

The Lamplighter

IN THE SYSTEM

New Directors at WVLS Libraries

The Westboro Public Library has named Tom Kopecky as the new Director. He is a familiar face in this community since he has worked on various library boards and was the high school principal in the Rib Lake School District before retiring 3 years ago.

Tom loves living in the Westboro - Rib Lake area which has been his home for over 30 years. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys snowshoeing "right next door to his house". Tom, a U.S. Marine Corp veteran who served in Vietnam in 1969-1970, also has Bachelor of Science degrees in Elementary Education and Agricultural Education, and a Master's degree in Educational Administration.

Tom feels that the support from the community has been great and is looking forward to his new role as the Director.

Carol Lee Saffioti-Hughes is the new Director at the Wabeno Public Library. After a career as a college English professor at the University of WI-Parkside in Kenosha, WI, she and her husband are becoming full-time residents at their family



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farm in Mountain, WI.

Her areas of specialty in teaching included Women's Studies and Native American Studies, and creative writing. The farm at which they reside has been in the family for 3 generations, and on it is the log cabin of the original white settlers on that land.

"Coming to a log cabin library seemed like the perfect place for me" was her first thought upon walking in the door at the Wabeno Public Library. She and her husband are outdoors people and enjoy hunting, fishing, and bird watching.

She commented: "I am coming to librarianship as a second career; it will be very hard to take the place that Lois Radloff leaves in the library and the community. She gives me a role model to aspire to."

Congratulations, Tom and Carol!

WVLS Board of Trustees in 2009

The fifteen-member WVLS Board of Trustees are appointed by the county board of supervisors and is responsible for all policy decisions for WVLS. The number of representatives from each county on the board is based on county populations, and usually appointees serve 3-year terms. WVLS trustees meet six times annually – in January, March, May, July, September, and November. At their January meeting, the board elects its 7-member Executive Committee, which also meets approximately six times a year – February, April, June, August, October, and December. All meetings are open to the public and most are held at the Marathon County Public Library. Here is the 2009 WVLS Board of Trustees roster:

WVLS Executive Committee

- PRESIDENT: Alice Sturzl, Forest County (term expires 12/2010)
- VICE PRESIDENT: Donna Walbeck, Taylor County (term expires 12/2011)
- TREASURER: Michael Otten, Marathon County (term expires 12/2009)
- MEMBER: Kris Uhlig, Marathon County (term expires 12/2009)
- MEMBER: Jim Backus, Marathon County (term expires 12/2010)
- MEMBER: Vicki Reuling, Oneida County (term expires 12/2010)
- MEMBER: Tom Bobrofsky, Clark County (term expires 12/2011)

Other Members of the WVLS Board

- Audrey Ascher, Marathon County (term expires 12/2010)
- Peg Jopek, Langlade County (term expires 12/2009)
- Douglas Lay, Marathon County (term expires 12/2011)

- Louise Olszewski, Clark County (term expires 12/2009)
- Sandi Cihlar, Marathon County (term expires 12/2009)
- Kay Smith, Lincoln County (term expires 12/2010)
- Mary Schoeneck, Oneida County (term expires 12/2011)
- Don Christianson, Marathon County (term expires 12/2011)

TECH TALK – MAKING TECHNOLOGY UNDERSTANDABLE!

Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em Security

How secure does your computer have to be if it's on the Internet? If I have more than one antivirus or spyware program, am I more secure? The answer to the second question is no. Piling on the antivirus and spyware programs does not make your computer more secure. In fact, it can do just the opposite and make you more vulnerable to viruses and other malware. How, you ask? Let me paint you a picture that'll help answer the first question.



Do any of you remember Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em robots? They were these little plastic robots that boxed on a plastic boxing ring. Using the pre-video game versions of joysticks, you controlled the robot's punches. The object was to knock the head loose from the other robot. If you did that, you won.

