and whitewater rafting.



We're also happy to share that popular Wisconsin suspense author **Hannah Morrissey** will be in Stevens Point, with the date/time still being worked out. Hannah is the author of the **Black Harbor** series, novels that occasionally get tagged as "midwestern noir." Should be really fun.



Stay informed on all the Central Wisconsin Book Festival updates at [mcpl.us/cwbf](http://mcpl.us/cwbf) and at [facebook.com/cwbookfest](https://facebook.com/cwbookfest). See you in September!



### Our strategic plan is complete!

The Marathon County Public Library is pleased to announce the completion of **Dream Big with MCPL**, the strategic plan that will guide our efforts to serve the public 2024–2029.

We've spent the past year looking back at where we've been, where we are now, and where we're headed as a community and as a library. We completed a community survey that generated more than 400 responses, we held staff planning sessions, and based on all of that effort, we've developed a plan that focuses on four key goals:

**Increase Awareness** • Our community knows there is something for everyone at Marathon County Public Library. The library's mission and offerings are shared through a robust, adaptable communications and marketing strategy to increase awareness and help community members see the library in their lives.

**Serve as a Community Hub** • Marathon County is full of possibilities. There are many natural and recreational resources, a strong network of community-based organizations, and the region is primed for economic growth. The library is a hub where resources, services, and partnerships combine to elevate Marathon County's opportunities based on surveyed community needs.

**Enhance User Experience** • Library spaces across the county encourage people to gather, learn something new, connect with neighbors, and accomplish tasks. Visitors can easily find what they're looking for and feel a sense of belonging at the library.

**Support Our Staff** • The knowledgeable and welcoming staff of Marathon County Public Library can grow professionally, balance their workloads, and feel supported in their work by library colleagues, the library board, and county stakeholders.

We encourage you to read through the complete strategic plan, available online at [www.mcpl.us/dream-big](http://www.mcpl.us/dream-big) — or in person at any MCPL location.

Even though the plan is complete, we always welcome your input on ways we can best serve our communities. We know from the plan's development that we can "Dream Big" together, and now we can work together to turn these dreams into reality at the Marathon County Public Library!

Contact us at [info@mcpl.us](mailto:info@mcpl.us) or call your local MCPL with any questions on strategic planning. We look forward to dreaming big with you!

**Our Mission:** To enrich lives by providing access to information, inspiration, and opportunities to connect.

**Our Vision:** Connecting people to endless possibilities.

## TRAIL TALES

**CHILDREN DROP IN** Families are encouraged to walk through Oak Island Park and enjoy picture books along the way!  
6/1-8/31 @ Oak Island Park (Wausau)

## MY SUMMER ADVENTURE BOOK

**CHILDREN & TEENS** Create a book filled with summer memories and adventures!  
7/1-7/6 @ MCPL Edgar  
7/15-7/20 @ MCPL Rothschild  
7/29-8/3 @ MCPL Spencer

## SUNFLOWER WEAVING

**CHILDREN** Learn weaving techniques to make your own sunflower craft!  
7/1-7/6 @ MCPL Athens  
7/15-7/20 @ MCPL Marathon City  
7/29-8/3 @ MCPL Stratford  
8/19-8/24 @ MCPL Rothschild

## BACKPACK BUDDIES

**CHILDREN DROP IN** Stop in to create a beaded creature to decorate your backpack!  
7/1-7/6 @ MCPL Hatley  
7/15-7/20 @ MCPL Athens  
7/29-8/3 @ MCPL Edgar  
8/12-8/17 @ MCPL Marathon City  
8/26-8/31 @ MCPL Mosinee

## \* DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

**TEENS REGISTRATION** Join us weekly for D&D games run by library staff!  
Register: 715-261-7200.  
Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.: 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27 @ MCPL Wausau

## CRIBBAGE MEET UP

**ALL AGES DROP IN** Stop by for a friendly game of cribbage with other community members.  
Tuesdays, 3-5 p.m.: 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27 @ MCPL Wausau

## \* POKÉMON CLUB

**CHILDREN DROP IN** Join other fans of Pokémon for related activities and card trading!  
Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m.: 7/2, 8/6 @ MCPL Wausau  
Mondays, 4-5 p.m.: 7/15, 8/19 @ MCPL Edgar

## \* LEGO® BLOCK PARTY

**CHILDREN DROP IN** Get creative with LEGO and other blocks!  
Fridays, 1-3 p.m.: 7/5, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23, 8/30 @ MCPL Marathon City  
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: 7/6, 8/3 @ MCPL Rothschild  
Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m.: 7/17, 7/31, 8/7, 8/21 @ MCPL Wausau

