

**SEPTEMBER  
2019**

# Friends of the Portage Library

## Friends of the Library

### Board of Directors

Linda Floeter, President

Kathy Raimer, Vice President

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Carol Heisz

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## BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Starting on September 10, the library will embark on a mandatory building maintenance project to update the sprinkler system. This will ensure that the library remains a safe space for both staff and patrons.

Fortunately, the children's entrance and children's area will not be affected so families will have full access to our children's play space, materials and programs. Library Director Debbie Bird explained, "Adult and teen library programs will still be offered as we look to share available library space and consider off-site program locations. Holds placed by patrons, as well as new titles, will be available for checkout. Limited computer access will also be available.

Bird noted, "Unfortunately, library staff will be unable to accommodate any community bookings in the Bidwell Room, Sanderson Room or study rooms during the period of September 10, 2019 through the new year. We apologize ahead of time for any inconvenience, but as this is an essential improvement that must be addressed, we will be as flexible as possible to continue offering great service to the community. Thank you."

Portage Library Board President Karl Kindschi explained that after a bidding process initiated by the City of Portage, The Board selected Dave Jones, Inc., of Madison, to replace the branch lines and drops for the sprinkler. A nitrogen generator needed when the sprinkler is activated will also be installed.

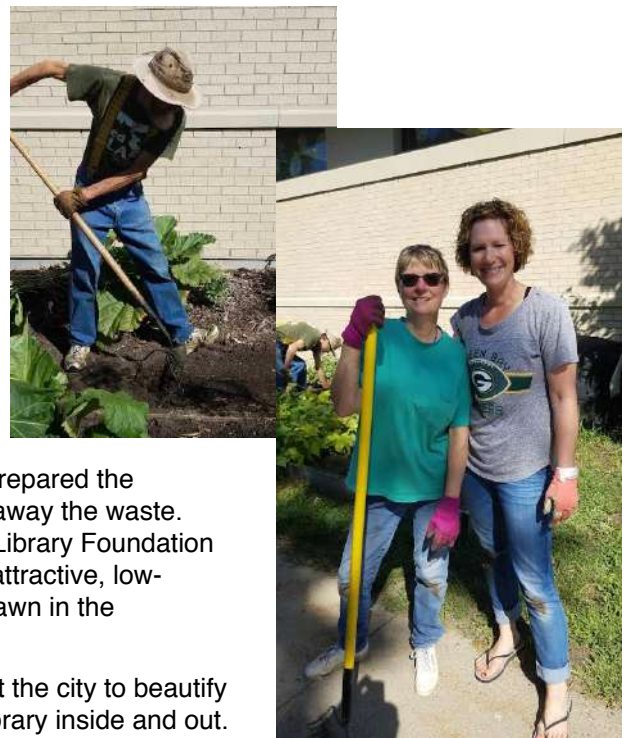
## FACELIFT TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE LIBRARY

In September, Edgewater Home and Garden will be planting prairie grasses, colorful hydrangeas, cone flowers and other prairie species, and additional low-maintenance greenery around the exterior of the library. Abundant rainfall this summer and the upcoming cool temperatures of autumn should provide perfect conditions for the new plantings.

In recent years, weeds had begun to take over the sidewalk and lawns, and many established plants were dead or dying. The Portage Library Board decided that new landscaping was necessary. Joel Engelland, Landscape Architect, provided the design. Klay Vehring, Portage Library Board member, spearheaded this project.

On two Saturdays this past month, volunteers weeded and prepared the grounds. The city provided dump trucks to receive and haul away the waste. Since this project is outside the regular budget, the Portage Library Foundation agreed to pick up the cost of the new plantings. As a result, attractive, low-maintenance flowers and shrubs will combine with areas of lawn in the environmentally-friendly plantings.

Library staff is grateful for the commitments made throughout the city to beautify the grounds and maintain the attractive appearance of the library inside and out.



## INTRODUCING DEBBIE BIRD



A veteran librarian with 25 years of experience in SCLS, Debbie came this July to become Portage Library Director.

"She's so energetic," commented Library Board President Karl Kindschi. He noted her ability to prioritize and her desire for outreach at a time of "all sorts of growth" in the services.

Director Bird so far has identified the following goals: increase circulation, identify the needs of the community, acquire added resources needed to be relevant, and provide outreach to the City of Portage and Columbia County government, The Daily Register and local businesses and organizations.

For the past 20 years, Bird served at the Sun Prairie Library, most recently as Head of Technical Services. Besides cataloging and supervising tasks related to processing, shelving and acquisitions Debbie managed library pages and coordinated the assignments of nearly 140 volunteers.

## NEW ADULT SERVICES DIRECTOR

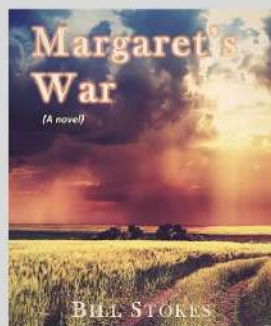
New Adult Services Director Librarian Tawnee Calhoun hopes to increase circulation among adult patrons by identifying current needs and tailoring inhouse resources to meet those needs.