Well, picture the same kind of thing happening within your computer when you install two antivirus programs. They're both "duking" it out on the platform of your computer, trying to knock the other one off and neither is being effective at what it should be doing – protecting your computer. You see, antivirus software protects your computer in two ways – one is that it can scan your whole computer for viruses either manually or on a time schedule that you set. The second way is by a real time scan of all things coming into and out of your computer such as e-mail or programs you click on or that are part of a web site. If you have two programs doing real time scanning, they are both fighting for control over the scanning process to the point where they are actually unable to scan. Their dueling scanning processes also take up more and more memory and processing power to the point that your computer can slow to a crawl. Not good!

Your best bet is to pick one good antivirus program, turn on auto-protect, set it for automatic daily updating and then setup a daily scan of system folders and a full scan of the computer every week. For public access computers, I'd recommend a full scan daily. Then let it do its job. Antivirus programs are not a fool proof guarantee that you won't get a virus. They are only as good as their updated database of threats and are affected by the behavior of the

computer user. But by having real time protection turned on, doing daily antivirus definition updates, regular scanning and making good choices when clicking or downloading something, viruses shouldn't happen very often.

The same kind of real time scanning problem can be true for spyware programs. Having more than one doing real time scanning will produce the same dueling processes that slow down the computer and render the program ineffective. If you are doing manual scanning using some of the free programs like Ad Aware and Spybot, then having more than one isn't a bad thing as long as they are compatible and you run them one at a time. Each has a slightly different database of spyware and adware that it searches for and one program can often pick up something another missed. You only get the dueling 'bots when you have two programs using real time scanning. Only one can win and they'll fight till the death – but the death isn't really the program – it's your computer performance.

Almost every major antivirus software company has a product that incorporates real time antivirus and spyware protection. They cost a little more than the basic antivirus program, but I feel they are worth the extra expense. To have one program managing the real time scanning of both antivirus and spyware is the most efficient way to do it. WVLS currently provides managed antivirus software to all its libraries. When our contract expires this summer it is my plan to move everyone to a program that provides real time scanning for both antivirus and spyware. Until then, I'd recommend anyone who isn't using a spyware program to try House Call. <http://housecall.trendmicro.com/> This is Trend Micro's free online scanner. It scans for viruses and spyware, so I'd recommend turning off your current antivirus program before running it. And remember to turn it back on when you're done. If any WVLS library wants to try it and needs help getting started on it, please give me a call. I'd be happy to help you through it.
(Patty Curthoys, WVLS Technology Consultant)

YOUTH MATTERS

2009 LIBRI Foundation Grant

The Libri Foundation is currently accepting applications for its "2009 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN" grants. The Libri Foundation is a nationwide non-profit organization which donates new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries throughout the United States. Since October 1990, the Foundation has donated over \$3,600,000 worth of new children's books to more than 2,500 libraries in 49 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

In order to encourage and reward local support of libraries, the Libri Foundation will match any amount of money raised by your local sponsors from \$50 to \$350 on a 2-to-1 ratio. Thus, a library can receive up to \$1,050 worth of new children's books. After a library receives a grant, local sponsors (such as formal or informal Friends groups, civic or social organizations, local businesses, etc.) have four months, or longer if necessary, to raise their matching funds.

Libraries are qualified on an individual basis. In general, county libraries should serve a population under 16,000 and town libraries should serve a population under 10,000 (usually under 5,000). Libraries should be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department.

Application deadlines for 2009 are: (postmarked by) April 15th and August 15th. Grants are awarded April 30th and August 31st. Application guidelines and forms may be downloaded from the foundation's website at: <http://www.librifoundation.org>

For more information about The Libri Foundation or its Books for Children program, please contact Ms. Barbara J. McKillip, President, The Libri Foundation, P.O. Box 10246, Eugene, OR 97440, phone: 541-747-9655 or e-mail: libri@librifoundation.org.

(Folusa-L, January 6, 2009)

UpToTen Game and Activity Search Engine

If you'd like to be able to suggest online games and activities that will help young and special-needs children improve their coordination, logic, or computer skills, then look no further than **UpToTen's** search page found at:

<http://www.uptoten.com/kids/uptoten-features-search-searchpage.html>



It will help you quickly search through more than 1,000 entertaining and focused free online activities to locate the perfect game to match a child's interests, age, and developmental needs. You can search three ways: by keyword, by game category, and by educational category. Because this is such a huge site, there are a lot of choices for each topic—for instance, there are 20 different activities to help kids learn how to click and drag with a mouse—so kids can practice without getting bored by playing the same game over and over again. Bookmark this site—it will save you tons of time when helping kids who just want to have a bit of online fun.

