



Tomah Public Library

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November 2025

Friends of the Library



Christmas Silent Auction & Fundraiser December 2nd

Plans are underway for the 2025 Christmas Silent Auction and Fundraiser. This year's event will take place Tuesday, December 2 from 3-7 pm at the library.

The goal of this year's event is to raise funds to purchase a 3D printer for library and patron use. Here's how you can help:

- * *Make a donation to the silent auction. Items can be large or small. Hand-crafted items are especially popular. Items can be dropped off at the library anytime on or before November 24.*
- * *Volunteer to donate two dozen cookies or bars. Cookies can be dropped off at the library the day before the auction or by noon the day of the auction.*
- * *We also need lots of large baskets to package silent auction items. They can also be dropped off at the library any time before November 24.*
- * *Come to the auction and invite a friend!*

Tomah Public Library to Become Full Winding Rivers Library System Member

The spring of 2026 is the target date for the Tomah Public Library to become a full member of the Winding Rivers Library System (WRLS).

While the library has always been affiliated with WRLS, the Library Board of Trustees has just recently approved becoming a full member.

Once the project is completed, the library will have full access to WRLS services and be connected to WRLS computer systems. In the meantime, every item in the library that carries a bar code needs to be loaded into the system.

That's no small task. There are approximately 54,426 items that currently reside in our library.

The most significant reason that the library has not been a full WRLS member in the past relates to cost. Annual fees to support our membership will total about \$13,000. An amount that could not be supported by the annual budget.

Those fees will be paid through an extremely generous trust fund designated for the library by the Evelyn Krukar estate. Evelyn was a former loyal library patron and employee. Trust fund interest paid annually will

continue to support our membership in WRLS.

The benefits include:

Streamlined interlibrary delivery, more engaged readers, automated notices and convenience, preorder access and expanded choices, seamless integration with online resources, reduced pressure on the collection department and increased interlibrary loan requests and circulation.

If that sound like a lot, it's because it is! Full WRLS membership allows our patrons more ways to enjoy their library experience.

The Library Saves the Day

Earlier this year the library was faced with a seriously, unique situation.

A group of Middle School students was in the library when an incident at the Middle School required the intervention of the Tomah Police Department.

The circumstances of police activity made it impossible for students to go

back to school and enter the building.

The kids may not have been particularly unhappy about not having to go back to school but it was lunch time!

Library Director Irma Keller, sprang into action and ordered pizza so the kids wouldn't go hungry.

The school district reimbursed the library and the funds were kindly given to the Friends of the Library.

Our library is one of the things that helps make the Tomah community a home. We can offer internet access, programming, warmth, safety and in special instances lunch!

Summer Reading Programs & Demos

The Tomah Public Library 2025 Summer Reading Programs again offered a wide variety of ways to enjoy summer reading.

Youth Services Librarian David Deprey, better known as "Mr. Dave" designed programs to reach kids of all ages specifically, 0-5, 6-11 and 12-18.

Program options included Monday and Tuesday storytime, Babytime, summer school visits, words & wiggles, Legos and movie night.

A total of 440 kids signed up and got involved with 196 completed the program.

Mr. Dave offered a total of 53 programs that were attended by 776 kids.

The Summer Reading Program ended with a party where the kids got a chance to chase Mr. Dave around the park with water filled balloons that has become an end of program favorite for the kids.

Adult Services Librarian Sinda Thomas distributed a total of 184 reading logs for adult readers.

Three Sunday movies were shown with 25 in attendance.

Cindy Robinette, a local yarn shop owner and fiber enthusiast brought her spinning wheel to the library and presented a program demonstrating how fibers are transformed into yarn.

She explained the steps that are required to take fibers from a living animal, what is required to prepare those fibers and how they are then spun into yarn. Her samples of completed hanks showed how combining colors result in beautiful yarn that can be made into creative projects by knitters and crocheters.



Spinner Cindy Robinette creating beautiful yarns.

What's New at the Library?

Check the Tomah Public Library website for what's happening. Another way to find out what is planned for the month is to stop in the library and pick up the monthly activity calendar to post at home. Here are just a few of the activities that are being offered.

Grown Up Movies

Teen Movie Night

All Ages Movie Night

Manhattan Short Film Festival

Crafternoons

Dungeons & Dragons

Arts & Craft Supply Swap

Legos at the Library

Weekly Storytime

Words & Wiggles

Pokeman Club

Music with Mimi

Something for everyone! Check it out!

This & That

Watch for announcements for our book sales events. They are held at the fairgrounds. Proceeds of the September sale totaled \$1130. That's an amazing amount since books are priced at only \$1.00 for hardcovers and \$.50 for paperbacks.



It takes many hands to support library activities. The Boys & Girls Club are planning to make and donate cookies for the upcoming silent auction. We are so thankful for their participation!