

**Lester Public Library
Director's Report
July 2022**

News

- Former Lester Public Library Board of Trustee and current LPL Foundation Board Treasurer, Bob Fay was awarded second place in the Local Column category of the **2021 Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation's Better Newspaper Contest**. Bob won for three columns: the **Trapp Family Singers**, **Ruth West** and **Amelia Earhart**. The articles were written as part of the Preserving the Past series of the Manitowoc County Historical Society, which appear every two weeks in the Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter. Listed below are links to the MCHS website in case you'd like to read them. The award is typically given to professional newspaper staff writers. It is unusual for a "contributor" to be recognized with an award. Bob volunteers to write articles on "local history" happenings. Bob receives no cash stipend or honorarium - just bragging rights. Bob shared the news via an email and added, "More importantly, I really could not do this without having access to old newspapers on microfilm at LPL. Chris has been particularly helpful with ILL requests as well. THANK YOU!"
- Registration is now open for Wisconsin Trustee Training Week www.wistrusteetraining.com, August 22-26 Sponsored by all 16 public library systems, the annual Trustee Training Week offers a one-hour webinar each day of the week on a topic of interest to public library trustees and administrators. The line-up of presenters this year includes: Becky Spratford, Lisa Shaw, John Thompson, Nancy Sylvester, and John Chrastka. Presentation topics range from materials challenges to planning effective meetings. The webinars will be recorded and archived. Trustee Training Week is supported by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Public Library Development Team, with funding support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- Back in April, 2022, library patron Lora Kinjerski, gave a shout out to library staff on Facebook, on a recent trip she had lost her luggage, and was able to retrieve the luggage due to an LPL library book found inside. Spirit airlines called the library and Marie Bonde, Customer Service Coordinator, took the call – they had found a book in a piece of luggage without any other identification and could Marie give them the contact information for our patron. Marie told the airline because of privacy issues we could not give that information, but, if the airline gave a number, Marie would contact the patron and have the patron contact the airline. They did and Lora was able to retrieve her missing luggage, along with the library book! An example of outstanding customer service provided by LPL, while protecting our patron's privacy. Kudos to Marie Bonde.
- Another example of the library's deep connection to our community – in July, Marie Bonde had noticed that one of our regular patrons had many overdue books and Marie had not seen him in the library for some time, uncharacteristic behavior from that patron. Marie had the police do a wellness check and sadly the police found the patron had passed away. Due to Marie's call, next of kin were notified and ultimately the library was recognized in the obituary. We were sad to learn of long-time library patron Donald Schoenke's passing. Kudos to Marie Bonde.

Library Foundation

- The West Foundation invited the Lester Public Library Foundation to apply for a \$50,000 grant. Terry Ehle, Youth Coordinator, Mike Mathis, Parks & Recreation Director and I met to discuss possibilities to partner on a grant application that includes story walks through the library grounds and story walks at City parks. The LPL Foundation agreed to run the grant through their organization.
- The Library Foundation is in the process of creating book bags for sale at the circulation desk. The book bags are a great promotional piece for the Foundation.

Library Legislation – No Report

Activities

- 07/01/22 – Provided a library tour for Mary Glaser, Lester Public Library Board of Trustees, Two Rivers School District Representative
- 07/05/22 – Two Rivers City Council Meeting
- 07/06/22 – Lester Bentley Committee, Two Rivers Historical Society, Webster Room
- 07/07/22 – Provided a library tour for Mike Mathis, the new Two Rivers Parks and Recreation Director
- 07/12/22 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting
- 07/12/22 – Lester Public Library Board Meeting
- 07/13/22 – Lester Public Library All Staff Meeting
- 07/13/22 – Met with MCLS Staff, Becky Scherer; Director, Margie Verhelst, ILS/IT Technician; and Kate Verhelst, Office & Outreach Coordinator
- 07/13/22 – City Department Heads Meeting
- 07/14/22 – City of Two Rivers Safety Committee Meeting
- 07/15/22 – Manitowoc Calumet Library Automated Resource Sharing Consortium (LARS) Participants Council Meeting, hosted by LPL in person and virtually.
- 07/15/22 – Virtual Manitowoc Calumet Library System Directors Meeting, hosted by LPL in person and virtually.
- 07/18/22 – Met with Mike Mathis, Parks & Recreation Director and Terry Ehle, Youth Coordinator, to discuss West Foundation grant offered to the Lester Public Library Foundation.
- 07/18/22 – Two Rivers City Council Meeting
- 07/19/22 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting
- 07/19/22 – Lester Public Library Foundation Meeting, Webster Room
- 07/22/22 – Met with City Council Member, Darla LeClair in regards to possible environmental programming at the library

Jeff Dawson, Director, Lester Public Library 08/01/2022