(Gail Junion-Metz, from SLJ Extra Helping, January 15, 2009)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Don't Miss the OverDrive Training for Library Staff

Do you wish you knew more about OverDrive, the online product that provides downloadable books, music and videos to computers and mobile devices, so that when you get a question from your library patron on "how to do ... with OverDrive", you would know the answer immediately? Well, now is your chance for some training on how to deal with some of these questions and problems that come when assisting patrons.

If you would like to participate in some upcoming training sessions to learn more about OverDrive, put **February 10th** and **March 3rd** from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on your calendar. "An Introduction and Review of Overdrive, Digital Library 101", is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th. "Patron Assistance on OverDrive" is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd, from 9-10:00 a.m.

These OverDrive sponsored workshops are for **library staff** (not patrons). Staff should have a basic understanding of how to use the OverDrive service (such as how to place a hold, how to check out, how to log into your account). The OverDrive trainer will share troubleshooting techniques for common problems. A computer with Internet access and a telephone are all that are required to participate. No registration is necessary. Connection instructions will be sent closer to the date.

(Wisconsin Public Library Consortium Digest, January 2009)



Be Creative & Express Yourself @ the WVLS SLP Workshop
1:30 – 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11th, 2009
Quality Inn
688 W. Kemp – Hwy 8 West
Rhineland, WI

Collect all the inspiration a librarian could need for planning an amazing & artsy 2009 Summer Library Program. Join Sonja Ackerman, Wausau School District Library Media Specialist, and Dee Bohn & Jan Nelson of the MCPL – Rothschild Branch as they share tips for games, programs, decorations, promotion, and crafts.

This workshop will follow the 22nd Anniversary session of the Children's Book Fest, sponsored by the School District of Rhineland and the Rhineland District Library.

- ✚ 8:30 a.m. CCBC Book Exhibit Begins
- ✚ 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. WVLS SLP Workshop

Please R.S.V.P. to Beth Sillars at sillars@wvls.lib.wi.us or 715-261-7255 regarding the WVLS SLP Workshop by **Friday, March 6th, 2009**. If you have questions or need special accommodations, contact Beth Sillars.

Mark Your Calendars! 22nd Annual Children's Book Fest

Northern Wisconsin librarians, teachers, parents, and members of the general public who are interested in learning about the best books for young people are invited to attend Children's Book Fest 2009, a two-day conference held at the Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn Express) in Rhinelander, WI, on March 10th and 11th, 2009.

Children's literature specialists from the nationally acclaimed Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) in Madison, Wisconsin, will discuss books for children and young adults at an evening presentation on Tuesday, March 10th, as well as at a day presentation on Wednesday, March 11th. Both sessions will include a CCBC exhibit of the best books from the year 2008 for young readers.

Plans include an opportunity on both March 10th and 11th for individuals to purchase award-winning books highlighted by the speakers through an independent arrangement with Brown Street Books of Rhinelander.

Complete registration information for the Children's Book Fest is on the WVLS Web site at: <http://wvls.lib.wi.us/Workshops/workshop.html>. The registration fee for either session is \$8.00. **All registrations must be received no later than March 6th, 2009.**

(Rhinelander District Library, January 2009)

The Gadgets Are Coming!

Are you mystified by some of the gadgets your library patrons bring in and ask for help with? Have you ever seen an iPod, GPS, Kindle or MP3 player? Well, get ready for a fun learning experience that will give you the chance to try out some of these gadgets during the WVLS Gadgets Open House Week at the WVLS office scheduled for April 20th-23rd, 2009 from 9 – 4 each day. Watch for more details in upcoming Lamplighter issues.

