



T.B. SCOTT FREE LIBRARY

More than books...

"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert."

~ Andrew Carnegie

2018 Annual Report

A CLOSER LOOK!

Library patrons checked out
164,610 items

- Gate counter registered 117,936 patrons passing through our doors
- Our computers are used!
 - Desktop computers
21,029 sessions
 - Wireless connection use
79,413 sessions

eBooks and other Electronic Materials:

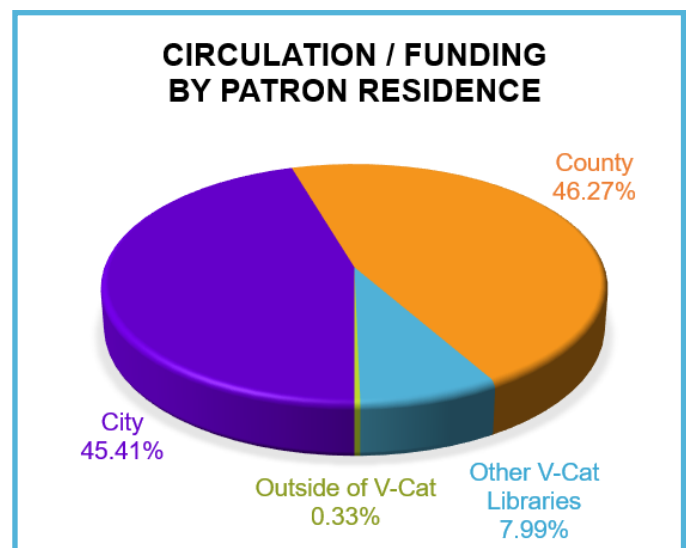
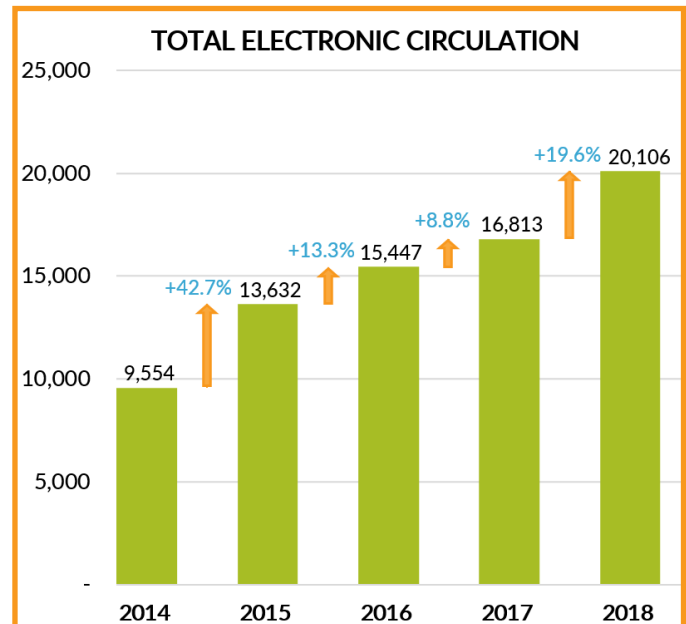
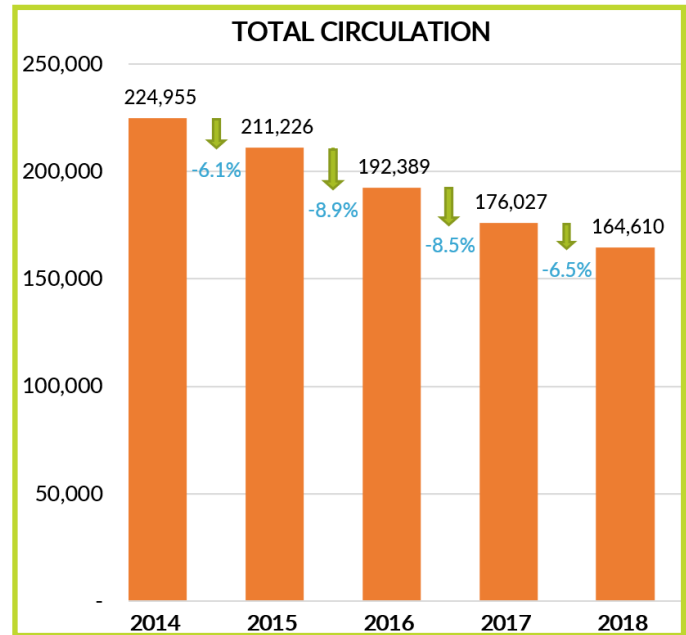
- 20,106 downloaded electronic items
- 19.6 % increase over 2017

