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**T.B. SCOTT FREE LIBRARY**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019**

# A CLOSER LOOK!

Library patrons checked out  
155,227 items

- Gate counter registered 112,083 patrons passing through our doors
- Our website was visited 49,278 times
- Our computers are used!
  - Desktop computers  
17,190 sessions
  - Wireless connection use  
61,576 sessions

## eBooks and other Electronic Materials:

- 22,327 downloaded electronic items
- 11 % increase over 2018

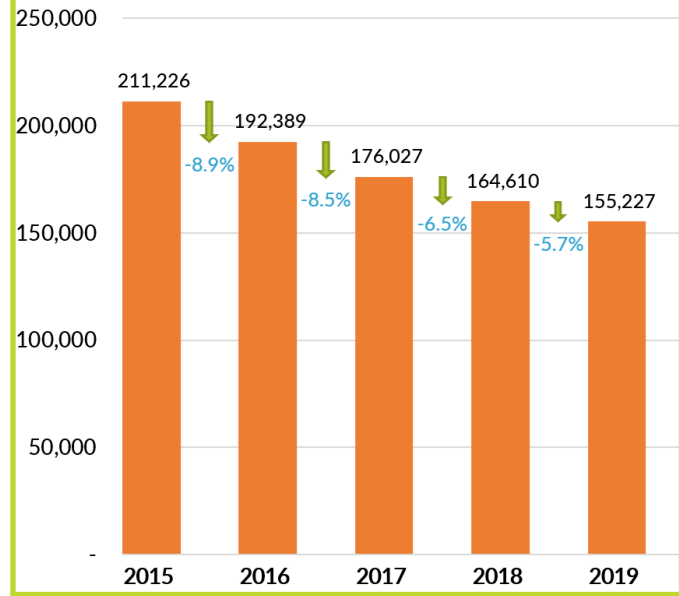
- Library staff-offered programs:
  - 312 adult & youth services programs
  - 7,227 community members

## Registered Borrowers:

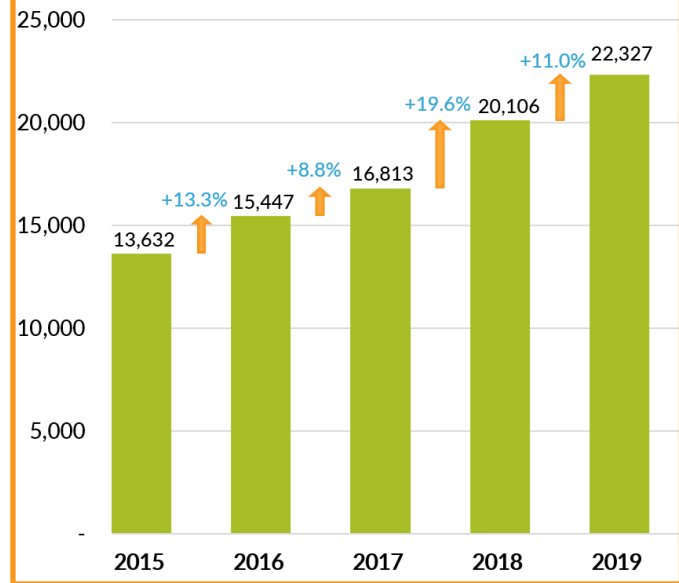
- 11,039 registered borrowers
- 5,611 living in the city of Merrill

- 5,238 individuals, classes & groups used our study rooms, meeting rooms and facility
- Proctor services for local businesses & students: 28 exams