## MOVIE MATINÉE "WISH"

**CHILDREN** Join us for a free movie screening, and bring your own snacks! Rated PG.  
Fri., 7/5, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## MINI PAPER KITES

**CHILDREN DROP IN** Kids can create a fun, travel-size mini kite!  
7/8-7/13 @ MCPL Mosinee  
7/22-7/27 @ MCPL Spencer  
8/12-8/17 @ MCPL Rothschild  
8/26-8/31 @ MCPL Hatley

## STORY STONES!

**CHILDREN** Stop by to fill a small bag with stones decorated with storytelling or activity ideas!  
Mon., 7/8, 2-3:30 p.m. @ MCPL Edgar

## STORY TIME IN THE PARK

**CHILDREN** Children age 6 and younger are invited to join us for outdoor story times!  
Mon., 7/8, 10 a.m. @ Brockmeyer Park (Wausau)  
Mon., 7/22, 10 a.m. @ Sylvan Hill Park (Wausau)  
Mon., 8/5, 10 a.m. @ 3M Park (Wausau)  
Mon., 8/19, 10 a.m. @ Alexander Airport Park (Wausau)

## PINT SIZE POLKAS

**CHILDREN** Join accordionist Mike Schneider for all things polka at this fun, musical event!  
Tue., 7/9, 10 a.m. @ Marathon Elementary (Marathon City)  
Tue., 7/9, 1:30 p.m. @ Lions Park (Spencer)

## OUTDOOR STORY TIME

**CHILDREN** Bring your family to enjoy outdoor story times! (We'll move inside for bad weather.)  
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.: 7/9, 7/23, 8/13, 8/27 @ MCPL Hatley

## RAPTOR EDUCATION GROUP

**CHILDREN** Join us for a program all about owls!  
Tue., 7/9, 10:30 a.m. @ Oak Street Park (Edgar)  
Tue., 7/9, 1:30 p.m. @ MCPL Stratford

## PRESSED FLOWER ART

**ADULTS** Join us for a crafty social hour to create pressed flower jars and bookmarks!  
Tue., 7/9, 4 p.m. @ MCPL Mosinee

## RANDY PETERSON

**CHILDREN** Well-known children's musician Randy Peterson will present his interactive "Rocking Adventures" show!  
Wed., 7/10, 10:30 a.m. @ Memorial Park (Athens)  
Wed., 7/10, 1:30 p.m. @ George Street Park (Rothschild)  
Tue., 7/16, 10:30 a.m. @ MCPL Hatley  
Tue., 7/16, 1:30 p.m. @ Oak Island Park (Wausau)

## RONDINI MAGIC SHOW

**CHILDREN** Join Rondini for a fun and entertaining children's magic show!  
Wed., 7/10, 10:30 a.m. @ Oak Island Park (Wausau)

## AMAZING RACE

**TEENS** Join us for an adventure and compete in the library's "amazing race"—just for teens!  
Wed., 7/10, 2-3:30 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## EXTENSION GARDENING RESILIENT GARDENING

**ADULTS REGISTRATION** Learn about Wisconsin climate changes and gardening strategies for extreme weather!  
Register: 715-261-1241.  
Wed., 7/10, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Hatley  
Tue., 8/13, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## READ TO A THERAPY DOG

**CHILDREN DROP IN** Young patrons are invited to practice their reading skills in front of some well-trained dogs!  
Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.: 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15 @ MCPL Wausau

## THURSDAYS, 5-6 P.M.: "THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES"

**TEENS** Grades 6-12 are invited to a free movie screening. Bring your own snacks! Rated PG-13.  
Thursdays, 5-6 p.m.: 7/11, 7/25, 8/8, 8/22 @ MCPL Rothschild  
Fri., 7/12, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## EXTENSION GARDENING FRAGRANT HERBS

**ADULTS REGISTRATION** Learn about starting plants and take home a fragrant herb starter kit!  
Register: 715-261-1241.  
Tue., 7/16, 10 a.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## READING RODEO

**CHILDREN** Memory Lane Farm will bring their fun Horse Powered Reading Program!  
Tue., 7/16, 4:30-6:30 p.m. @ MCPL Stratford

## LONG TERM CARE 101

**ADULTS** Learn the basics of long-term care from a health and life insurance agent.  
Wed., 7/17, 4 p.m. @ MCPL Edgar

## BEADED SUNCATCHER

**ADULTS & TEENS** Make a simple suncatcher that looks pretty hanging against a window!  
Thu., 7/18, 4-6 p.m. @ MCPL Rothschild