- Library staff-offered programs:
 - 387 adult & youth services programs
 - 8,550 community members attended
 - 5% increase over 2017

Registered Borrowers:

- 11,885 registered borrowers
- 5,984 living in the city of Merrill

- 6,278 individuals, classes & groups used our study rooms, meeting rooms and facility
- Proctor services for local businesses & students: 41 exams



WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

Mission Statement

Serving the Merrill area through traditional and innovative services, T.B. Scott Free Library connects people to their community and the world, promotes literacy and civic engagement, encourages and supports life-long learning, ensures free and open access to ideas, and provides opportunities for recreation.

Vision Statement

To cultivate a library environment so vital that everyone desires to be an active library user.

The 2014-2018

T.B. Scott Free Library Strategic Plan goals are to:

- Provide library services responsive to community interests and needs.
- Promote, support, and serve as a center for the practice and development of civic discourse, helping to develop responsible citizens by infusing a sense of the importance of democracy.
- Provide an accessible, attractive and up-to-date facility that encourages use.
- Develop and execute programming, serving a broad range of ages and interests, which attracts people to the library, including audiences not currently being reached.
- Provide optimal access to information from print, online, and broadcast media.
- Effectively manage library resources.



Library Board

Mike Geisler--President

Gene Bebel -

Vice President--School District Appointee

Richard Mamer -

Financial Secretary for the Endowment Fund

Katie Breitenmoser

Darcy Dalsky (October-)

Paul Gilk

D'Lacey Haight (-June)

Audrey Huftel

Tim Meehan

Jim Wedemeyer

Library Board volunteered 84.5 Hours



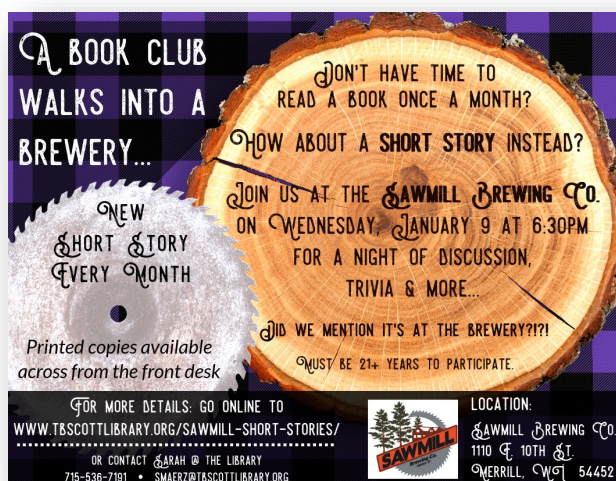
Original T.B. Scott Free Library blueprint
in frame created by Nick Wszalek from
library antique woodwork trim.

WHAT'S NEW?! HIGHLIGHTS!

Fraternal Order of Eagles #584
Merrill Auxiliary
Golden Eagle Fund Grant

TIME TO

T.B. Scott Free Library was approached by members of the Merrill Auxiliary to be considered for the Golden Eagle Fund Grant in 2018. The purpose of the grant: To provide financial assistance for the development of community-oriented programs for the elderly. The Library took this opportunity to develop memory kits for circulation to Merrill area residents and was awarded the Grant. The development of eight kits was a yearlong process and are now available for checkout to Merrill area assisted living facilities and residents. Each kit has a theme with suggested activities.



Book Club Walks Into a Brewery . . .

Library trends of 2018 presented an opportunity for the Library to partner up with a popular local establishment, Sawmill Brewing Co., to create a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere to drink up a great short story and learn a bit about the authors behind their stories while sipping on a tasty home brew. Our first "book club" meet up was held in August 2018 and it's been a literary hit since then! Be sure to check our schedule and check it out.

