



LIBRARIAN'S REPORT – JANUARY 2018



SKATING THE SQUARE

The ice rink opened for the first time on January 4th, and we've had a lot of skaters since then (except for the two-day warm up/rain last week when we had to close the rink to skaters). Much to my surprise, the rain actually improved the ice conditions and made it much smoother for skating.

It's great to see a lot of first-time skaters going out to skate. One day afterschool we had 17 people out on the ice! And although some families have their own skates, the majority are using the skates we have on-hand here at the library. We now have over 60 pair that have been donated, and we have them in a wide variety of sizes from small double-bladed skates to hockey skates.

We're currently running a "Mitten Drive" and are asking for donations of new or gently used mittens and gloves for our skaters (many of the kids who come to the library afterschool don't bring any with them).

On January 17th, our TEEN ZONE program was an ice skating party followed by board games and hot treats inside. Several of the teens had never skated before, and our stackable chairs worked great as a learning (and "leaning"!) device to help steady the novice skaters.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

There's a new Activity Director at *Woodlands Nursing Home*, and she approached us to do a program for the residents there. Cathie will be going to their facility for one hour a week to read (just like she does at *Serenity Gardens* and the *Sunshine Daycare*), and her first visit there is January 24th. Cathie brings books along that the institution can "check out" when she visits, and it's a great opportunity for the library to reach out to these Gillett area organizations.

VITA TAX PREP @ OUR LIBRARY

Our library is the only location in Oconto County that has a free tax preparation service, and VITA is the organization that provides this service. There will be three preparers here again this year, and they'll be set up in the Community Center every Tuesday from 9:00-5:00 beginning February 6th. We schedule the appointments for them, and they'll be here through April 10th.

VITA is a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that offers free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. For more information on VITA, visit the IRS website at: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/irs-tax-volunteers>

WILD WISCONSIN WINTER WEB CONFERENCE (WWWWC)

The **WWWWC** is a state-wide virtual conference developed by our Nicolet Federated Library System and it is supported by 15 other library systems in Wisconsin. This is the 6th year that our System has organized this conference which focuses on the needs of public libraries. It's a good opportunity to collaborate virtually with other librarians from around the state and country, and to earn continuing education credits. The WWWWC takes place this year January 23rd -25th. For more information on the sessions/presenters, view the website at: <http://www.wildwiscwinterweb.com/>

Also, beginning in February, I've enrolled in two online courses through UW-Madison:

- **Design Thinking in Libraries**

Course description:

This course is aimed at any information professional interested in learning how they can improve library services and programs through a process called design thinking, a way of reframing challenges and finding creative, pragmatic solutions to existing issues. We will learn how to solve problems by working through different phases of design thinking, including: Inspiration (identifying your challenge and deciding how to approach it), Ideation (generating ideas, then interpreting and expressing them through prototypes), and Iteration (experimenting and soliciting user feedback to improve your prototypes).

- **Coding Together, Learning Together: Starting a Coding Club at Your Library**

Course description:

We will cover everything from one-off events like Hour of Code to planning a weekly Coding Club, and all at little or no cost. We'll learn about several programs (like Scratch, Bitsbox, Code.org) as well as become familiar with many other resources.

EASTER IN GILLETT 2018

I'll be working with Hillside Assembly again this year for this community event, and we'll meet this week for the first time to start planning. We're planning to hold the egg hunt at the school on the weekend before Easter, as before. Easter is early this year, on April 1st, so we're hoping for good weather (not too cool, and no snow!).



2017 Egg Hunt: The Easter Bunny helps in the Candy Lane



The Egg Hunt begins on the grounds @ the Elementary School