(Inese Christman, WVLS - PR & CE Coordinator)



INFO TO GO

ALA Seeks Exemption for Children's Books from Anti-Lead Law

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's interpretation of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, which lowers the permissible level of lead in children's products and imposes certification requirements, may require libraries to limit access to their

children's collections or have them tested for lead content. The new law becomes effective February 10, 2009.

In a notice to ALA's Federal Library Legislative Action Network, Government Relations Specialist Kristin Murphy wrote, "As a result of these new regulations, publishers have tested the components of books and found that the levels of lead in children's books were far below the future legal requirements. . . .However, the advisory opinion from the CPSC says that not only must the testing be done by one of their certified labs but that this legislation is also retroactive, and every book must be tested."

Despite the advisory opinion from CPSC's general counsel, ALA Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff told American Libraries, "We have spoken with congressional offices and they have said that it was not congressional intent to include books" in the law.

Until the commission makes an official ruling, however, "There's really nothing anyone can do," Sheketoff said. "We're sort of stuck waiting for them."

Even so, news of the law is trickling down to library patrons. Kate Pohjola, director of Lapeer (Mich.) District Library, told AL that she had received questions about the law's potential impact, from both library-borrowing and home-schooling perspectives. "I think there's a lot of fear right now, because people don't know what's going to happen," she said.

The Washington Office will release updates as new information becomes available on its District Dispatch blog at: <http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/>

(American Libraries Direct, January 21, 2009)

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Add It Up: Libraries Make the Difference -

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/additup/index.cfm>

A new ALA web-based resource provides research and statistics to help advocates make the case for libraries at every stage of youth development and education.

(American Libraries Direct, January 21, 2009)

National Library Week Promotional Materials -

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm>

Actress and author, Jamie Lee Curtis is the Honorary Chair of National Library Week 2009. This site will provide libraries with downloadable/customizable promotional materials.

(American Libraries Direct, January 21, 2009)

National Library Week Celebrate
April 12-18, 2009
Worlds connect @ your library

ALA Programming Resources - <http://www.programminglibrarian.org/>

ALA's Public Programs Office is offering a new online resource to assist libraries of all types and sizes in creating cultural and community programs.

(American Libraries Direct, January 21, 2009)

Perceptions 2008: An International Survey of Library Automation -

<http://www.librarytechnology.org/perceptions2008.pl>

This report describes the results of a survey conducted by Marshall Breeding to gather data regarding the perceptions of libraries toward their automation systems, the organizations that provide support, and the quality of support they receive. It also aims to gauge interest in open source library automation systems.

(American Libraries Direct, January 21, 2009)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

February is: Library Lovers' Month @ your library, find out more at:

<http://www.librarysupport.net/librarylovers/>

Feb 3 Library Legislative Day – Best Western Inn on the Park – Madison. Details at:
<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/day/index.htm>

Feb 5 WVLS V-Cat Council Meeting – T. B. Scott Free Library, Merrill, 9:30 a.m.

Feb 12 Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, find out more at:
<http://www.abrahamlincoln200.org/>

Feb 13 College of DuPage Online Workshop - "Targeting the Ages: Programming that Hits the Mark" – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Register with Inese Christman for Login Information or to reserve the DVD at
ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

Feb 14 Happy Valentine's Day! 

Feb 25 Public Library Annual Reports due to WVLS Office

MARCH

March is: National Women's History Month, find out more at: <http://www.nwhp.org/>

Mar 2 Public Library Annual Reports due in Madison

Mar 8 Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. For more information, go to:
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/daylightsaving.html>

Mar 8-14 ALA Teen Tech Week – "Press Play @ your Library" -
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw09/home.cfm>

Mar 10-11 WVLS Summer Library Program Workshop and the Children's Bookfest – Rhinelander. (For more details, see article in this issue)

Mar 15 Public Library Annual Reports due in Madison

Mar 21 WVLS Board of Trustees Meeting – at the Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

Mar 22-24 WEMTA Conference in Madison, for more details:

<http://www.wemtaonline.org/se3bin/cliente.cgi?siteid=1000292>

APRIL

April is: National Poetry Month, for more details:

<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/41>

Apr 2 WVLS V-Cat Council Meeting – Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