Jefferson (Jag) Elementary After School Group

In 2018, Thursdays were Jefferson After School Group (JAG) Day. Every Thursday this fall, as part of our collaboration with MAPS, 12-15 youth were transported to the Library to enjoy Science, Technology, Engineering, Math based programming also known as STEM. Some of the activities club members participated in this past year included: Minecraft Club, 3D-printing, "Spy School," and making Wiggle-Bots-a first robot for children.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Volunteer Hours

Our volunteers gave over 797.25 hours of their time to help keep the library running smoothly. We couldn't do what we do for our community without the help of our community members!

Homebound Program



Delivering great reads and other library material to our patrons that cannot come to the **T. B. Scott Free Library** is what our Homebound Delivery Program is all about!

- 163 registered Homebound Patrons
- 3,782 items delivered to our (7) local facility outlets
- 1,593 items delivered to individuals in the city limits
- 436 items delivered to patrons outside Merrill city limits

Gifts & Memorials Program

By the Numbers

36 monetary gifts

251 books

3 audiobooks

17 DVDs

1 magazine

Casual Dress Fridays

T.B. Scott Free Library staff give back through Casual Friday donations. Since 2004, Casual Friday donations have generated **\$13,784** for community organizations. Donations totaling **\$1,055** were distributed among local charitable organizations in 2018.



YOUTH SERVICES-LITERACY & COLLABORATION



Collaborative Summer Library Program



- Youth — 410 preschool through grade 6 youth participated.
- Teen — 45 teens grades 7-12 participated.

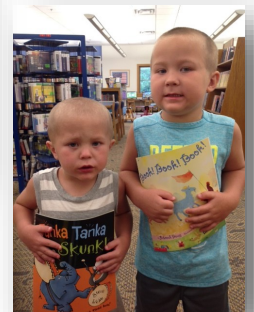
Collaboration

- Orientation, storytelling, instruction and/or material checkout.
 - 120 groups of children and young adults (2,301)
 - 5 Park and Recreation Group summer visits of youth (79)
- Collaborative programming continues with Library Staff at Copper Lake School



Teacher Book Bags

- 127 requests from teachers for items
- 2,823 items packed and sent to schools



YOUTH SERVICES

PROGRAMS! PROGRAMS! PROGRAMS!

By the Numbers

- Programs for Children and Teens — 240
- Total Attendance — 6,377

Family Fun Night Evening Programs

Technology Initiative



Working families who may not otherwise be able to enjoy daytime programming, visited the Library for free family fun opportunities at the T. B. Scott Library monthly from @6p – 7p on the 2nd floor in the Youth Services Department.

Programs = 7 Attendance = 453

- Jan.** Pete the Cat Party hosted by Andrea and Carolyn
- Feb.** Train Lovers Delight cosponsored with the Hobby Connection of Rothschild
- Mar.** Magic of Isaiah Comedy Magic Show
- May** “Snake, Rattle & Roll” Snake Discovery’s Reptile Education Program
- Sept.** Storytime with Jenny Thorson featuring animal tales and Merrill’s own Grampa’s Farm
- Oct.** It’s All About the Magic of Science with science educator, Jim Lenz
- Nov.** Storytime Gingerbread Themed Fun

Coding is a skill critical to success in the 21st century.

Understanding computer coding supports digital literacy and career development. The T. B. Scott Library joined the state’s Coding Initiative for Public Libraries by providing programs to youth that explored the various facets of coding: problem solving, coding and computer programming, and creativity. First and second graders from Trinity School enjoyed learning about different kinds of codes (written and digital) and then programmed a “Santa Ozobot” to deliver presents while avoiding the Grinch. Youth played games and created emojis, and music using Madewithcode.com. The Sphero Obstacle Course offered youth an opportunity to program the Sphero robot to navigate an obstacle course.

October is Wisconsin Science Festival month. The Library hosted science educator Jim Lenz who presented his “It’s All about the Magic of Science” magic show. Then the Library hosted a STEAM Petting Zoo. There were Magna-tiles, Snap Circuits, a Maker Studio Winches Set, Goldie Blox and Wind Power Electricity Generating Turbines available for hands on learning about Science, Technology, Engineering Art, and Math also known as **STEAM**.