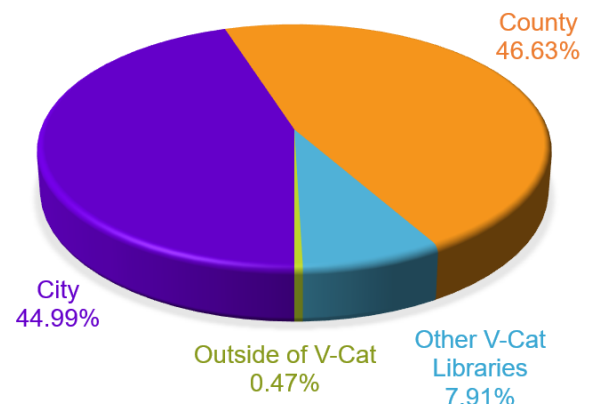
TOTAL CIRCULATION



TOTAL ELECTRONIC CIRCULATION



CIRCULATION / FUNDING  
BY PATRON RESIDENCE



# 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 2019-2023*

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

- Promote and encourage community members of all ages to discover the joy of reading and to become lifelong readers.
- 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.
- Develop and execute programming, serving a broad range of ages and interests, expanding our awareness of diversity in our community.
- Provide collections, digital resources and technology resources responsive to community interests and needs.
- Promote and encourage use of the library as a safe, comfortable, and welcoming place to meet and interact with others.

**T. B. SCOTT  
FREE LIBRARY**



## *Library Board*

Mike Geisler--President

Gene Bebel -

Vice President--School District Appointee

Richard Mamer -

Financial Secretary for the Endowment Fund

Katie Breitenmoser

Darcy Dalsky

Paul Gilk

Audrey Huftel

Tim Meehan

Jim Wedemeyer

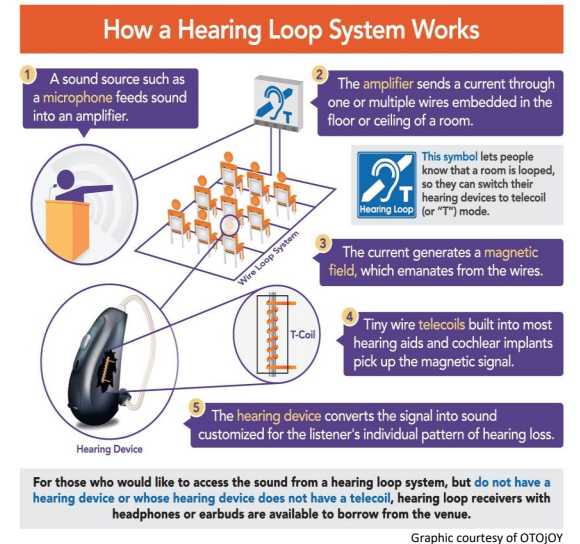
Library Board members  
volunteered 83.75 Hours





# WHAT'S NEW?! HIGHLIGHTS!

## THE COMMUNITY ROOM



The winter months of 2019 brought Wisconsin record cold temperatures. During one of these prolonged sub-zero events, a soldering joint for a hot water pipe burst in the community room dumping volumes of water into the room.

Remediation efforts were begun within 2 hours but within a few days there was buckling to the floors. The workman took up the floor, layer upon layer, until they were down to the 1911 building's original dirt floor.

On the staff wish-list for years was consideration of removal of the post in the center of the room to allow for maximum use of the room for events. Since the Carnegie Building is on the Historic Register, the State Historical Society was contacted as well as an engineer and contractors.

Library staff and board members contacted our generous community members and were able to obtain private funding for the pole removal and replacement with a support beam. However, when final quotes came in, the costs were just too prohibitive for the wise use of fiscal resources.

Over the next several months, a concrete floor was poured, the room was painted, the pole was wrapped with wood and new carpeting was laid. Insurance covered all aspects of the water damage. The library budget did purchase enhanced audio-visual capabilities for the room, including a hearing loop.

After a long ten months, staff look forward to using the community room again for programs and events.

Today, we have a beautifully renovated room with state of the art audio visual equipment and Hearing Loop System.

Check out the video for more information: [bit.ly/hearing\\_loop](https://bit.ly/hearing_loop)

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



## *Volunteer Hours*

Our volunteers gave over **765.75** 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!

- 137 registered Homebound Patrons
- 2,976 items delivered to our (6) local facility outlets
- 981 items delivered to individuals in the city limits
- 298 items delivered to patrons outside Merrill city limits

## *Gifts & Memorials Program*

By the Numbers

33 monetary gifts

201 books

1 audiobook

1 magazine

4 special project fund donations

## *Casual Dress Fridays*

T.B. Scott Free Library staff give back through Casual Friday donations. Since 2004, Casual Friday donations have generated **\$14,959** for community organizations. Donations totaling **\$1,175** were distributed among local charitable organizations in 2019.





