WISL BACK TO SCHOOL

In this issue:

WISL Scholarship Awarded

WISL awarded its $400 scholarship for the WLA Conference to Schreiner Memorial Library Director Christinna Swearingen.

As the winner, Swearingen will attend the WLA Conference and some of the WISL events and programs. Keep an eye out for Christinna to share their conference experience in a future newsletter issue!

Connect Your Community to Health Insurance Coverage!

It's easier and more important than ever for Wisconsinites to get quality, affordable health insurance. Thanks to COVID relief, health insurance prices are lower than ever before.

As shared community spaces and trusted sources of information, small libraries play a vital role in spreading the word about the importance of health insurance and the free, local experts available to help people sign up.

Covering Wisconsin (www.coveringwi.org) is a nonprofit organization that helps people in Wisconsin find and use health insurance. CWI's expert Health Insurance Navigators provide free assistance all year. Navigators and other local enrollment assisters work with Wisconsinites to:

- Find plans and best prices
- Sign up for Healthcare.gov, BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid
- Understand health insurance questions, big or small
- Solve billing or coverage problems

Covering Wisconsin can also:

- Provide free training and educational materials for library staff and the public on health insurance topics
- Get you free flyers, outreach cards, and more to help you spread the word
- Connect you with the local enrollment assisters in your area

Open enrollment in the federal health insurance marketplace, Healthcare.gov, starts November 1st.

Contact Courtney Harris, Outreach & Partner Development Manager at Covering Wisconsin (charris2@wisc.edu) now to learn more and get resources ready for this fall.
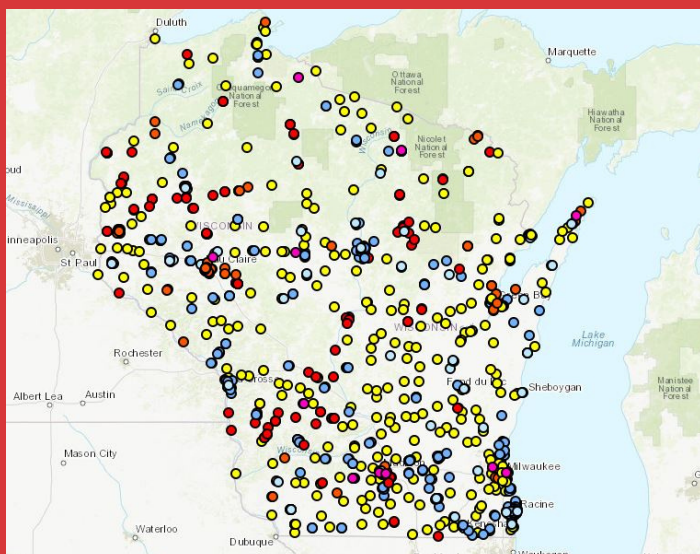
Community Support During Delta Surge

Free Public Wifi in Wisconsin

With the Delta variant bringing uncertainty to the start of the school year and the safety policies libraries create, we can continue to help our patrons find access to free wifi all over the state. Public libraries continue to be essential hubs of free wifi, but patrons can still access other options. Check out the locations available in your area.

https://maps.psc.wi.gov/Apps/PublicWiFiLocations/index.html

Don't forget that many of our patrons continue to struggle during the COVID pandemic and may require additional help. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families offers a variety of services to help your patrons maintain a normal lifestyle. https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/assistance

Food Insecurity

Food pantries have been needed more now than ever, but common food pantry staples can leave patrons stumped on how to make a meal from them.

Understand how hunger impacts your area. Feeding wisconsin shares research, programs, and more. https://www.feedingwi.org/

Make healthy recipes through Feeding America's vetted recommendations. https://hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org/healthy-recipes/

Are you looking for recipes that coordinate with your food pantry items? The Food Pantry Cookbook helps create healthy dishes. http://www.northeastiowafoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/The-Food-Pantry-Cookbook.pdf

Book Bans and Challenges in Wisconsin Make National News

Read news stories from some of the most publicized book bans and challenges in Wisconsin in recent years.

"GOP candidate terrifies teen library worker in anger about pride display

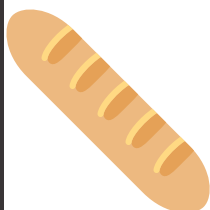
"Library fight riles up city, leads to book-burning demand

"Wisconsin school board member wants to ban Muppets book 'For Every Child, a Better World'"

Banned Books Week 2021 (Sept 26-Oct 2)

Librarians are champions of literacy and the freedom to read. What time celebrates that better than Banned Books Week? In 2020, the most bans and challenges were for materials that included LGBTQIA+ themes. Let this and all other frequently banned and challenged materials act as a reminder of the information our patrons seek and the viewpoints we have a responsibility to represent. Where would we be without books that include LGBTQIA+ themes, political viewpoints, or even the profane works from which we can learn? The scope of bans and challenges prove the freedom to read is more important than ever. Let's get to work!

Photo courtesy of American Library Association. This image is one of many free Banned Books Week downloads available to you!
https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/bannedbooksweek/ideasandresources/freedownloads

Combat Challenges with Inclusion and Information

In 2015, a Marshfield, Wisconsin school board member made national news with her work to remove the children's book *For Every Child, A Better World* from the kindergarten curriculum. The book was created as part of a collaboration with the United Nation. The board member's concern was that children would be traumatized for seeing depictions of children living in poverty in the book.

Even though this occurred six years ago, misinformation and stigma surrounding poverty is a modern issue. In typical super librarian fashion, we can respond with displays and factual information. One possibility is creating a display of the book in conjunction with a food drive. As more children experience food insecurity and poverty, there is no shortage of opportunities for compassionate partnerships with local services. Host a storytime for the book, and use puppets that "share stories" of their own food insecurity. Encourage your patrons to play Spent online for a n interactive taste of the pressures of poverty. Play Spent at: http://playspent.org/

Featured Phrase

Boolean operator

The words "AND," "OR," and "NOT" used in searching electronic databases or search engines.

"AND" is used to narrow a search ("climate change" AND weather retrieves only those works that are about both climate change and the weather).

"OR" is used to broaden a search (elevator OR escalator retrieves works that are about elevators, or about escalators or both).

"NOT" is used to exclude terms from a search (sugar NOT fructose retrieves works that are about sugar but not about fructose).

Boolean operators can be used in databases or search engines. For help using Boolean operators on Google, select "Settings" then "Advanced Search" to clarify your query.

Library Pets
Jasper the Wonderdog flashes his jaws as a ferocious shark.

Send WISL Newsletter Your Updates!

Does your library have news to share with the WISL family? Send Newsletter Editor Aubrey your updates, and be featured in the next issue!
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