## FRIENDS MEMBERS-ONLY \* BOOK SALE

**ADULTS DROP IN** Members of the library's Friends group are invited to this exclusive book sale! (You can join on the spot.)  
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: 7/20, 8/17 @ MCPL Wausau

## SUMMERTIME SCAVENGER HUNT

**KIDS & TEENS DROP IN** Visit the library to participate in our summer scavenger hunt!  
7/22-7/27 @ MCPL Spencer  
7/22-7/27 @ MCPL Marathon City

## CITY SPOTLIGHT WAUSAU CITY CLERK KAITLYN BERNARDE

**ADULTS** Kaitlyn Bernarde will talk about duties of city clerk's office, with time for questions!  
Mon., 7/22, 10 a.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## PLAY & LEARN

**BEADING FOR ALL AGES! KIDS & ADULTS** Children's Wisconsin will bring a variety of beads for your creative enjoyment!  
Mon., 7/22, 10:30 a.m. @ MCPL Stratford

## MOVIE NIGHT "GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE"

**ADULTS & TEENS** Join us for a free movie, and bring your own snacks! Rated PG-13.  
Tue., 7/23, 5:30 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## YOGA STORY TIME

**CHILDREN** Join us for a special story time that incorporates yoga!  
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.: 7/24, 8/28 @ MCPL Mosinee

## OUTDOOR OBSTACLE COURSE

**CHILDREN** Get up and moving with some fun and challenging (but not \*too\* challenging) physical activities!  
Thu., 7/25, 2 p.m. @ River Park (Mosinee)

## MCPL & 4H FORENSICS 101

**TEENS REGISTRATION** Join us for activities related to detective work and forensic science!  
Register: 715-261-1240.  
Thursdays., 3 p.m.: 7/25, 8/22 @ MCPL Wausau

## LIBRARY CARD POOL DAY

**ALL AGES DROP IN** Use your library card for free access to Wausau Pools! One card is good for the whole family.  
Thu., 7/25 @ Wausau Outdoor Pools

## MAKE YOUR OWN 'ZINE!

**TWEENS & TEENS** Create your own "zine" (mini magazine) about any subject you want!  
Mon., 7/29, 5-6 p.m. @ MCPL Rothschild

## IMMIGRANT HISTORY OF MARATHON COUNTY

**ADULTS** A presentation by the Historical Society on immigrants and refugees in Marathon County!  
Mon., 7/29, 5:30 p.m. @ MCPL Marathon City

## DIY SCRATCH ART

**TWEENS** Using a paper plate, oil pastels, and black paint, create your own scratch art!  
Tue., 7/30, 2-4 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## SHARING SPORTS CARD COLLECTIONS

**CHILDREN** Younger patrons are invited to check out each other's sports card collections. (Trades allowed, but no sales.)  
Wed., 7/31, 4:30 p.m. @ MCPL Rothschild

## \* BOOK SALE

**ALL AGES DROP IN** Browse thousands of books, movies and other items for sale at great prices! Proceeds are used to support library programs.  
Friends Members Only: Wed., 7/31, 5-7:30 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau  
Open to Public: 8/1-8/3 @ MCPL Wausau

## MOVIE MATINÉE "KUNG FU PANDA 4"

**CHILDREN** Join us for a free movie screening, and bring your own snacks! Rated PG.  
Fri., 8/2, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## SIDEWALK CHALK ART

**ALL AGES DROP IN** Kids and their families are invited to decorate the sidewalk outside the library!  
8/5-8/10 @ MCPL Marathon City

## CAT LOVER CRAFTS & SOCIAL HOUR

**ADULTS** Cat lovers are invited to this crafty social hour!  
Tue., 8/6, 5 p.m. @ MCPL Mosinee

## MARIO PARTY!

**CHILDREN DROP IN** Join us as we celebrate all things Mario—with games, a visit from Mario, and more!  
Tue., 8/6, 1-7 p.m. @ MCPL Stratford

## MOVIE MATINÉE "DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: HONOR AMONG THIEVES"

**TEENS** Grades 6-12 are invited to a free movie screening. Bring your own snacks! Rated PG-13.  
Fri., 8/9, 2-4 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## PLANT SWAP

**ADULTS DROP IN** Take a plant home or leave extra plants for someone else!  
8/12-8/17 @ MCPL Wausau

## AQUARIUM TOUCH POOL & ACTIVITIES

**CHILDREN** Touch a starfish and discuss our aquarium with expert Darren Letner!  
Mon., 8/12, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## ARTIFACTS OF THE WORLD WARS

**ADULTS** A presentation by the Historical Society about artifacts from WWI and WWII.  
Mon., 8/12, 5 p.m. @ MCPL Edgar

## DUCT TAPE WATER BOTTLE HOLDER

**KIDS & TEENS** Stay hydrated in style by making your own water bottle holder.  
Tue., 8/13, 5-6:30 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## DIY NEON SIGNS

**TEENS** Learn how to make your own custom neon sign using electroluminescent wire.  
Wed., 8/14, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## PLAY & LEARN FINGER PAINTING FUN!