# YOUTH SERVICES-LITERACY & COLLABORATION



## YOUTH SERVICES FACELIFT 2019



2019-2024 Library Strategic Plan Goal #5: "Promote the use of the Library as a safe comfortable welcoming place to meet and interact with others."



- ◇ Centrally located service desk
- ◇ Enhanced area for young children and families to enjoy the Library
- ◇ Addition of child right-sized seating and tables
- ◇ More soft seating for adults/young adults
- ◇ Addition of wheels to shelving units to promote flexibility and a variety of uses of the space
- ◇ More tables for school age youth who stream into the Library after school
- ◇ Addition of attractive mural to promote Little Bluebirds Club and early literacy



### Teacher Book Bags

- 161 requests from teachers for items
- 2,952 items packed and sent to schools

## EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM MAKEOVER

### THEN

#### 1000 Books Before Kindergarten



"1000 Books Before Kindergarten" began as a way to help children and parents develop a love for reading.

Program established: October, 2013  
Participation: 657 children  
Program completion: 74 children  
Books distributed: 1800

### NOW

#### Little Bluebirds Club



Better understanding of the baby brain and how children acquire language along with the desire for a more enjoyable program steered the library toward the 2019 early literacy makeover. The Little Blue-

birds Club is activity based rather than focusing solely on reading books. These activities, (reading, talking, playing, writing, singing), help with early literacy development, fine motor skill development, language development, and overall cognitive development thereby promoting overall school readiness. Upon registering and after completing each activity sheet, the child will continue to receive a free book. Upon completion the child will have received 11 free books and will be given the opportunity to get their own library card along with having a memorial book placed in the Library collection with their name.

The number of new registrants since September is: 41



# YOUTH SERVICES

## PROGRAMS! PROGRAMS! PROGRAMS!

### By the Numbers

- Programs for Children and Teens — 215
- Total Attendance — 5,954

### Collaborative Summer Library Program



- Youth — 445 preschool through grade 6
- Teen — 40 grades 7 - 12

### Family Fun Night Evening Programs

Once-a-month Family Fun Night offers families with working parents an opportunity to attend Library programs after the work day. Programming is free and takes place on the second floor of the Library in the Youth Services Department. This popular family program offering showcased local talent as well as professional performers in 2019.

**Programs = 7**

**Attendance = 333**



January 17—Northwoods Wildlife Center

February 28- Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party.

March 28—Brodini Comedy Magic Show

April 25-Antigo native Stepheni Curran, author of the book **Rock On, Kindness! Pass It On!**  
(Co-host: Merrill Rocks)

September 19- Local musician Mary Ament & Grampa's Farm celebrated farming.

October 17-Little Bluebirds Club Kick-off

November 21- Magician Bob Kann

### Summer Food Service Program

Stressing the importance of offering nutritious meals to children during the summer months, the T. B. Scott Free Library announced the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, provides nutritious meals to children during the summer, when free and reduced-price school meals are typically unavailable.

Lunch was served at the Library on the 2nd floor in the Youth Services Department from @11:30a m– 12:30pm Monday – Thursday beginning July 1st and ending July 25th. “This program filled a void created when school lunches were not available,” said Youth Services Librarian Carolyn Forde. “Helping parents meet the nutritional needs of their children is the strength of this program.”

Program partners were the Wausau School District and volunteers Robert Porath and Shirley Pfister.



### Program By The Numbers

Cost of Meals	\$1312.50
Grant Money	\$1316.63
Meals ordered	375
Meals served	327
Meals to Haven	7
Meals to MAC Home (Homeless Shelter)	28
Non-Program Adult paid meals	2

## ADULT DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS:



## IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR!

2019 Building Merrill Together  
**Total Attendance: 234 Concerned Citizens**

- ◇ Merrill Area Economic Development—Creating an Action Plan Forum
- ◇ Aware & Active Citizens Quarterly Meetings — February, May, August & November
- ◇ River Bend Trail Community Project Curriculum Development Seminar
- ◇ River Bend Trail Community Project Curriculum Workshop
- ◇ Aware & Active Citizens — Community & Economic Growth Committee Meetings
- ◇ Aware & Active Citizens Communication & Technology Committee Meetings
- ◇ Aware & Active Citizens — Transition Lincoln: LEAF Committee Meetings