ADULT DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS:



IT'S BEEN A

2018 Building Merrill Together Events:

Total Attendance: 324 concerned citizens

- ◇ Got a Touch of Gray: Merrill's Aging Population
- ◇ Everyone an Entrepreneur: The New Economy
- ◇ Immigration in Our Area: Contributions to the Economy
- ◇ The Opioid Epidemic in the Northwoods
- ◇ Ecological Sustainability & Cultural Resiliency
- ◇ Merrill's Economic Development — Past, Present & Future
- ◇ Merrill Area Economic Development — Building Common Ground

TEAM

River Bend Trail Community

The Building Merrill Together initiative, co-supported by T.B. Scott Free Library and the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy & Service (WIPPS), aims to stir government, business, and the general public to positively change Merrill through information and discussion, and by creating an open and transparent environment for change. This ambitious initiative continued through 2018 with new topics, moderator training workshops, and public forums supported by concerned citizen groups.

We seized on the Initiative's impetus and forged ahead to formulate and submit a grant proposal to the Wisconsin Humanities Council. The Grant's focus was based upon the urgent need to transform the cultural identity of the Merrill area. What better way to do that than to utilize the amazing natural resource Merrill area citizens have available to them at their door, The River Bend Trail. In November 2018, we were informed that the T.B. Scott Free Library, was awarded the grant. Throughout 2019, workshops and seminars will help to create an awareness that the River Bend Trail is a foundational component to Merrill's emerging cultural identity.



The activity seen through out the year is a direct result of a team effort by dedicated community members and independent Contractors under direction of Laurie Ollhoff, Assistant Director:

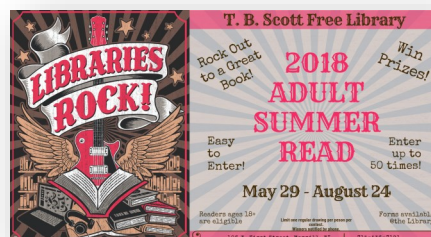
- **John Greenwood** - two-year contract to assist with grant procurement and event & committee coordination.
- **Christine Vorpapel & Susan Hass** - provide assistance with event setup and public relations.
- **T.B. Scott Free Library's Endowment Fund** graciously provides monetary resources for the independent contractors.

ADULT DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Outreach Program Event:

Merrill Rocks Program

T.B. Scott Free Library united with a local group to participate in the wildly popular "Merrill Rocks". This community-wide activity offered area residents and visitors the opportunity to share kindness and spread happiness to all who lived or travelled through the Merrill area community. This social sensation took flight through Facebook and T.B. Scott Free Library joyfully joined this amazing flight with other area businesses and residents. Adults and young patrons alike found excitement in locating a "Rock" and then hiding the "Rock" once again for the next person to find.



17th Annual Adult Winter Read By the Numbers

- Total Readers: 95
- Total # of Entry Forms: 352
- Total # of Books Read: 1,760

13th Annual Adult Summer Read By-the-Numbers

- Total Readers: 100
- Total # of Entry Forms: 427
- Total # of Books Read: 2,135

2018's Beyond Books: Community ArtShare Exhibits

November/December -- Holiday Button Collection -
Kathleen Marquardt

September/October -- Wire & Found Object Sculpture -David Jones

June/August -- Photography of Tom Algire

April/May -- For the Love of Snoopy

March -- MAPS High School Senior Students' Art Exhibit

January/February -- Pocket Watches - Robbie Johnson

Words Worth Hearing By the Numbers

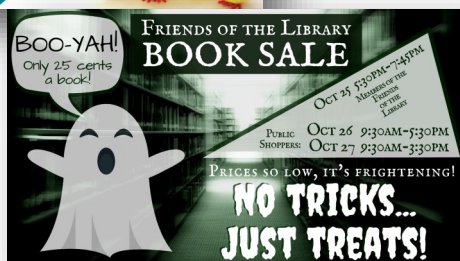
- Total # of Programs: 9
- Total Attendance: 472



FRIENDS OF T.B. SCOTT LIBRARY

Friends Purpose:

- ◆ To support the Merrill Public Library in developing its facilities and services for the community
- ◆ To encourage gifts and bequests to the library
- ◆ To stimulate support and use of the library
- ◆ To promote knowledge of the functions, services, resources and needs of the library
- ◆ To enjoy the fellowship of library friends



