



August 21st, 2015

Library of the Month

Congratulations to the Tomahawk Public Library for being named Library of the Month!

Libraries are wonderful resources for communities in the Northwoods - they offer much more than books now-a-days. Whether it's audio-books, movies, music, computer access, wi-fi, educational toys, printing, scanning, copying, faxing, or just a good book, the libraries in Northwoods have a lot to offer.

The Tomahawk Library serves a rather large geographical area including the City of Tomahawk, Lincoln County, and parts of Oneida and Price Counties. This summer they had a number of programs to keep their members busy.

In August, every Wednesday morning they had children's stories down near the river. The summer library theme this year was "heroic stories" and the library celebrated local heroes like police officers, rescue dogs, and seeing eye dogs. There is also an adult summer reading program to encourage more reading. From September until next May, the library will have "Play and Learn" activities for children and adults every Thursday.

I want to thank Library Director Mary Dunn and the rest of the staff at the Tomahawk Public Library for their hard work and dedication. Congratulations on being named Library of the Month!

Be sure to check out their [website](#) to find more information about the library and consider becoming a "Friend of the Library".

Seneca Foods Tour



Last Thursday, I joined Representative Jeff Mursau to tour Seneca Foods in Gillett. Seneca Foods has a 303,000 sq. ft. plant where they can Green beans, Italian beans, and Shellie beans.

I want to thank the plant manager, Mike Hull, and his staff for the tour. It was a great time and a wonderful opportunity to see all the hard work being done.

Keep up the good work!

Land O'Lakes Business After Five



(Left to Right: Sharon Olander, Conover Chamber; Sandie Pauley, LOLA board member; Sen. Tiffany; Debbie Jensen, Conover Chamber)

On Wednesday, I attended the Business After 5 event at the LOLA Center For the Arts. The guest speaker was Anne

Katz, the Executive Director for ARTS WISCONSIN. The Arts is number three in tourism dollars. 2010 data shows that \$535 million total Arts related dollars were spent in Wisconsin - I expect it to be much higher in 2015. They are doing a great job building the creative economy across Wisconsin.

It was a great event and very nice to see everyone who attended.

The final Business After 5 event for 2015 will be held in Conover in September, with date and time to be announced.

High Employment Continues in Oconto County

In another sign of the economic recovery happening across the state, Oconto County set a record for the highest number of people employed according to state labor statistics. A total of 19,796 people were employed in the county, besting the record from July 2004. Twice before the county has been within reach, falling just short in October and November of 2014.

Before the Great Recession in 2008, the county had come close to the record topping 19,500 in 2006 before slowing rescinding. In 2009 employment bottomed out at 17,924, the lowest number in 15 years. Since that point, employment has been creeping upwards and has risen 10.5 percent in the last six years. County population increases cannot explain the entirety of this increase but it has helped. Oconto County's population has increased 0.95 percent from 2010 to the start of 2014.

This is a great sign for Northern Wisconsin. Population growth helps our schools by bringing in additional families and rejuvenating communities. Our reforms are starting to take hold as businesses continue to add employees and new businesses begin. Across the state, from March 2014 to March 2015, the state added nearly 40,000 private sector jobs, and wages rose by 4.5 percent year over year. I'm proud of our work and look forward to additional good news in the future.

Safety Grants from Wisconsin Public Service Foundation

The Wisconsin Public Service Foundation has awarded \$50,000 to area first responders as part of the Foundation's Safety: It's Worth The Energy grant opportunity. This is the second year the grant has been offered and more than 75 area first response agencies applied for funding. Those selected to receive up to a \$2,000 grant may use it to purchase equipment, provide professional development, and should be part of a well-planned integrated public safety initiative. 2015 recipient organizations from the 12th Senate District include:

Central WI area: Merrill Fire Department and Town of Antigo Volunteer Fire Department

Northern area: Marinette Emergency Rescue Squad, Inc., Little Rice Fire Department, Menominee Police Department, Newbold Fire Department, Oconto Fire-Rescue Department, Plum Lake Ambulance Service, Sugar Camp Fire Department, Town of Brazeau Fire Department, Town of Doty Fire Department, and Woodruff Fire Department

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Start Date

Location

August 21 - 23	<u>National Championship Musky Open</u>	Eagle River
August 22	<u>Hodag Triathlon</u>	Rhineland
August 22	<u>Dan & Connie's Fishing Classic</u>	Phelps
August 27 - 30	<u>Marinette County Fair</u>	Wausaukee
August 28 - 30	<u>Florence County Fair</u>	Florence
August 28 - 30	<u>World Championship UTV & ATV Derby</u>	Eagle River
August 30	<u>Swen Musky Tournament</u>	Phelps
September 4 - 6	<u>Potato Fest</u>	Rhineland
September 4 - 6	<u>World Championship Off-Road Races</u>	Crandon
September 5	<u>Northwoods Bad-Dash</u>	Manitowish Waters
September 5	<u>Pride and Joy Classic Car Show</u>	Minocqua
September 5	<u>9th Annual Red Arrow Corn Roast & ATV/UTV Parade</u>	Townsend
September 6	<u>Minocqua No Frills Marathon</u>	Tomahawk
September 6	<u>Sno Skeeters Summer Fest</u>	Manitowish Waters
September 7	<u>Labor Day Celebration & Merrill Lion's Car Show</u>	Merrill
September 10 - 13	<u>Forest County Fair</u>	Crandon
September 10 - 13	<u>Medieval Faire Renaissance Festival</u>	Hazelhurst
September 10 - 13	<u>Stumble Stump Rendezvous</u>	Antigo
September 12	<u>Lena Dairyfest</u>	Lena
September 12	<u>Colorama Arts & Crafts Fair</u>	Boulder Junction
September 12	<u>Festifall</u>	Lakewood
September 12	<u>Merrill Airport Days</u>	Merrill

September 12	SepTimberRide	Eagle River
September 16	Tomahawk Fall Ride	Tomahawk
September 19	Art in the Square	Crandon
September 19	Colorama Craft Fair	St. Germain
September 19	EAA Warbirds Fly-In	Oconto
September 19	Fall Harvest Festival	Lake Tomahawk
September 19	Oktoberfest in Crivitz	Crivitz

As always, if you have any comments or thoughts regarding the subjects of this e-update, please feel free to contact me.

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