## TEAM EFFORT

## WISCONSIN HUMANITIES COUNCIL GRANT

The Building Merrill Together Initiative has played an integral part in adult department programming since 2016. In November 2018, the Library was awarded a Wisconsin Humanities Council Grant. The year 2019 was an amazing year as programming forged ahead to create a greater awareness of the River Bend Trail and its foundational component to Merrill's emerging cultural identity. The intent of the grant funding was to identify a community enhancement project. Merrill is a historically rich community and a decision was made to create oral histories that would highlight the historical aspects of the numerous businesses, area locations, and events that have taken place over the years with the River Bend Trail as the project's anchor. A group of businesses, concerned citizens and area educators from the Merrill Area Public Schools gathered together to develop a collaborative curriculum that citizens and students could follow to preserve the area's history. As the project gained momentum, additional funding was ascertained from the Lincoln County Youth Aide Fund for additional signage and oral history development.



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** - contracted 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:



## LIBRARY OF THINGS

A trend was taking shape in libraries throughout the United States where libraries began to add non-traditional items to their collections to stimulate circulation. The “seed” to T.B. Scott’s Library of Things truly began with a donation of uniquely Merrill items starting with a set of fishing poles with accompanying tackle boxes from an area family as a memorial. From there, our Library of Things has grown by leaps and bounds!

Stop in to “check it out!”

## 18th Annual Adult Winter Read By the Numbers

- Total Readers: 71
- Total # of Entry Forms: 319
- Total # of Books Read: 1,595



## 14th Annual Adult Summer Read By-the-Numbers

- Total Readers: 66
- Total # of Entry Forms: 283
- Total # of Books Read: 1,415

## 2019's Beyond Books: Community ArtShare Exhibits

January/February-“Working Warriors: Military Life Beyond Combat,” an exhibit provided courtesy of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and funded in part by the Wisconsin Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities

March- Art Exhibit by Merrill High School Art Students

May/June/July-Carl Weinert Nautical Instruments

September/October-Horse Figurines of Esther Trostle

November/December-Resolute Farms- Borzoi Figures

## Words Worth Hearing By the Numbers

- Total # of Programs: 13
- Total Attendance: 439



# 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



## 2019 Friends Contributions

- ♦ Movie License
- ♦ Annual Meeting Speaker — Jessica Miscna portraying Goode Rebeka Nurse
- ♦ Staff tuition to attend training
- ♦ Winter and Summer Adult Read-In Gift Certificates
  - ♦ Ear buds for patron use
- ♦ YS Summer Expenses (Program & Prizes)

## 2019 Friends Board

Barb Adams  
Lori Anderson-Malm — Treasurer  
Pamela Bjorklund — Vice President  
Denise Latzig — President  
Deborah Schleif — Secretary  
Randy Markewycz  
Lynn Muhvich  
Mary Ann Gretenhardt




# 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 Department

<div>Adult Summer Read 2019</div> <div>ORBITING PROGRAM SPONSORS</div> <div></div>		
ACE HARDWARE		JOHNSON GIFTS & HOME DECOR
ANA BLAIR'S BOUTIQUE		LES & JIM'S LINCOLN LANES
AUTO JOCKEYS	FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY	VIP OFFICE
CHIP'S HAMBURGERS	HUGO'S PIZZA	YE' OLDE SWEET SHOPPE
FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC CARE	JANKE BOOK STORE	YOUNG'S DRUG STORE

## Youth Services Department

T.B. Scott Free Library		A UNIVERSE OF STORIES			
Arby's	BMO Harris	Chip's Hamburgers	Clarke's Cup N Cone	Culvers	Dairy Queen
First Street Coffee Station	Friends of T. B. Scott Library	Golden Harvest Market	Hardee's	Hugo's	Janke Book Store
Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes	Lincoln County Fair Association	mBank	Merrill Community Bank	Merrill Noon Optimists	Park City Credit Union
Pizza Hut	Salvo's	Subway	Wausau School District Planetarium	Waves Hair Salon	Wisconsin Valley Library Service
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS & DONORS!					



# WHO WE ARE-OUR WONDERFUL STAFF



**T.B. Scott Free Library**

106 W. First St. Merrill WI 54452

(715) 536-7191

[www.tbscottlibrary.org](http://www.tbscottlibrary.org)