2018 Friends Board

Barb Adams

Lori Anderson-Malm — Treasurer

Pamela Bjorklund — Vice President

Denise Latzig — President

Ranndy Markewycz — Acting

Secretary

Lynn Muhvich

Mary Ann Gretenhardt

2018 Friends Contributions

Movie License

Annual Speaker-Jessica Miscna portraying Eleanor Roosevelt

Staff tuition for online course

Winter and Summer Adult Read-In Gift Certificates

Family Fun Night performer

Pre-school Programming Expenses

Three Music on the Lawn Performances

USB's for door prizes for computer coaching sessions

Ear buds for patron use

YS Summer Expenses (Program & Prizes)

Legos, Makerspace Kit, Play Literacy materials

Butterfly Pavilion

Laminator



OUR COMMUNITY CARES ABOUT US

The generosity from Merrill Area Businesses and Community Organizations make it possible for library programming to offer engaging activities and prizes for numerous events through the year. Here are just a few:



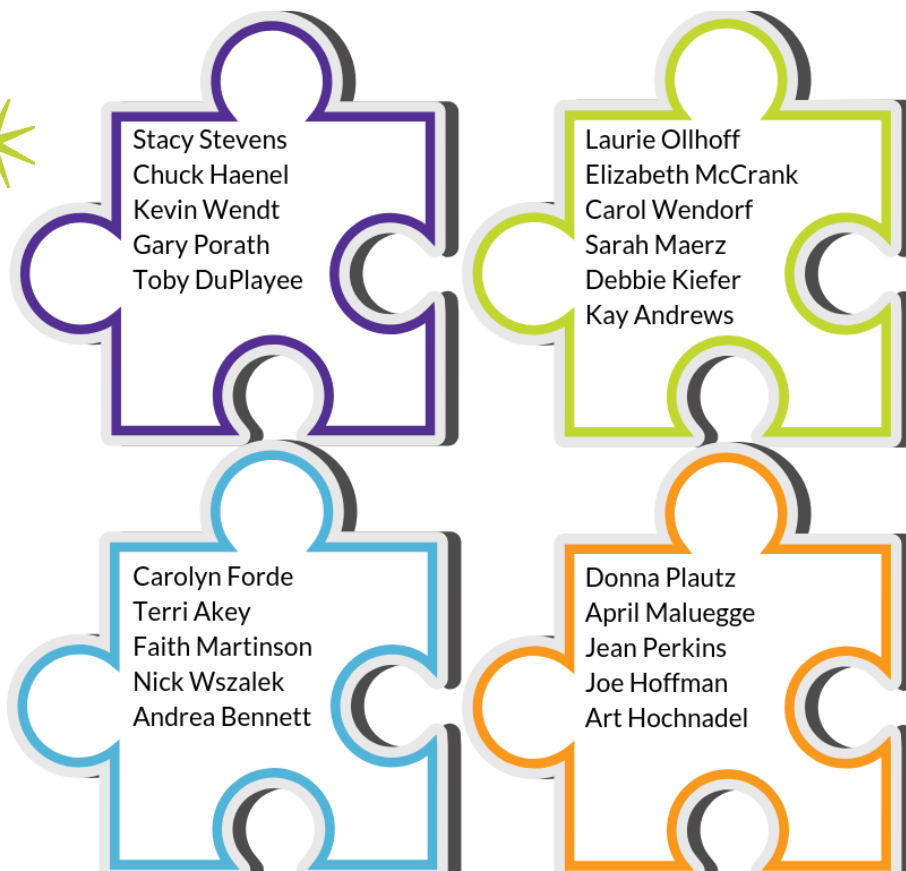
Adult Library Program



Youth Services Department



WHO WE ARE-OUR WONDERFUL STAFF



Ruth DeJarlais
(January 2017-November 2018)

Jo Henrichs
(January 2010-April 2018)



ELLIE SCHWARTZ

After 44 years of employment at T.B. Scott Free Library, Ellie Schwartz retired at the end of this year. Ellie put her heart and soul into all of her work here. Our library & our community will miss her greatly.

Start Date: September 3, 1974
Retirement Date: December 30, 2018



T.B. Scott Free Library
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