**KIDS & ADULTS** Enjoy some messy fun with your child and connect with other parents/caregivers!  
Mon., 8/26, 10:30 a.m. @ MCPL Stratford

## SUPERHERO ACADEMY

**CHILDREN** Create your own superhero identity and practice your hero skills. Costumes encouraged!  
Mon., 8/26, 1-3 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## FELT POMANDER BALL CRAFT

**ADULTS & TEENS** Learn an unscented floral version of a craft that's been around for hundreds of years!  
Wed., 8/28, 6-7:30 p.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## COUNTY SPOTLIGHT SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR CHRISTA JENSEN

**ADULTS** Learn about the local social services department, with plenty of time to ask questions.  
Thu., 8/29, 10:30 a.m. @ MCPL Wausau

## BOOK CLUBS

**ADULTS** Discuss these books with your friends and neighbors! New members are always welcome. Future book clubs are at [www.mcpl.us/bookclubs](http://www.mcpl.us/bookclubs).

**"FUTURE HOME OF THE LIVING GOD"** LOUISE ERDRICH  
Mon., 7/8, 5:45 p.m. @ MCPL Marathon City

**"IN THE LIVES OF PUPPETS"** T.J. KLUNGE  
Tue., 8/13, 12 p.m. @ MCPL Edgar

**"A WRINKLE IN TIME"** MADELEINE L'ENGLE  
Tue., 7/9, 12 p.m. @ MCPL Edgar

**"FIREFLY LANE"** KRISTIN HANNAH  
Tue., 8/13, 1 p.m. @ MCPL Hatley

**"A DEATH IN DOOR COUNTY"** ANNE RIVERS SIDONS  
Tue., 7/9, 1 p.m. @ MCPL Hatley

**"THE GIRLS OF AUGUST"** ANNE RIVERS SIDONS  
Tue., 8/13, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Athens

**(CHOOSE YOUR OWN BOOK)**  
Tue., 7/9, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Athens

**"I WAS ANASTASIA"** ARIEL LAWHON  
Mon., 8/19, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Mosinee

**YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB "STARGIRL"** JERRY SPINELLI  
Thu., 7/11, 5:30 p.m. @ MCPL Stratford

**"ALL THAT IS MINE I CARRY WITH ME"** WILLIAM LANDAY  
Wed., 8/21, 1 p.m. @ MCPL Stratford

**"THE FIVE-STAR WEEKEND"** ELIN HILDERBRAND  
Mon., 7/15, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Mosinee

**"MALIBU RISING"** TAYLOR JENKINS REID  
Wed., 8/28, 11 a.m. @ MCPL Rothschild

**"HELLO BEAUTIFUL"** ANN NAPOLITANO  
Wed., 7/17, 1 p.m. @ MCPL Stratford

**"THE NIGHT CIRCUS"** ERIN MORGENSTERN  
Mon., 9/9, 5:45 p.m. @ MCPL Marathon City

**"BLACK CAKE"** CHARMAINE WILKERSON  
Wed., 7/24, 11 a.m. @ MCPL Rothschild

**"THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA"** GASTON LEROUX  
Tue., 9/10, 12 p.m. @ MCPL Edgar

**YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB "SALT TO THE SEA"** RUTA SEPETYS  
Thu., 8/8, 5:30 p.m. @ MCPL Stratford

**"I'M GLAD MY MOM DIED"** JENNETTE MCCURDY  
Tue., 9/10, 1 p.m. @ MCPL Hatley

**"CRYING IN H MART"** MICHELLE ZAUNER  
Mon., 8/12, 5:45 p.m. @ MCPL Marathon City

**"TOM LAKE"** ANN PATCHETT  
Tue., 9/10, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Athens

**"FIREKEEPER'S DAUGHTER"** ANGELINE BOULLEY  
Mon., 9/16, 2 p.m. @ MCPL Mosinee