Tawnee earned a B.A. in English before completing an online M.L.S. from Drexel University in Philadelphia. She has relocated to Portage and is eager to reach out to individuals and groups with specific requests and needs.

## REMINDER

Friends' membership paid  
from now on will  
count for 2020.

## MEET AUTHOR BILL STOKES



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26  
6:30-7:30 PM

at the Portage Historical  
Society Museum at the Portage  
804 MacFarlane Road

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
WWW.PORTAGELIBRARY.US  
608.742.4959  
PROGRAMS@PORTAGELIBRARY.US

Learn about Bill Stokes'  
recently published  
fictional novel Margaret's  
War, based on the true life  
POW camps that were  
located near our  
community during WWII.

PROGRAM GRACIOUSLY FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS OF  
THE PORTAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## DRAMA AFTER DARK

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CHILLING DRAMA. HAUNTING SHORT STORIES  
WILL BE PERFORMED BY ACTORS FROM THE PORTAGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
AND THE CREATIVE ALLIANCE OF BARABOD THEATRE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24  
7:30-8:30 PM AT NEIL'S WINE HOUSE  
235 W. MERCHANT STREET PORTAGE, WI

QUESTIONS? EMAIL: PROGRAMS@PORTAGELIBRARY.US  
CALL: 608.742.4959 OR STOP BY THE LIBRARY

PROGRAM GRACIOUSLY FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE PORTAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## LOOKING AHEAD

### November Book Sale

The Friends' next book sale will be held Thursday, November 7, to Saturday, November 9. Members only will be admitted the evening of Wednesday, November 6.

Since access to the Portage Library is limited this fall by the sprinkler replacement, the sale will be held this one time in the lower level of the Portage Municipal Building on West Pleasant.

Calls will be made in early October to schedule volunteers to set up, work and dismantle the sale.

### Soliciting Items for Book Sale

Accepting donations of hardcover books, paperbacks, and DVDs.

Items should be in good condition and may be dropped off at the Circulation Desk in the Portage Library

For further information, see the Portage Library Gifts and Restricted Funds Policy.

*Friends of the Portage Library*  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Wednesday, October 16th  
6:30PM

Children's Program Room,  
Portage Library  
*Light refreshments*

with a 45-minute performance by

First Impressions, Jessica Michna  
as **Laura Ingalls Wilder**

followed by a brief business meeting  
and end of the year report

*Open to all Friends members*



Portage Public Library • 253 W. Edgewater St. • Portage, WI 53901 • 608.742.4959 • www.portagelibrary.us

Generations of children and adults worldwide have been fascinated by the stories of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Her "Little House" series was the basis for a successful television series. But how did her life really evolve? What motivated her to put her experiences to paper? In this First Impressions presentation by Jessica Michna you will meet Mrs. Wilder, older, wiser and reflecting back on her life. She will tell you her life story and how she came to produce her literary works.



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## SUMMER READING PROGRAM A SUCCESS!

"Summer slide" refers to the loss of learning that takes place among students when school isn't in session. That loss means skills need to be retaught, costing an estimated \$1,500 per student. Over the course of a K-12 education, that can equate to more than \$18,000 per student, according to a recent post on <http://www.idtech.com>.

Research indicates that children lose an average of two months of reading skills and 2 1/2 months of math skills over a single summer. Plus, summer slide is cumulative, so those lost months add up over time.

For this year's summer Library Program, Portage Public Library signed up 565 library users of all ages. Eighty-eight adult registrants completed 1,800 reading hours; 119 teens completed 2,951 reading hours; and 172 children birth through kindergarten and 186 1st through 5th graders registered.

Since January, 2019 programming has reached 3,105 library users.

To learn what is coming for the fall, use the library's website, <https://www.portagelibrary.us/> to view program dates, times and locations scheduled for upcoming months. Join us for fun, learning and interesting free opportunities to fill your days and add enjoyment to your lives.

# MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

## TELLING YOUR STORY with JERRY APPS



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

WYOCENA COMMUNITY CENTER

165E Dodge St.

Wyocena, WI 53969

Join Jerry for his *Telling Your Story* writing workshop, where he will guide participants on how to turn their life long experiences and memories into a personal written account.

Cost of the Workshop is \$95 per person (includes a copy of Jerry's book *Telling Your Story* and a catered lunch).

Registration: July 1, 2019 - September 7, 2019 (seats are limited, please register early).

Registration Forms Found on the Wyocena Library and Portage Library Websites.

This event is sponsored by The Friends of Wyocena Library and The Friends of Portage Library.



learn more: <http://www.jerryapps.com/blog/>

## MARK HAYWARD YO-YOER, JUGGLER & COOL GUY



SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

## CULVER'S NIGHT

Come to Culver's the evening of **Monday, October 21**. Friends' Board members and library staff will serve, provide free children's books and offer children's activities. Proceeds go toward supporting programming at the library.

Friends of the  
Portage Public Library  
253 W Edgewater  
Portage, WI 53901